

Re: Criticisms of previous NASA programs

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- *From:* SENECA@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
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The first (and only) flight of Buran was unmanned.

Yes, but it was more modern craft than STS-1 Columbia in 1981. Columbia had a design problem in the RCS and would not have survived automatic reentry. The pilot switched off the automatic and saved the mission. That was not published then but I expect the Soviets got some input from the US experience anyway.

It was published very quickly after it happened, considering the paper writing and reviewing cycle time. Search the Dryden archives for papers by Iliff (and Maine, I think).

Mary, after the book of your husband ("Runway to Orbit") was discussed here some noted that event as "news". For me it was too. I apologize!

I mean, everyone knew the second flight was being hand-flown in re-entry well before it launched. That was hardly unpublished. When you put something in the press kit it's pretty public. The Soviets were sure to have noticed.

Mary "I have great admiration for the Soviet aerospace community."

For me the Buran was quite a surprise. I expected only a small spaceplane like we saw in the Indian Ocean. What time did you hear of Buran? What time do you think US intel got about it? In 1982 Buran seemed probably too unthinkable to care much about any possible benefit the Soviets could get from shuttle data?

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Mary Shafer Retired aerospace research engineer

Re: Criticisms of previous NASA programs

We didn't just do weird stuff at Dryden, we wrote reports about it.
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