HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES ON PLANETARY DEFENSE David Morrison, NASA Ames & SETI Institute



BEGINNINGS: TUNGUSKA, IMPACT CRATERS, FIRST NEAS

- 1893: G.K. Gilbert suggests impact origin for lunar craters 1898: Discovery of Eros, first NEA
- 1908: Tunguska impact (5-10 Mt) in Russian Siberia
- **1932: Discovery of Apollo, first Earth-crossing NEA**
- 1947: IAU Minor Planet Center established
- 1947: Sikhote-Alin iron meteorite strike in Russia
- 1949: R. Baldwin's The Face of the Moon discusses impacts
- **1952: E. Opik estimates impact risk**
- 1959: Pribram meteorite fall traced to asteroid belt
- **1961: E. Shoemaker impact origin of Meteor & Ries Craters**
- **1964: R. Dietz Vredefort & Sudbury as impact structures**

EARLY AWARENESS OF THE IMPACT HAZARD

1969: Icarus close encounter; first radar detection
1969: MIT study of deflection technology "Project Icarus"
1969: Allende and Murchison carbonaceous meteorite falls
1971: First IAU Colloquium Physical Studies of Minor Planets
1972: Daylight Fireball over U.S. and Canada
1977: Novel Lucifer's Hammer depicts comet impact
1979: Hollywood film Meteor depicts joint US/USSR NEA deflection

KT IMPACT, CCDS, RADAR IMAGING, CONGRESS

1980: Identification of KT extinction with cosmic impact

1981: NASA workshop "Collision of Asteroids and Comets"

1981: Shoemaker: first modern estimate of impact hazard

- 1981: First Snowbird conference "Large Body Impacts"
- 1981: Chicxulkub 180km suspected impact crater discovered
- 1983: First international ACM conference
- **1984: Spacewatch (Gehrels) first CCD discovery of NEAs**
- 1989: Discovery of Toutatis, largest known hazardous asteroid
- 1989: First radar image of NEA (Castalia) using Arecibo
- **1990: AIAA recommends impact study to U.S. Congress**
- 1991: House bill directs NASA to study impact risk and defense
- **1991: NASA International NEO Detection Workshops**

CHICXULUB, SL-9, AND BIRTH OF SPACEGUARD

1991: Chicxulub impact crater linked with KT Extinction

- 1992: NEO Interception Workshop, Los Alamos NM
- 1992: Peekskill fireball, good orbit, meteorite struck car
- 1993: Tucson Workshop "Hazards Due to Comets & Asteroids"
- **1993: First Congress hearing on "Threat of Large NEAs"**
- 1993: Erice Workshop on impact hazard
- 1994: Marshall Islands fireball & airburst, estimated 100 kT
- **1994: Collision of Comet S-L 9 with Jupiter**
- 1994: IAU establishes Working Group on NEOs
- 1994: "Space Protection of Earth" Conference in Russia
- 1995: Report of Shoemaker NEO Survey study
- 1995: U.N. conference on NEOs, New York

NEW NEA SURVEY CAPABILITIES

1995: Start of JPL Near Earth Asteroid Tracking (NEAT)

- 1996: Council of Europe resolution on detection of asteroids and comets
- 1995: Foundation of Spaceguard Foundation in Italy
- 1996: Foundation of Japanese Spaceguard Association
- 1996: Foundation of Space Shield Foundation in Russia
- 1996: Foundation of Spaceguard UK
- **1997: Start Lincoln NEA Research (LINEAR)**
- 1997: British TV documentary "The Day the Earth Got Hit"
- 1997: Comet Hale-Bopp visible to naked eye for 18 months
- **1998: Start of Lowell Observatory NEO Search (LONEOS)**
- 1998: B. Marsden warns of possible impact by NEA 1997XF11 **1998: Start of Catalina Sky Survey**

SPACEGUARD SURVEY AND INTERNATIONAL INTEREST

1998: NASA announces start of Spaceguard Survey

- 1998: IAU: detection of NEOs is an "international responsibility"
- 1998: Spectacular Leonid meteor shower
- 1998: Hollywood films Deep Impact and Armageddon released
- **1999: NASA NEO Program Office established at JPL**
- 1999: Threat from NEOs is debated in UK Parliament
- 1999: Orbit analysis of 1999AN10 indicates resonant returns
- 1999: Fastest spinning NEA 1998KY26 (10 min) found
- 1999: NEO Dynamics (NEODyS) website established
- 1999: Torino Impact Hazard scale adopted by IAU & NASA
- 2000: Tagish Lake (Canada) primitive meteorite
- **2000: NEAR-Shoemaker spacecraft orbits NEA Eros** 2000: Report of UK Task Group on Potentially Hazardous NEOs
- 2000: Spaceguard Survey half done; 900 NEAs known

NEAR & HAYABUSA SPACECRAFT LAND ON NEAS

2001: NEAR spacecraft lands on Eros, operates for 10 days

- 2001: First double NEA 1999 KW4 found at Goldstone
- 2002: UN Action Team 14 formed
- 2002: Sentry automatic NEA monitoring system at JPL
- 2002: NEA 1950DA has collision probability of 1 in 300 in 2080
- 2002: NEA 2002MN reported as "near miss" at 120,000 km
- 2003: NASA workshop recommends survey down to 200m
- **2003: NASA NEO Science Definition Team reports**
- 2004: Radar studies of Golevka demonstrate Yarkovsky Effect
- 2004: ESA recommends Don Quijote mission
- 2004: First biennial Planetary Defense Conference
- 2004: Apophis briefly at Torino 4 (2% impact probability)
- 2005: ICSU workshop on Impacts and Human Society
- 2005: Congress mandates NEA survey down to 140m
- 2005: Hayabusa reaches Itokawa & collects sample

RECENT EVENTS: APOPHIS TO CHELYABINSK

2005: NASA Deep Impact mission hits comet Tempel 1 2005: Gravity tractor concept proposed by E. Lu 2006: Apophis becomes focus of orbital dynamics **2007: Carancas meteorite impact in Peruvian Andes** 2007: NASA Program Analysis proposes new surveys 2008: NEA 2008TC3 tracked for 19 hrs before hit in Sudan 2008: Almahata Sitta meteorites recovered from 2008TC3 2010: NASA EPOXI high-res images of Comet Hartley 2 2010: Pan-STARRS survey begins with USAF support 2010: NEOWISE space IR survey discovers 129 NEAs 2010: Hayabusa returns sample to Earth 2011: Data eliminate possibility of Apophis impact in 2036 2011: Spaceguard Survey reaches goal 90% of NEAs >1km 2013: NEA 2012DA14 passes Earth at 28,000 km altitude 2013: Chelyabinsk bolide explodes with 0.5Mt energy