



KSC Countdown

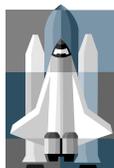
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KSC preps Atlantis for Feb. 7 rollover to VAB

THEMIS probes move to payload carrier this week



◆ Shuttle Update:

Technicians powered down orbiter **Atlantis** in Orbiter Processing Facility bay 1 prior to the holidays. Over the holiday

period, thermal protection system waterproofing was completed. Final system testing and processing continues in preparation for the vehicle's rollover to the Vehicle Assembly Building, scheduled for Feb. 7.

Endeavour remains in Orbiter Processing Facility bay 2, and technicians continue preparing the vehicle for its first launch in nearly five years. The vehicle has undergone an extensive modification period, including the addition of all of the return-to-flight safety modifications added to both Discovery and Atlantis.

The payload bay doors were closed for the holiday period and were reopened Jan. 4. Technicians continue checking out and servicing the water spray boiler system. Auxiliary power unit and main propulsion system leak and functional testing is complete. The Ku-band antenna was deployed Jan. 4. Preparations are under way for left-hand orbiter maneuvering system pod installation today.

◆ **ELV Update:** The THEMIS probes will be installed onto the payload carrier Wednesday. Spin-balance testing will follow Jan. 15 and 16. Mating to the upper stage booster will be Jan. 26.

■ Many Thanks For Your Generosity

— Sandra Getter, outreach chairman of the Space Coast Chapter of the Federally Employed Women, thanks all who served as points of contact, gathered the goods, helped deliver and also gave items for the Salvation Army out of the goodness of their hearts to those in need at Christmas. A total of 400 Christmas stockings and 200 gift bags filled with personal items for infants through children age 16 were delivered Dec. 15. A donation of 150-plus beanie babies were given to the Sharing Center in Cocoa. Approximately 30 large gift bags were taken to the Hacienda Girls' Ranch. The FEW was also able to adopt more than 50 elderly citizens and made their Christmas much brighter. In addition, the Yoplait Lid drive ended Dec. 31 and 2,004 lids were mailed to the Save a Lid, Save a Life Campaign.

■ NASA Science and Mayan Ruins

— For many years, space archeology has been a favorite topic of Science@NASA readers. NASA scientists use Earth-orbiting satellites to find ancient ruins invisible from ground level. Prime real estate for this kind of discovery is Central America. In that part of the world, satellites are not only revealing long-held secrets of the Maya, but also improving the everyday lives of modern Central Americans by helping them monitor and manage their environment.

For an update on this important work, you can tune in to a new PBS broadcast tonight, *Nova scienceNOW*, airing at 8 p.m. on your local PBS station. It features pioneering space archeologist Tom Sever of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center and colleague Bill Saturno of the University of New Hampshire discussing their latest discoveries. The program features four 15-minute reports on various topics. "Mayan Ruins" is second and is narrated by astrophysicist Neil DeGrasse Tyson.

■ **Did You Know?** — The January Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Screening is scheduled for 7 to 9 a.m. Wednesday at the KSC Occupational Health Facility. No appointment is necessary during the screening period. You must fast for 12 hours prior to screening (water only). If you take prescription medications, ask your doctor how to manage them during your fasting.

The two-page CVD questionnaire can be picked up at any medical facility or downloaded at: <http://ksbcoc-forms/KSCForms2/ref/KSC28-1010V2.itr>. This form can be filled out online and then printed (please print each page single-sided on separate sheets of paper). If you have any questions, please call 867-3414 or 867-4566.

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