

INTRODUCTION FOR ASTRONAUT RICK SEARFOSS

As an astronaut with three space missions, Colonel Rick Searfoss shares with only a handful of people in history some of the most unique human experiences possible. In his career he has led many different teams, including commanding the most complex science research space mission ever, mission STS-90 on Columbia. He also piloted two other space flights.

Prior to becoming an astronaut Colonel Searfoss was a fighter pilot and test pilot, with over 6100 hours flying time in 84 different types of aircraft. He was also the number one graduate in his Air Force Academy class and earned a master's degree at the California Institute of Technology. Rick has held executive level positions in the aerospace industry and now works regularly with numerous entrepreneurial space ventures, including test flying the world's only liquid propellant rocketplane for XCOR Aerospace. For the past decade as a noted leadership and innovation speaker, he has shared his unique perspective on peak performance with organizations worldwide. He is the author of *LIFTOFF: An Astronaut Commander's Countdown for Purpose-Powered Leadership*.

In his spare time Rick enjoys flying, science fiction, backpacking, and running. He and his wife Julie have three daughters and reside in California.