



KSC Countdown

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Booster stacking under way in VAB for STS-121



◆ Shuttle Update:

Last week, technicians worked on inspections and closeouts preparing for this week's installation of the forward reaction control system. Installation of the dome-mounted heat shields that surround the shuttle's three engines will begin when main engine leak checks are complete. Solid rocket booster stacking for STS-121 is under way. Both the left and right aft boosters were delivered to the Vehicle Assembly Building last week and placed on the Mobile Launcher Platform in High Bay 3. The aft segments were bolted to the platform, and work has begun to stack the left and right aft center segments.

◆ **ISS Update:** Expedition 12 Commander Bill McArthur and Flight Engineer Valery Tokarev last week reviewed procedures, gathered tools and outfitted equipment for their spacewalk on Friday. The walk may last up to six hours. It begins at 5:20 p.m. EST. NASA TV coverage starts at 4:30 p.m. EST. During the walk, the crew will release the unusual SuitSat satellite, an old Russian Orlan spacesuit outfitted with amateur radio equipment. It will fly freely for several weeks of scientific research and amateur radio tracking. SuitSat will eventually burn up in the atmosphere.

The crew also will install a safety bolt in an emergency cable cutting system on the station's mobile transporter rail car. The transporter is used to move a platform containing the station's robotic arm along the truss of the complex. Other spacewalk tasks include relocating an adaptor for the Russian Strela boom. The crane-like Strela is used to move spacewalkers and cargo.

■ **FEW Annual Training Program** — Federally Employed Women (FEW) will present a one-day Leadership and Personal Improvement training program on March 1, and repeated on March 2, at the Holiday Inn in Cocoa Beach. The keynote speaker will be Rita M. Murray, president of Performance Consulting. Her topic is "Survive and Thrive in a Multi-Generational World." Workshop speakers are Mariam Hull, president of Hull Associates, speaking on "Mastering Change"; Tina Shepherd, president of Real Life Nutrition, offering her workshop entitled "Nutrition for Working Women"; Carol Clendinen, president of Bearin' Up, presenting "Putting People First in a Diverse Workplace"; and Marc DeSimone, senior consultant of International Leadership Development Consortium, presenting "Moving Beyond Resistance." Registration books will be sent to training coordinators in the next couple of

Crew on ISS ready for spacewalk Friday

weeks. Watch the *KSC Daily News* and *KSC Countdown* for additional information, or you may contact registration chairperson Jean Grenville at 453-0226.

■ **Education Opportunity** — Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's Space Coast Center offers certificate, undergraduate and graduate degree programs relating to the areas of safety, aerospace and management. The university's **Master of Science in Management** builds decision-making skills for mid-level managers. It offers five terms per year in a classroom setting and monthly online courses. The next term begins March 20. Classrooms are located at Patrick AFB at 2112 Sarno Road in Melbourne, and at KSC in Complex H. To learn more about the university's programs, please call Jan Bridgham, 783-5020, visit the office at 1020 Central Ave., I Wing at Patrick AFB, send e-mail to space.coast.center@erau.edu, or go online to www.embryriddle.edu/spacecoast.

■ **Did You Know?** The monthly health education table will be set up in the SSPF Cafeteria from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Feb. 9. KSC/CCAFS Health Education and Wellness Program staff will distribute heart health information about strokes, women and cholesterol, and American Heart Association materials.

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

E-mail news to Anita.Barrett@jbosc.ksc.nasa.gov. For questions or information, e-mail or call 321-867-2815.

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