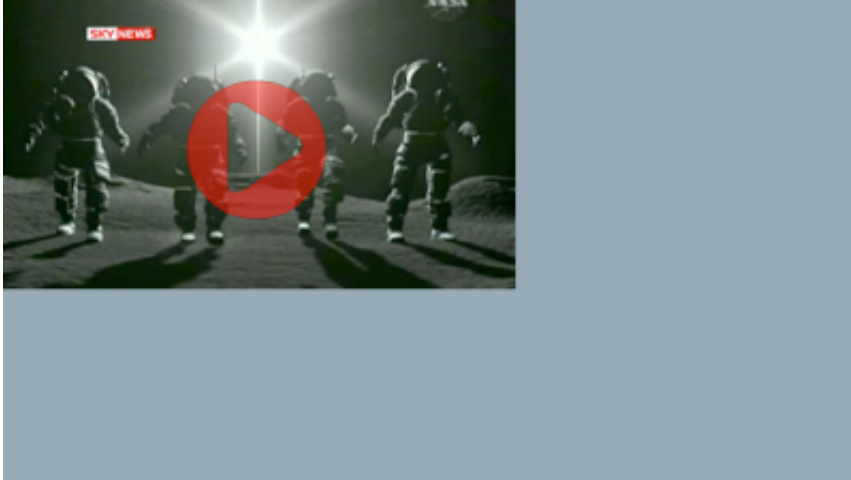


# Obama Grounding Plans To Return Man To Moon

2:01pm UK, Sunday January 31, 2010

Greg Milam, US correspondent

**US President Barack Obama is expected to announce that he is grounding plans to return astronauts to the moon.**



The decision is set to be revealed as part of [Mr Obama's](#) budget plan for 2011.

It follows the recommendations of an independent commission set up to assess the future of human space flight. It is expected that Nasa will be given £3.75bn (\$6bn) extra funding over the next five years but told to take a new direction.

The focus will be on encouraging commercial spaceship development, extending the life of the International Space Station and working on a "flexible path" for human space exploration.

Experts say this may include trips to a nearby asteroid, a Martian moon or a brief visit to the Earth's moon.

But it rules out [Nasa's](#) plan for regular flights to the moon and the setting up of a permanent base there by the end of the decade.

**I don't think this country is ready to abandon human space flight, nor should it.**

*Former astronaut Leroy Chiao*

The Constellation Programme was initiated by former president George W Bush and has already cost £5.7bn (\$9.1bn).

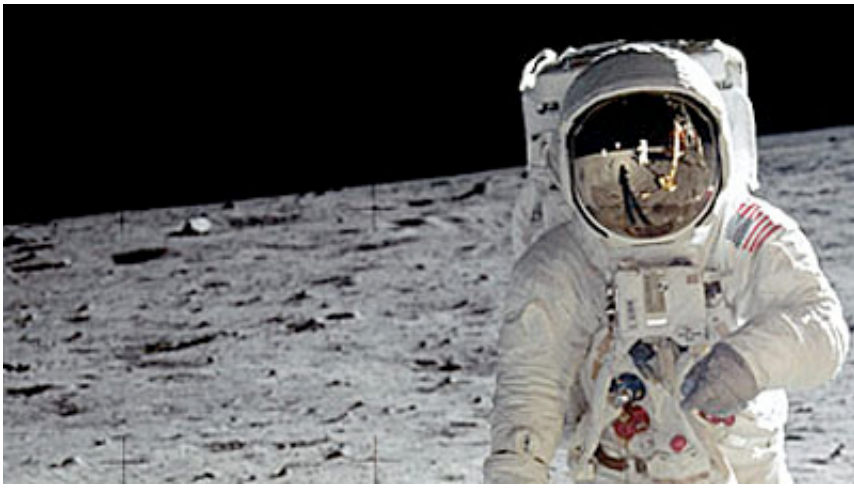
But it started to unravel when promised budget increases did not materialise.

"Constellation is dead," a White House official has said.

The cost of space exploration has become a major factor as the US grapples with the continuing financial crisis.

But the threat of cutbacks has angered people living in communities like Houston, in Texas, that rely on the space industry.

Rick Perry, Republican Governor of Texas, said: "I'm not saying Nasa needs to sacred cow and 'Hands Off'. But I could find lots of money that has been spent in special interests that didn't do a cotton-picking thing for the Texas economy."



Neil Armstrong was the first man to walk on the moon

On Friday, Mr Obama honoured astronauts who had died in the Apollo 1, Challenger and Columbia space missions.

He said: "All of humanity has benefited from their courage and devotion.

"We mourn their loss while celebrating their spirit of discovery. May their sacrifice be an inspiration as we continue our nation's work to explore our universe."

But former astronaut Leroy Chiao, who was a member of the President's Augustine Commission, said sending astronauts into space is still important to Americans.

"It is difficult to predict the future. I'm cautiously optimistic. I don't think this country is ready to abandon human space flight, nor should it. I think we have to be realistic about the budget," he said.

"If Nasa's budget is going to more or less remain flat for the next few years, then we cannot sustain what's been going on.

"And so the Constellation Programme will have to be adjusted. Something will have to change."

## Nasa



CAPE CANAVERAL, FL - FEBRUARY 07: Space shuttle Endeavour stands on launch pad 39A at NASAs Kennedy Space Center February 7, 2010 in Cape Canaveral, Florida. STS-130 Endeavour will make its second launch attempt early Monday morning after being scrubbed Sunday because of low clouds. The 13-day flight to the International Space Station will be Endeavours 24th mission, the 33rd shuttle flight dedicated to station assembly and one of the last five flights of the shuttle program, which is scheduled to finish in September. Getty Images

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### COMMENTS TO THE STORY

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what do they mean 'return to the moon' ?

*Posted By :rob spalding* [Report This](#)

I am not a believer in the validity of the moon landings myself. When I read the story it occurred to me that if the false landings would come out if the place was crawling with astronauts and scientists and film makers, that is if the landings were false. ooh better send Fox Moulder to investigate.

*Posted By :avril* [Report This](#)

William Wallace:

You obviously have not done any research into this have you? You are of course wrong on all counts regarding the moon landings. I would like to know where you get your information from or do you just make it up? As for the invasion of Iraq let me just point out that reason the US went there was to prevent Saddam trading oil in Euros instead of dollars. But let's not stray off topic.

*Posted By :Hank Palooka* [Report This](#)

Hank Palooka / the moon temperatures such human life would not have survived. Possible landing on the moon yet none would have survived have lived telling the tale. It very obvious from original filming the landing be made on EARTH the area was light up as an football field, thus there were shadows in every direction, it t'was just totally farcical, it beggers belief any still talk of a moon landing. T' WAS A SUCCESS AS A PIECE OF PROPAGANDA FOR A USA IN JUSTIFYING HAVING SUPERIOR KNOWLEDGE TO THE SOVIET UNION, GOOD REASON FOR TAX RISES THUS RAISED \$BILLIONS IN TAXES FROM THE PEOPLE USING A SOVIET NUCLEAR ATTACK AS JUSTIFICATION. DID WE NOT SEE SAME PLOY IN JUSTIFICATION OF A INVASION OF IRAQ, THOUGH A MITE MORE CAREFUL WITH WORDS . NOT A NUCLEAR THREAT, AN THREAT FROM WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION (( WHICH MEANINGLESS WORDS) AS THE THREAT, THE TRUTH RATHER USA TAKING FURTHER CONTROL OF MIDDLE EAST OIL RESOURCES BEFORE (( CHINA OR RUSSIA)).

*Posted By :william wallace* [Report This](#)

To Marcus:

I do not work for NASA nor do I "fear the terrible shame you and you nation would feel if the whole thing was finally proven to have been faked?"

Why should I fear? The moon landing will never be proved to be faked.

They happened. Get over it!

RJ: I do indeed say so but please don't take my word for it. The facts, not the conspiracies, speak for themselves.

*Posted By :Hank Palooka* [Report This](#)

Marcus Wright / catholic / christian religions would not accept complexities of the planets, PLANET EARTH in orbit of sun, TRAVELING THROUGH SPACE / universe at GREAT SPEED, preferring teach there only planet EARTH & above clouds be heaven, abode of God & his son Jesus.

Hence progress for humanity in having for centuries being a great struggle the development of brain hindered greatly by that of Religious Mumbo Jumbo, centuries of religious brainwashing, causing severe damage in development of the capability of the human brain, that which should now be common understanding (complexities of planets) purpose of human life, people still struggle understanding, western nations the fault being centuries of religious brainwashing. As religious organizations lost power, in human history, it replaced by political power , thus humanities problem, in dealing with political corruption, in reminding politicians they the servants of the people not their masters... ..

*Posted By :william wallace* [Report This](#)