

Rick Searfoss



Rick Searfoss speaks with authority born of deep personal leadership and team experience in leading-edge ventures. In his career he has led many different teams and commanded the most complex science research space mission ever, the STS-90 Neurolab flight on Columbia. He also piloted two other space flights, including a joint Russian-American mission to the Mir space station.

Rick is a high-content expert speaker on leadership, teamwork, innovation, effective execution, and related topics. He is among less than 10% of professional speakers and the only astronaut to have earned the National Speakers Association Certified Speaking Professional designation, the speaking industry's international gold standard for speaking skill, experience, client satisfaction, and business acumen. His extensive leadership experience and work with the most innovative companies of the new millennium enable him to fulfill his mission: "to share the leadership, teamwork, innovation, and peak performance lessons of human space flight to empower organizations to achieve out-of-this-world results!" Rick is also the author of *LIFTOFF: An Astronaut Commander's Countdown for Purpose-Powered Leadership*.

Prior to becoming an astronaut, Colonel Searfoss was a fighter pilot and test pilot in the US Air Force, with over 6100 hours flying time in 84 different types of aircraft. A distinguished graduate of the US Air Force Fighter Weapons School and the US Naval Test Pilot School, he is an active test pilot, and has piloted more rocket-powered flights than anyone else alive. He holds FAA ratings of ATP and Certified Flight Instructor single-engine, multi-engine, instrument, and glider.

Colonel Searfoss graduated first in his class from the United States Air Force Academy in 1978. He later earned a Master of Science degree in aeronautics from the California Institute of Technology on a National Science Foundation Fellowship and completed USAF Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, and Air War College.

His numerous awards include the Harmon, Fairchild, Price and Tober Awards as the number one overall, academic, engineering, and aeronautical engineering graduate in his USAF Academy class, USAF Squadron Officer's School Commandant's Trophy as top graduate, Tactical Air Command F-111 Instructor Pilot of the Year, Air Force Meritorious Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, NASA Exceptional Service Medal, NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Legion of Merit, Air Force Aero Propulsion Laboratory Excellence in Turbine Engine Design award, Outstanding Young Men of America, and Eagle Scout.

Beyond the unique professional experiences he has enjoyed, Rick's incredibly supportive wife and three daughters keep him focused on what's truly important. His varied outside interests include running, backpacking, model airplanes, soccer, and science fiction.