

Transcending Societal Issues for Space Exploration (12)
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LONG TERM MISSION ASTRONAUTS' PSYCHOLOGY: RETURNING TO EARTH AND INTO THE
SOCIETY

Abstract

In the past decades, experience itself has played an important role for advancement of space missions, and a usual comment made by astronauts since the beginning of the space career, has been the necessity to invest resources in psychology research during all of the mission stages. Essential advances have been made in terms of understanding human behavior in extreme environments, but one of the mission stages that at first sight may not seem significant, is the postflight and its value for the astronaut's life after space. However, this has changed along the years of the space career, encountering now with former astronauts that train future ones, continue with researches and investigations, and in almost all cases, they continue to collaborate with space agencies. The effect and fame of a space journey have changed a lot since Gagarin's flight to the recent rockets sent to the International Space Station by SpaceX. The aim of this review is to examine previous papers that collected remarkable astronauts' stories when they returned to Earth and the importance of space mission in their lives, as well as the establishment of the relationship between the effect of long term missions on humans and the submariners wive syndrome - which talks more about the familiar reception on Earth, and the Erikson's criteria from his Theory of personality. Furthermore, it is considered the contrast of the general background of the postflight stage in the first years of space exploration until our days.