

Apollo 11

Corrected transcript at start of EVA TV broadcast

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Purpose

Watching the Apollo 11 EVA TV broadcast and trying to show along the technical air-to-ground voice transcription synchronously as a form of subtitle I always noticed that it does not match. Neither the NASA's transcription (http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/history/mission_trans/apollo11.htm) nor the corrected transcription in the Apollo 11 lunar surface journal (ALJS) (<http://www.hq.nasa.gov/alsj/a11/a11.html>) has seemed to be correct regarding the timing of communication. Even the GET (Ground Elapsed Time) for Neil Armstrong's historical words in the NASA's Apollo 11 timeline (http://history.nasa.gov/SP-4029/Apollo_11i_Timeline.htm) does not seem to match.

I therefore have tried to do a correction of transcript timing around the first step of man on the Moon by myself. All my timing estimations are based on the original NASA's transcript and the restored Apollo 11 TV broadcast video (DVD gift from Colin Mackellar who was involved in the EVA TV broadcast restoration, <http://honeysucklecreek.net/>). I have started with the beginning of the EVA TV broadcast assuming the times in the transcript are correct at this point. Following the TV broadcast I corrected some timestamps from Neil Armstrong's historical words on and about three minutes later I then found the times in NASA's transcription and the corrected transcription in the ALSJ were synchronous again.

To mark the times I have used the missions GET in format HHH:MM:SS (Hour:Minute:Second) followed by the speaker.

Speakers are

CDR Commander, Neil Armstrong
LMP Lunar Module Pilot, Buzz Aldrin
CC Capcom (capsule commincator), Bruce McCandless

So here is the transcription of the few minutes around the first step of man on the Moon as far as I was able to figure it out.

The corrected transcript

109:20:56 LMP

Okay. Everything's nice and straight in here.

109:20 58 CDR

Okay. Can you pull the door open a little more?

109:21:00 LMP

All right.

109:21:03 CDR

Okay.

109:21:07 LMP

Did you get the MESA out?

109:21:09 CDR

I'm going to pull it now.

109:21:18 CDR

Houston, the MESA came down all right.

109:21:22 CC

This is Houston, Roger. We copy. And we're standing by for your TV.

109:21:39 CDR

Houston, this is Neil. Radio check.

109:21:42 CC

Neil, this is Houston. Loud and clear. Break. Break. Buzz, this is Houston. Radio check, and verify TV circuit breaker in.

109:21:54 LMP

Roger, TV circuit breaker's in, and read you five square.

109:22:00 CC

Roger. We're getting a picture on the TV.

109:22:09 LMP

You got a good picture, huh?

109:22:11 CC

There's a great deal of contrast in it, and currently it's upside down on our monitor, but we can make out a fair amount of detail.

109:22:28 LMP

Okay. Will you verify the position - the opening I ought to have on the camera?

109:22:34 CC

Stand by.

109:22:48 CC

Okay. Neil, we can see you coming down the ladder now.

109:22:59 CDR

Okay. I just checked getting back up to that first step, Buzz. It's - not even collapsed too far, but it's adequate to get back up.

109:23:10 CC

Roger. We copy.

109:23:11 CDR

It takes a pretty good little jump.

109:23:25 CC

Buzz, this is Houston. F/2 - 1/160th second for shadow photography on the sequence camera.

109:23:35 LMP

Okay.

109:23:38 CDR

I'm at the foot of the ladder. The LM footpads are only depressed in the surface about 1 or 2 inches, although the surface appears to be very, very fine grained, as you get close to it. It's almost like a powder. Down there, it's very fine.

109:24:14 CDR

I'm going to step off the LM now.

109:24:26 CDR

THAT'S ONE SMALL STEP FOR (A) MAN, ONE GIANT LEAP FOR MANKIND.

109:24:49 CDR

And the - the surface is fine and powdery. I can - I can pick it up loosely with my toe. It does adhere in fine layers like powdered charcoal to the sole and sides of my boots. I only go in a small fraction of an inch, maybe an eighth of an inch, but I can see the footprints of my boots and the treads in the fine, sandy particles.

109:25:31 CC

Neil, this is Houston. We're copying.

109:25:48 CDR

There seems to be no difficulty in moving around as we suspected. It's even perhaps easier than the simulations at one sixth g that we performed in the various simulations on the ground. It's actually no trouble to walk around. Okay. The descent engine did not leave a crater of any size. It has about 1 foot clearance on the ground. We're essentially on a very level place here. I can see some evidence of rays emanating from the descent engine, but a very insignificant amount.

109:26:55 CDR

Okay, Buzz, we ready to bring down the camera?

109:27:00 LMP

I'm all ready. I think it's been all squared away and in good shape.

109:27:05 CDR

Okay.

109:27:07 LMP

Okay. You'll have to pay out all the LEC. It looks like it's coming out nice and evenly.

109:27:15 CDR

Okay. It's quite dark here in the shadow and a little hard for me to see that I have good footing. I'll work my way over into the sunlight here without looking directly into the Sun.

109:27:29 LMP

Okay. It's taut now.