HETE-2 Spacecraft Successfully Launched

A new gamma ray burst mission, the High-Energy Transient Explorer (HETE-2), was successfully launched on Oct. 9 from the Kwajalein Missile Range in the Marshall Islands.

HETE-2 was deployed by an L-1011 aircraft and carried into orbit by a Hybrid Pegasus expendable launch vehicle. The spacecraft separated from the Pegasus rocket approximately 12 minutes after launch.

“Gamma ray bursts are stupendous explosions. They are the most energetic events since the Big Bang, yet one occurs about once a day somewhere in the sky,” said Dr. George R. Ricker from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, Mass., HETE-2 principal investigator. “The successful launch of HETE-2 means that for the first time we can locate with pinpoint accuracy hundreds of bursts. Also, HETE-2’s ability to relay the accurate location of each burst in real-time to space- and ground-based optical and radio observatories will surely revolutionize this exciting new area of high energy astrophysics.”

Gamma ray bursts are a mystery to scientists, and very little is known about their fundamental origin. HETE-2 will embark upon a gamma ray burst fact-finding mission during the four years it is slated to operate. In addition to detecting hundreds of bursts during its mission, it will provide detailed information on the location and light characteristics of many of these bursts.

Within seconds of a burst, HETE-2 will be able to calculate a precise location for that burst. On the ground, a dedicated network of 12 listen-only burst alert stations will relay the data to the MIT control center. From there, information will be transmitted to the Gamma Ray Burst Coordinate Distribution Network at the Goddard Space Flight Center, which can send the information to other observatories worldwide in 10-20 seconds. HETE-2 will allow astronomers to see a burst while it is still occurring and allow scientists to study its development at various wavelengths.

Information on HETE-2 can be found at: http://space.mit.edu/HETE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Worldwide Caution

The Department of State is extremely concerned about the possibility for violent actions against United States citizens and interests throughout the world. Several U.S. Embassies, including Damascus and Brussels, have recently been the target of violent anti-American demonstrations.

On October 12, 2000, several American citizens were killed, and many more were injured in an incident involving a U.S. Navy ship in port in Aden, Yemen in what may have been a terrorist attack. In addition, anti-American demonstrations continue to take place in countries throughout the world in response to tensions and violence in the Middle East.

U.S. citizens are urged to maintain a high level of vigilance and to take appropriate steps to increase their security awareness.

Americans should maintain a low profile, vary routes and times for all required travel, and treat mail from unfamiliar sources with suspicion. American citizens traveling abroad should contact the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate for up-to-date information on security conditions. U.S. Government personnel overseas have been advised to take the same precautions. Government facilities will continue to temporarily close or suspend public services as necessary to ensure the safety of its personnel.

American citizens in need of emergency assistance should telephone the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate before proceeding to that location.

Shuttle Discovery Lifts Off on 100th Mission

The Space Shuttle program marked it’s 100th with the launch of Discovery at 7:17 p.m. on Oct. 11.

STS-92 is a space station assembly flight that will bring the Z-1 Truss (mounted on a Spacelab pallet), Control Moment Gyros, Pressurized Mating Adapter-3 (PMA-3) and two DDCU (Heat pipes) to the International Space Station. While at the station, the crew will use the Shuttle’s robot arm and conduct four space walks to attach a piece of exterior framework called the integrated truss segment and a third docking port to the station.

**Octoberfest**  
**October 21**  
**Noon to 5 p.m.**  
**At The Wallops Ball Field**

German Food, Hot Dogs, Beer and Sodas

**Children’s Activities**  
Clowns, Face Painting, Games, Crafts  
Hay Rides  
Softball Game  
Horseshoes  
Music By Tittle Mania  

Adults - $5.00  
Children Under 16 - Free

Contact - Bev Hall, x1714; John Conquest, x1485; Jose Gonzalez, x1919; or Jan Jackson, x1883.

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**Life Skills Workshop**

The Employee Assistance Program will host a 2-day (12 hour) workshop at Wallops on Life Skills to use at work and at home.

The workshop will be held Oct. 26 and 27 beginning at 8 a.m. in the Building E-2 Conference Room. For additional information call the EAP, x66-4600.

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**Monthly Tail Gate Sale**

**October 18**  
**11:30 a.m.**

At the Flag Court parking lot across from the Cafeteria.

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**Sounding Rocket Launch**

A NASA Terrier-Improved Orion sounding rocket was successfully launched from the White Sands Missile Range, N.M. on Oct. 13. The flight test was to demonstrate the ability of candidate ground (primary) and airborne radar and optical sensors to detect and track a simulated chemical, biological weapon cloud as it disperses and descends through the atmosphere. The principal investigator was Major Charles Kastenholz, U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory.

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**Women of Wallops Day**

**October 19, 2000**

**Morning Workshop**

“How to Be Calm When the World Around You is in Chaos” -- Sandra Crowe  
9 a.m. to 11 a.m.  
Bldg. E-2 Conference Room

**Luncheon and Speaker**

“Tapestry of Life” -- Martha Hudson  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Bldg. E-2 Williamsburg Room  
Tickets are $4 per person and can be purchased from Pam Milbourne in the Exchange.

**Afternoon Workshop**

“Take Back Your Power” -- Dianne Sutton, M.A.  
1:30 to 3:30 p.m.  
Bldg. E-2 Conference Room  
Self-Defense Tips -- Diana Whitehead  
4 to 4:30 p.m.  
Bldg. D-10 Gym

For more information visit the Women of Wallops website: [http://www.wff.nasa.gov/~FWP/news/wowday.html](http://www.wff.nasa.gov/~FWP/news/wowday.html) or contact Lisa Johnson, x1412 or Pat Pruitt, x1245.

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**American Red Cross Blood Drive**

**October 24, 2000**  
**9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**  
**Bldg. F-3**

Call the Health Unit, x1266 for an appointment time.

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Betty Flowers

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