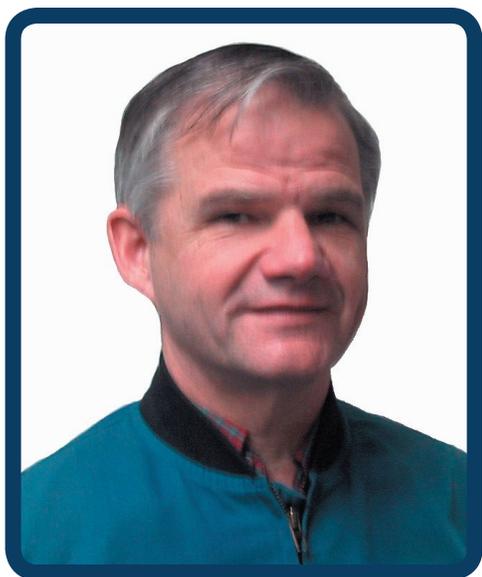




# Research Pilot



**Munro Dearing**  
Research Pilot

NASA Ames Research Center

I plan and execute flight tests on the various aircraft that are based at NASA Ames.

## Areas of expertise:

- Aerospace engineer
- Research pilot

## How I first became interested in this profession:

I have always been interested in aviation and have wanted to fly. Finishing college and joining the Air force provided me that opportunity.

## What helped prepare me for this job:

My years of experience in the aviation field and advanced study helped me prepare for this job.

## My role models or inspirations:

Probably my grandfather, who was an aviation pioneer in commercial aviation, and the other early aviation and space pioneers were my role models.

## My education and training:

- BS, Mechanical Engineering (Aerospace)
- MS, Systems Management
- Graduate of the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School

## My career path:

After graduating from college, I went into the U.S. Air Force for pilot training and flew transport airplanes prior to going to Vietnam. In Vietnam, I was a combat rescue helicopter pilot. I became a test pilot after completing the Naval Test Pilot School at Patuxent River, MD. After completing 11 years in the Air Force, I worked for Beech Aircraft (Raytheon) as an experimental test pilot for three years. I then went to work for the Federal Aviation Administration as a certification test pilot. This included a tour of five years in the European office of the FAA. In 1988, I came to work for NASA as a research pilot.

## What I like about my job:

I enjoy the new challenges that are presented daily.

## What I don't like about my job:

I don't really like the pressure to complete a test when it is not advisable. At times, the test pilot must become the final say in the completion of a test. If he/she deems it unsafe or ill-advised, then he/she must call a stop and be prepared to answer why.

## My advice to anyone interested in this occupation:

Stay in school and get your education first. All the flying can come later. The military is a great place to get the experience needed, but not the only place.

## Additional Resources:

- American Institute of Biological Sciences  
<http://www.aibs.org>
- American Physiological Society  
<http://www.faseb.org/aps>
- American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
<http://www.biophysics.org/biophys/society/biohome.htm>
- American Society for Microbiology  
<http://www.asmsusa.org>
- Astrobiology Summer Academy  
<http://academy.arc.nasa.gov/>
- Biotechnology Industry Organization  
<http://www.bio.org/welcome.html>
- Graduate Student Researchers Program  
<http://spacelink.nasa.gov/Instructional.Materials/NASA.Educational.Products/Graduate.Student.Researchers.Program.Brochure/.index.html>
- MATHCOUNTS Competition  
<http://mathcounts.org/>
- Minority University Research and Education Programs  
<http://mured.nasaprs.com/>
- NASA Cooperative Education Program for college students  
<http://spacelink.nasa.gov/Educational.Services/NASA.Education.Programs/Student.Support/NASA.Cooperative.Education.Program/.index.html>
- NASA Jobs  
<http://nasajobs.nasa.gov/>
- NASA Office of Life and Microgravity Sciences and Applications  
<http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/olmsa/>
- NASA SHARP Internship Program for high-schoolers  
<http://www.mtsibase.com/sharp/>
- NASA Student Employment  
[http://nasajobs.nasa.gov/stud\\_opps/employment/index.htm](http://nasajobs.nasa.gov/stud_opps/employment/index.htm)
- NASA Student Involvement Program student contests  
<http://www.nsip.net/index.cfm>
- Order NASA career videos such as "Engineers: Turning Ideas into Reality," "Careers: Aerospace Engineer" or "Reaching for the Stars" from NASA CORE.  
<http://core.nasa.gov>
- Student's Guide to Astrobiology  
<http://www.astrobiology.com/student.html>
- Tech-Interns.com  
<http://www.tech-interns.com/>

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Thank you.

