

Re: Space Shuttle story on 60 Minutes Wed. tonight

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.space.shuttle/2005-04/msg00523.html>

- *From:* "John" <pelchat@xxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 28 Apr 2005 09:50:16 -0700
-

Maybe I shouldn't start this . . . but as for "that Failure-Is-Not-An-Option machismo", it is an invention of Hollywood. Gene Krantz never said it (or at least, that's what he says). It sounds cool perhaps but apparently it just never happened. See the recent postings about the IEEE Spectrum article entitled "Houston, We Have a Solution". The article is linked and the subsequent postings are very good. What the people on the ground were thinking and saying makes for good reading. As a number of posters noted, the article also disputes the film's image of the Grumman tech-rep as a useless suit.

But if it were so, rather than machismo, I suspect the comment is an artistic reflection of an ethic that controllers felt and still feel regarding their responsibility towards the crew and the spacecraft. You cannot precisely explain an ethic like that in a 2 hour movie, so you try to capture a sense of it. Seeing how that little sound bite has endured in our culture, I think the screenwriters succeeded. For those who are interested enough in such things to follow news groups like this, perhaps what Admiral Rickover said about responsibility more accurately reflects that ethic:

"Responsibility is a unique concept. It can only reside in a single individual. You may share it with others, but your portion is not diminished. You may delegate it, but it is still with you. If responsibility is rightfully yours, no evasion or ignorance or passing the blame can shift the burden to someone else. Unless you can point your finger at the one who is responsible when something goes wrong, then you never had anyone really responsible."

Admiral Hyman Rickover

It doesn't make for a nearly as good of a sound-bite, but this is closer summary of what I trying to say and perhaps it is another way of looking at what the people involved in living the reality felt.

I have never admired 60 Minutes for anything else than entertainment, but I am looking forward to seeing a tape of this particular segment.

Re: Space Shuttle story on 60 Minutes Wed. tonight

Blue skies

John

• **Follow-Ups:**

- ◆ **Re: Space Shuttle story on 60 Minutes Wed. tonight**
◇ From: tdadamemd-spamblock-
- ◆ **Re: Space Shuttle story on 60 Minutes Wed. tonight**
◇ From: Derek Lyons

• **References:**

- ◆ **Space Shuttle story on 60 Minutes Wed. tonight**
◇ From: robin88th
- ◆ **Re: Space Shuttle story on 60 Minutes Wed. tonight**
◇ From: hallerb
- ◆ **Re: Space Shuttle story on 60 Minutes Wed. tonight**
◇ From: tdadamemd-spamblock-

- Prev by Date: **Re: Weather squadron protects shuttle, crews (Forwarded)**
- Next by Date: **Re: The Challenger Cover-Up -- NASA's Unidentified 51-L Frustum**
- Previous by thread: **Re: Space Shuttle story on 60 Minutes Wed. tonight**
- Next by thread: **Re: Space Shuttle story on 60 Minutes Wed. tonight**
- Index(es):
 - ◆ **Date**
 - ◆ **Thread**