

John Dennis Hodge -- Born in Leigh-on-Sea, England, in 1929, Hodge was educated at the University of London and worked at Vickers Armstrong, before moving to Toronto and Avro Canada in 1952. At Avro, he worked on loads and flight test for the CF-105 Avro Arrow. After joining NASA in 1959, when the Arrow was cancelled, Hodge worked in operations, helping set up the network aspects of Mercury and the control center for Mercury and Gemini. He became chief of the flight control division at the Manned Spacecraft Center (now Johnson Space Center) and was responsible for the hiring and training of flight controllers.

Hodge became one of NASA's original flight directors, along with Chris Kraft and Gene Kranz of Apollo 13 fame. Hodge worked as flight director in Mercury, Gemini and early Apollo missions. He was the lead flight director for Gemini 8, the first emergency in space. Hodge ordered commander Neil Armstrong and pilot David Scott to make an emergency splashdown in the Pacific Ocean after a stuck thruster caused their spacecraft to spin out of control.

In 1968, Hodge went to plan the later lunar missions, and then NASA's piloted space program after Apollo. In 1970, he left NASA and went to the U.S. Department of Transportation. He returned to NASA in 1982 to get the space station program started at NASA Headquarters in Washington D.C., became deputy associate administrator for space station, and remained there until 1987. Hodge is now a consultant living near Washington, D.C. He and his wife Audrey have four children.