



# countdown

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## Thermography reveals no hail damage on Atlantis' left wing edge

◆ **Shuttle Update:** In high bay No. 1 of the Vehicle Assembly Building, work is under way to repair hail damage to the STS-117 external fuel tank, ET-124. Special scaffolding and access platforms have been erected to allow access to the tank and orbiter for inspections and repairs. Foam repairs on the liquid hydrogen tank, which is located on the bottom of the tank, are complete.

Repairs to Atlantis' orbiter thermal protection system tiles are complete, and technicians finished non-destructive evaluations of the vehicle's reinforced carbon-carbon panels on the left wing leading edge using thermography equipment. No damage was detected.

Shuttle program managers met to assess the damage and repair status, and decided to continue work on repairing ET-124. Managers will meet again on April 10 to decide whether to use ET-124 or substitute a new tank, ET-117, which is scheduled to arrive at KSC no later than April 10.

◆ **ISS Update:** Commander Michael Lopez-Alegria and Flight Engineer Suni Williams spent time working with experiments that may hold the key to several aspects of long-duration spaceflight as NASA looks forward to missions back to the moon and on to Mars and other destinations.

Each served as test subject and operator for the Anomalous Long Term Effects in Astronauts' Central

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## ISS crew busy with experiments, upgrading laptop network

Nervous System experiment that examines how cosmic radiation affects brain waves.

They also worked with the Nutritional Status Assessment experiment, tracking how their bodies process nutrients in space and how food supplies are affected by storage in that environment.

Additionally, Lopez-Alegria provided the final samples associated with the Renal Stone Risk During Spaceflight: Assessment and Countermeasure Validation investigation, which is looking at the space effectiveness of a drug used on Earth to prevent kidney stones.

Flight Engineer Mikhail Tyurin worked with three Russian experiments that monitor cosmic rays and background radiation as they relate to long-duration flights and documented the condition of the Earth below from the unique vantage point of the International Space Station.

The crew also worked on an upgrade to the laptop computer network. The new, integrated station computer network will be 10 times faster than the current network, using Ethernet connectivity over a router and either cables or wireless equipment. This will eliminate drag-through cables from the U.S. segment into the Russian segment. The work was accelerated because of the STS-117 launch delay.

■ **O&C Renovation Postponed** — Due to a delay in critical materials,

the O&C Mission Briefing Room renovation project has been delayed 60 days. The room will now be closed from June 1 through Aug. 31 in support of this project. For further information, please contact Brent Seale at [Brent.L.Seale@nasa.gov](mailto:Brent.L.Seale@nasa.gov).

■ **Did You Know?** In any given one-year period, 9.5 percent of the population, or about 20.9 million American adults, suffer from a depressive illness. For more information about depression, visit: [nimh.nih.gov/publicat/depression.cfm](http://nimh.nih.gov/publicat/depression.cfm).

■ **Reminder — If You Bag It, Then Tag It!** Unidentified briefcases, gym bags, equipment bags, backpacks or similar items arouse concerns for explosive devices. To alleviate these concerns, all such items should have an identification tag. Free identification tags may be obtained at the following locations: KSC HQ Building, VRC Badging Office, Room 1470; VAB F Gate Badging Station; PIDS 1 located on Phillips Parkway near the CCAFS South Gate; PIDS 3 located on NASA Causeway near the U.S. 1 entrance; SSPF, Room 1473; and the USA Security Office at the PCC.

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