



KSC Countdown

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Arm testing and SRB stacking on Discovery's schedule



◆ Shuttle Update:

Verification testing of the remote manipulator system arm starts this week on Discovery. All

three main engines were installed last week and leak checks continue. Preparations are under way for installation of the dome-mounted heat shields that surround the three engines. That heat shield is made of two semicircular sections of thermal protection system tiles.

Solid rocket booster stacking for Discovery's launch started Monday in the Vehicle Assembly Building. The right aft booster, comprised of the aft skirt and the aft motor segment, was transported from the Rotation Processing and Surge Facility to the assembly building for lifting onto the mobile launcher platform.

Technicians will perform the same procedure for the left aft booster today.

◆ **ISS Update:** To support friends and colleagues who ran in the Houston Marathon Jan. 15, Expedition 12 Commander Bill McArthur ran a half-marathon on the station treadmill that day. McArthur circled the globe at an altitude of 220 statute miles as runners on the ground circled Houston.

McArthur and Tokarev are also preparing for their second spacewalk. Mission managers decided to delay the spacewalk from Feb. 2 to Feb 3.

Expedition 12 crew prepares for spacewalk Feb. 3

Service To Honor Challenger Astronauts at Space Mirror Memorial —

A public memorial service will be held in honor of the crew of Challenger STS-51L Saturday. The ceremony will take place at 10 a.m. at the Space Mirror Memorial at the KSC Visitor Complex. The ceremony, hosted by The Astronauts Memorial Foundation, will include June Scobee Rogers, wife of the late Francis "Dick" Scobee, commander of the Challenger flight; their son, Lt. Col. Richard Scobee; James Kennedy, center director; William H. Gerstenmaier, NASA's associate administrator for Space Operations; Rick Hauck, commander of Discovery on the first post-Challenger mission; and Dr. Joseph P. Allen, astronaut and chairman for the Challenger Center for Space Education. The public is invited and there is no charge to attend. The Visitor Complex will provide flowers for all ceremony guests and visitors throughout the day to place at the memorial. For more information, call 321-449-4444.

The extra time will ease the crew's preparation schedule. Mission Control sent the crew detailed procedures for the spacewalk last week, and the crew reviewed the plans with experts on the ground. In addition, the crew began charging batteries and preparing the Pirs Docking Compartment airlock for the excursion. For the spacewalk, McArthur and Tokarev will wear Russian Orlan-M spacesuits.

During the spacewalk, the crew will move a cargo boom adapter from one module to another, install a safety bolt into a cable cutter on the Mobile Transporter truss rail car, and deploy SuitSat, an old Orlan space suit equipped with an active amateur radio transmitter. The SuitSat will remain in orbit for several weeks and allow contact with amateur radio operators on the ground.

■ **Did You Know?** On Wednesday and Thursday, badged employees of KSC and CCAFS will be able to view GlobalFlyer at the tow-way hangar adjacent to the Shuttle Landing Facility. With their supervisor's permission, employees may drive out to the hangar facility between 2 and 5 p.m. to see the aircraft. If weather and operational preparations permit, the aircraft will be positioned just outside the hangar to facilitate photos. Employees must remain outside the controlled area. This is expected to be the only employee viewing opportunity. GlobalFlyer is expected to launch from KSC's Shuttle Landing Facility on an attempt to set a new record for the longest aircraft flight no earlier than Feb. 1. Also, a videotape replay of Steve Fossett's briefing to KSC employees will be aired on NASA TV at 11 a.m. Wednesday and Thursday.

KSC Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday. Deadlines are 10 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays.

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