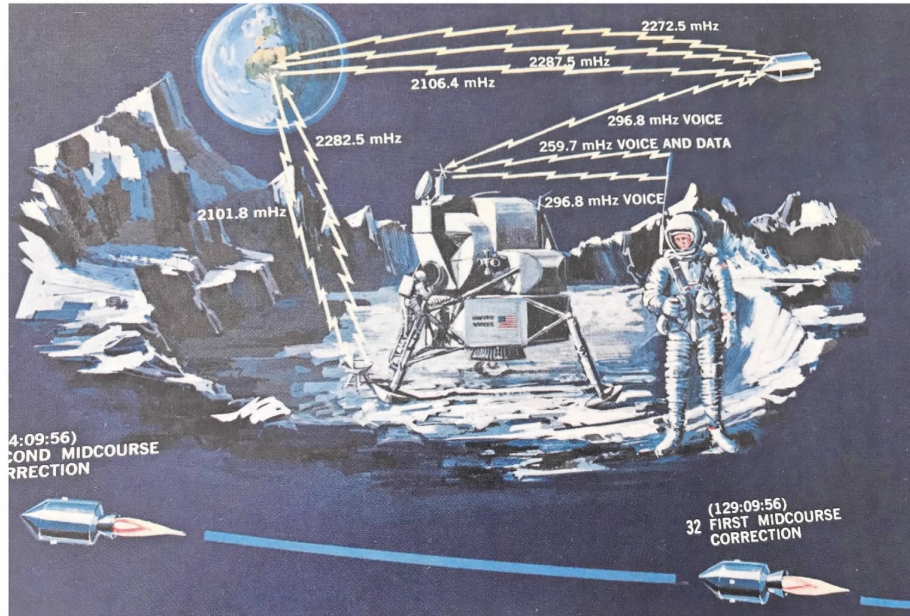


Vermont



A diagram from a NASA poster details the radio frequencies used between an astronaut, the landing module, the orbiting command/service module, and Earth. COURTESY NASA

Company

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A thrilling, disruptive American decade

Simmonds, subsequently bought by Goodrich and then United Technologies, went on to design and build fuel sensor for Boeing and Airbus, among other customers. St. Pierre stayed with the company until he retired in 2019.

But the fast-paced years leading up to the successful moon landing on July 20, 1969 — and Apollo 11 crew's safe return — remain vivid for St. Pierre.

The space program offered a welcome, uplifting message for Americans shocked by the Chicago riots of 1968, as well as the assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy in that year, St. Pierre said.

'We had a schedule to meet'

Engineers at NASA kept the Simmonds crew very busy and focused, he added: "We worked long, long days. Come hell or high water, we had a schedule to meet." St. Pierre remembers the dust-free

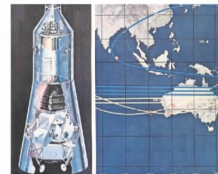


Dominique St. Pierre holds a signed photograph of the three Apollo 11 astronauts taken in 1969. From left to right: Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins and Edwin Aldrin Jr. The inscription reads: "To Dominique St. Pierre, with best wishes from Apollo." COURTESY DOMINIQUE ST. PIERRE

workplace in Vergennes, bustling with technicians in white smocks and surgical caps.

But, despite America's global, cold-war rivalry with the Soviet Union that ex-

tended into those countries' space programs, there was little secrecy at Simmonds — beyond the safekeeping of papers that documented test results, St. Pierre said.



A NASA diagram shows the command and service modules, and the lunar landing craft. Fuel sensors and valves in the service module were manufactured in Vermont. COURTESY NASA

Excitement built when NASA flew him to Cape Kennedy (now Cape Canaveral), where he joined hundreds of other engineers in fitting together thousands of interconnected pieces of a never-before assembled puzzle.

"To this day, 50 years later," St. Pierre said, "it's still viewed as the greatest technological achievement of mankind."

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