

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Capt. Winston Scott

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Scott, Winston E.
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Capt. Winston Scott,
<b>Dates:</b>	June 6, 2013
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2013
<b>Physical Description:</b>	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:21:01).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Astronaut and aircraft commander Capt. Winston Scott (1950 - ) served as a mission specialist on STS-72 in 1996 and STS-87 in 1997, and has logged a total of twenty-four days, fourteen hours and thirty-four minutes in space, including three spacewalks totaling nineteen hours and twenty-six minutes. As a naval aviator Scott accumulated more than 6,000 hours of flight time in more than 20 different aircraft. Scott was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 6, 2013, in Melbourne, Florida. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2013_138
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

NASA astronaut and U.S. Navy Captain Winston E. Scott was born on August 6, 1950 in Miami, Florida to Alston J. and Rubye L. Scott. He graduated from Coral Gables High School in 1968, received his B.A. degree in music from Florida State University in 1972 and his M.S. degree in aeronautical engineering with avionics from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California.

Scott entered Naval Aviation Officer Candidate School in 1973 and was designated a Naval Aviator in 1974. As an aviator, Scott piloted the F-14 Tomcat, F/A-18 Hornet, and the A-7 Corsair. In 1988, Scott was assigned as deputy director and test pilot in the Tactical Aircraft Systems Department at the Naval Air Development Center in Warminster, Pennsylvania. Scott has logged over 6,000 hours of total flight time in more than 20 different aircraft and more than two-hundred shipboard landings.

In 1992, Scott was selected by NASA for astronaut training. He later served as a mission specialist on STS-72 *Endeavour* during its nine day mission from January 11, 1996 to January 20, 1996. Scott conducted one spacewalk to demonstrate and evaluate techniques later used in the assembly of the International Space Station. Scott returned to space on STS-87 *Columbia* during its sixteen day mission from November 19, 1997 to December 5, 1997 where he performed two spacewalks, including one that lasted over seven hours and involved the manual capture of a Spartan satellite. On the second spacewalk, Scott tested tools and procedures for future space station assembly. In 1999, Scott retired from NASA and the U.S. Navy to become Vice President for Student Affairs and Associate Dean of the Florida State University College of Engineering. In 2003, Scott became the executive director of the Florida Space Authority (FSA), an organization responsible for the development of space-related business in the State of Florida. The FSA also advised the state's governor and legislature on matters related to space and aeronautics in the state. In 2006, Scott became Vice President and Deputy General Manager on the engineering and

science contract at Johnson Space Center for Jacobs Engineering in Houston, Texas. Scott's book, *Reflections from Earth Orbit* (2005), is a semi-autobiographical account of his experiences as a NASA astronaut.

Scott is a member of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, the National Naval Officers Association, the Naval Helicopter Association, the Naval Tailhook Association, and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. In 1998, *U.S. Black Engineer and Information Technology* magazine named Scott "U. S. Black Engineer of the Year." Scott also received the American Institute of Aeronautics & Astronautics Achievement Award and two NASA Space Flight Medals. His military honors include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal. Scott was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Florida Atlantic University and an Honorary Doctorate of Engineering degree from Michigan State University.

NASA astronaut and U.S. Navy Captain Winston E. Scott was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on June 6, 2013.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Capt. Winston Scott was conducted by Larry Crowe on June 6, 2013, in Melbourne, Florida, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Astronaut and aircraft commander Capt. Winston Scott (1950 - ) served as a mission specialist on STS-72 in 1996 and STS-87 in 1997, and has logged a total of twenty-four days, fourteen hours and thirty-four minutes in space, including three spacewalks totaling nineteen hours and twenty-six minutes. As a naval aviator Scott accumulated more than 6,000 hours of flight time in more than 20 different aircraft.

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## Restrictions

### Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

### Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

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## Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

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## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Persons:

Scott, Winston E.

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### **Subjects:**

African Americans--Interviews  
Scott, Winston E.--Interviews

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### **Organizations:**

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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### **Occupations:**

Astronaut

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Aircraft Commander

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### **HistoryMakers® Category:**

MilitaryMakers|ScienceMakers

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## **Administrative Information**

### **Custodial History**

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

### **Preferred Citation**

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Capt. Winston Scott, June 6, 2013. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

### **Processing Information**

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

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## **Other Finding Aid**

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Capt. Winston Scott, Section A2013\_138\_001\_001, TRT: 1:28:17 ?

Winston Scott describes his family background. His mother, Rubye Lee Dawson, was abandoned as a child by her biological parents and adopted by Scott's grandmother Burie Dawson. She was raised in Midland, Pennsylvania. Scott's father, Alston James Scott, was born August 23, 1917 in Quitman, Georgia. His family were farmers and owned their own land. Scott's father and mother met while his father was visiting relatives in Pennsylvania and they married four weeks later. His mother attended Fort Valley State University in Fort Valley, Georgia. After one or two years she left school and became a teacher. Scott's father served in World War II and when he returned he became one of the first African American mailmen in Miami, Florida. Scott talks about his parents and his siblings, Rubye LaVerne Neely and Alston J. Scott Jr. He also describes Coconut Grove, the neighborhood in Miami, Florida where he grew up.

Affirmative action programs.

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Video Oral History Interview with Capt. Winston Scott, Section A2013\_138\_001\_002, TRT: 2:29:16 ?

Winston Scott talks about experiencing segregation in Miami, Florida, as a child. As a child, Scott was knowledgeable in current events, at one point answering more questions than any of his classmates in a competition. Scott also enjoyed taking his toys apart to see how they worked. He also built a crystal radio, a Morse telegraph, and model airplanes. His father, Alston James Scott, emphasized education, giving them extra homework and taking Scott and his siblings to science fairs and other educational events. Scott and his father were also involved in the Boy Scouts of America. In the third grade, Scott checked out 'Project Mercury' from the library, a book on the United States' first human spaceflight program which put Alan Shepard in space in 1961. He remembers discussing Project Mercury in his classroom.

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Video Oral History Interview with Capt. Winston Scott, Section A2013\_138\_001\_003, TRT: 3:30:43 ?

Winston Scott talks about playing trumpet in junior high school and high school

and his family's involvement in church. In 1965, the schools in Miami, Florida were integrated, and Scott went to Coral Gables High School. He continued to play trumped and was the only African American student on his high school's top marching band. He would also play behind famous musicians who came through Miami. Scott applied to Florida State University but was rejected. However, his band director, William Ledue, called Florida State University and Scott was then accepted. He graduated high school in 1968 and studied music at Florida State University. Scott also studied mathematics and engineering, but the engineering school was closed down. After graduating from Florida State University in 1972, Scott saw the military as a way to achieve education in engineering, and he was accepted into the Navy's Aviation Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, Florida.

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Video Oral History Interview with Capt. Winston Scott, Section A2013\_138\_001\_004, TRT: 4:29:08 ?

Winston Scott describes his time at the Naval Aviation Officer Candidate School (AOCS) in Pensacola, Florida, which he entered in 1973. Scott was being trained for combat in the Vietnam War but the war ended before he was deployed. Scott flew helicopters for the Navy from 1974 to 1978 and flew fighter jets after 1980. He received a degree in aeronautical engineering from the U.S. Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, California. In 1992, Scott was selected for astronautic training by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). He talks about other African American astronauts and his training and duties. His first space flight was on the Endeavor Space Shuttle in 1996, where he was a flight engineer and also did a spacewalk to test the thermal capabilities of a new spacesuit.

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Video Oral History Interview with Capt. Winston Scott, Section A2013\_138\_001\_005, TRT: 5:28:58 ?

Winston Scott describes the launch into space and the space shuttle's reentry into the atmosphere of earth. Scott was on the 1996 Endeavor Space Shuttle flight and on the 1997 Columbia Space Shuttle flight. He talks about the view of earth from space and reflects on how being in space affected his philosophy. While on his space missions Scott implemented experiments on the effect of microgravity on crystal growth, plant, and animals. He also implemented experiments the effects of the space environment on cables and other materials and the testing of tools and suits. Scott was involved the deployment and capturing of satellites, including a time he had to manually correct a satellite's attitude on a spacewalk.

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Video Oral History Interview with Capt. Winston Scott, Section A2013\_138\_001\_006, TRT:  
6:28:29 ?

Winston Scott continues to describe his third spacewalk where he had to manually correct the attitude of a satellite. He also talks about the psychological and medical screening astronauts undergo and their debriefings after landing. He discusses the food astronauts eat in space and the physical consequences of being in space. Scott reflects on his career as an astronaut. In 1999, Scott retired from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to become a vice president and associate dean at his alma mater, Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida. Scott became the director of the Florida Space Authority in 2003, reporting to the governor of Florida and focusing on the aerospace industry in Florida. While he was the director of the Florida Space Authority Scott also served as an adjunct at the Florida Institute of Technology, which led to him becoming a vice president of the University.

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Video Oral History Interview with Capt. Winston Scott, Section A2013\_138\_001\_007, TRT:  
7:26:10 ?

Winston Scott talks about his memoir, 'Reflections from Earth's Orbit,' which was published in 2005. He also discusses the opportunities in the space industry. He describes his duties as the vice president of external relations and economic development at the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Florida and talks about the programs and efforts of the university. Scott reflects on his life and legacy and talks about his family. He shares his hopes and concerns for the African American community. At the end of the interview, Scott states how he would like to be remembered.

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