

# Thomas J. Hennen

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Jump to: [navigation](#), [search](#)



**Sections should be added to this article or its part, to conform with [Wikipedia's Manual of Style](#).**

Please discuss this issue on the [talk page](#).

## Thomas John Hennen

Astronaut	
<b>Nationality</b>	<a href="#">American</a>
<b>Born</b>	<a href="#">August 17, 1952</a> <a href="#">Albany, Georgia</a>
<b>Other occupation</b>	<a href="#">Serviceman</a>
<b>Rank</b>	<a href="#">Chief Warrant Officer</a> , <a href="#">United States Army</a>
<b>Space time</b>	6d 22h 50m
<b>Selection</b>	<a href="#">1988 NASA Group</a>
<b>Missions</b>	<a href="#">STS-44</a>
<b>Mission insignia</b>	

**Thomas John Hennen** (born [August 17, 1952](#)) is an [American astronaut](#) who acted as a Payload Specialist on [STS-44](#).

Hennen was born [August 17, 1952](#), in [Albany, Georgia](#), and was raised all over the world. He now lives in [Houston, Texas](#). Tom is married to the former Sherri Wise of Houston, TX. Together, they have six children, Kristopher, Jessie, Karl, Kyle, Kendall, and Karli. He enjoys playing [basketball](#), [bowling](#), [dancing](#), [snorkeling](#), [scuba diving](#), [sky diving](#), traveling, and listening to [music](#). His mother Antoinette L. Hennen lives in Columbus, Ohio. His father, CMS Carl H. Hennen [USAF](#) is deceased.

Hennen graduated from Groveport-Madison High School in [Groveport, Ohio](#) in [1970](#). He attended [Urbana College](#) in [Urbana, Ohio](#) from 1970–[1972](#) on both an academic and athletic scholarship.

Hennen has been awarded many special honors, including the [Defense Superior Service Medal](#), [Meritorious Service Medal](#) with two [oak leaf clusters](#), [Army Commendation Medal](#), [Army Achievement Medal](#) with oak leaf cluster, [NASA Space Flight Medal](#), [Army Good Conduct Medal](#), [National Defense Service Medal](#); and the [Air Force Outstanding Unit Award](#) with oak leaf cluster.

Chief Hennen was selected on numerous occasions as Soldier and Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) of the Quarter/Year by the various commands and agencies to which he was assigned during his enlisted career.

Chief Hennen was the first [Warrant Officer](#) within the [U.S. Army](#) and [United States Department of Defense](#) to have been selected as a member of a [Space Shuttle](#) flight crew.

Chief Hennen served over 24 years in the imagery intelligence field. He received extensive technical training and experience as an operational imagery analyst at both the national and tactical intelligence levels; experience as an instructor; training, force, and combat developer; extensive material development and acquisition management experience—all of which combined to make him one of the most qualified imagery intelligence technicians within the Department of Defense (DOD).

From 1973 to 1975, he was assigned to the 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion, [Fort Hood, Texas](#). During the assignment he participated in the planning, development, and conduct of major operational and force development tests and evaluations in direct support of U.S. Army and [III Corps](#) combat requirements. A small sample of these tests include: the evaluation of the effectiveness of various firing methodologies of the Cobra ([AH-1](#)) attack helicopter; the testing and evaluation of new camouflage netting, uniforms, and painted vehicles, now in use throughout the Army; the initial U.S. Army Remotely piloted vehicle testing; phosphorous smoke tests; antenna mast tests; and heat loss/energy conservations tests.

During [1976](#) through [1978](#), Hennen was assigned to the 203rd Military Intelligence Detachment. While there, he served as Operations NCO and the chief of both the Tactical and Strategic Exploitation Divisions, providing imagery collection, exploitation, and intelligence support to the 1st Cavalry Division, the 2nd Armored Division, the 6th Armored Cavalry Regiment, and Headquarters III Corps.

Chief Hennen was assigned to the U.S. Army Intelligence Center, [Fort Huachuca, Arizona](#), from [1981](#) through [1986](#). He was the project officer for the Imagery Intelligence (IMINT) Tactical Exploitation of National Space Capabilities Program (TENCAP), responsible for developing all training requirements, concept, and doctrine. His efforts culminated in the production of multi-million dollar training programs, supporting the fielding of a variety of new systems, operating at both the tactical and national intelligence levels. During this assignment, Hennen was appointed as Department of the Army (DA) IMINT subject matter expert. He developed and managed a major project for the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD); he authored the U.S. Army Radar Training Plan; participated in the development of the TENCAP Systems Management Model; was selected as a member of a Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) team that developed the Joint Space Intelligence and Operations Course; and represented DA on the DIA Intelligence Training Equipment (ITE) Subcommittee.

In 1986, Hennen was selected by the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Intelligence Center to represent him within the U.S. Army Space Program Office (ASPO) in Washington, D.C., for those matters pertaining to TENCAP requirements, concept development, and the doctrinal and operational employment of TENCAP systems. Additionally, he performed various DA, DOD, and national intelligence community [working groups](#) and subcommittees involved in TENCAP program activities. Hennen was personally responsible for managing the development and successful fielding of a state-of-the-art IMINT system to both the European and Pacific Theaters of Operations. Chief Hennen's efforts at ASPO were instrumental in the efficient evolution of 5 major TENCAP systems with a Life Cycle Cost in excess of \$2 billion US dollars, providing critical and timely intelligence in support of the requirements of the tactical commander on the extended battlefield.

Chief Hennen was selected as a payload specialist candidate in September 1988 and moved back to the "Home of Military Intelligence", Fort Huachuca, Arizona, during March 1989 to begin Terra Scout payload operations training. During August [1989](#) he was selected as the primary payload specialist for

the Terra Scout experiment manifested on STS-44, and reported to NASA in 1990 to begin Payload Specialist and Space Shuttle Crew Training.

CWO Hennen became the first Warrant Officer in space, flying aboard the [Space Shuttle Atlantis \(STS-44\)](#), which launched from [Kennedy Space Center](#) Pad 39A at 6:44PM (EST), [November 24, 1991](#). He orbited the [Earth](#) 109 times traveling 2.9 million miles (4.7 million km), before landing at [Edwards Air Force Base, California](#) on [December 1, 1991](#).

Mr. Hennen retired from the U.S. Army in December [1995](#). He is the co-founder and currently serves as the Executive Director of the [Atlantis Foundation](#), a non-profit organization that is both an advocate and a service provider for people with [developmental disabilities](#). The Foundation was a dream and now the reality of his devotion to bring about real change in the special education field, specifically to the severely mentally challenged. Tom, who after viewing our planet from a totally different perspective, has rededicated his life to helping children, especially those who cannot help themselves. He is convinced, now more than ever before, that the future of our planet will be shaped by all our children.

## [\[edit\]](#) Source

- [NASA Biography of Thomas J. Hennen](#)

Retrieved from "[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas\\_J.\\_Hennen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_J._Hennen)"

Categories: [1952 births](#) | [Living people](#) | [American astronauts](#) | [United States Army officers](#) | [People from Columbus, Ohio](#) | [People from Albany, Georgia](#) | [Urbana University alumni](#)

Hidden category: [Articles needing sections](#)

9/10/2008