



NOAA-N launch Wednesday to expand weather, climate forecasting

ISS crew practices moving Canadarm2, works on medical experiment

▲ **ELV Update:** The launch of the NOAA-N polar-orbiting weather satellite for NASA



and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) aboard a Boeing Delta II rocket is scheduled for Wednesday from Space Launch Complex 2 at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. The launch window extends from 6:22 to 6:32 a.m. EDT.

The NOAA-N satellite will improve weather forecasting and monitor environmental events around the world. NOAA-N is the fourth in the current series of five polar-orbiting satellites with improved imaging and sounding capabilities.

Built by Lockheed Martin, the satellite will collect meteorological data and transmit the information to the NOAA Satellite and Information Service, which processes the data for input to the National Weather Service for its long-range weather and climate forecasts. Forecasters worldwide will also be able to access the satellite's images and data.

NOAA-N has sensors that will be used in the Search and Rescue Satellite-Aided Tracking System to monitor for distress signals around the world.

NASA Television coverage of the launch will begin at 4 a.m. Wednesday. Launch coverage will also be webcast at <http://www.nasa.gov/ntv>.

▲ **ISS Update:** On May 6, Commander Sergei Krikalev and Flight Engineer John Phillips used the Robotics Work Station in the Space Station's Destiny laboratory module to guide the Station's Canadarm2 robotic arm through movements designed to enable later remote operation by ground controllers. The hour-long session also served as proficiency training for the crew.

Scientific investigations last week focused on work with a kidney stone experiment. Both crew members took pills – either a placebo or potassium citrate, which has been proven effective in reducing the formation of kidney stones in patients on Earth – recorded what they ate and drank, and collected urine specimens for 24 hours. The samples will be returned to doctors on the ground for analysis and correlation with the dietary intake information.



■ **Help Replenish the Local Blood Supply** — Florida's Blood Centers are holding a blood and bone marrow drive Tuesday. Their big red bus will be in

the Courtyard of the HQ Building from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For an appointment, e-mail Ruth Wilburn at rwilburn@floridasbloodcenters.org. Florida's Blood Centers are the sole provider to all Brevard County hospitals and all blood collected is kept locally. Every unit donated saves three local lives.

■ **Boeing Sponsors Three American Red Cross Blood Drives This Week** — They run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. **today** at the LCC; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday at the SSPF; and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday at Bldg. 100 (the Boeing building on U.S. 1). Each participant is eligible for the regional Red Cross "Weekend in Miami" Sweepstakes: luxury hotel accommodations, round-trip Delta Air Lines tickets, meals and more! Remember, ID is required for all donors. To register, send e-mail to deborah.b.kelly@boeing.com or call Deborah at 264-8577.

■ **Did You Know?** The first two hours of the BellaSwartz Productions documentary "Return To Flight: Fixing the Space Shuttle" will air on the Discovery channel at 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. Saturday. An encore presentation is scheduled at 3 p.m. May 21. Also, the documentary "Astronaut Diaries: Remembering the Columbia Shuttle Crew" airs at 9 p.m. Saturday on the Science Channel.