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**ALDRICH NAMED ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR FOR AERONAUTICS AND SPACE
TECHNOLOGY; CRIPPEN TO HEAD SHUTTLE PROGRAM**

NASA Administrator Richard H. Truly today announced two key appointments to become effective following the successful completion of the STS-34 Galileo Space Shuttle mission. Arnold D. Aldrich has been named Associate Administrator for the Office of Aeronautics and Space Technology (OAST) and Captain Robert L. Crippen, USN, has been named Director of the Space Shuttle Program.

In his new position, Aldrich will be responsible for the direction of NASA's aeronautics and space technology programs as well as for the institutional management of NASA's Ames Research Center, Mountain View, Calif.; Langley Research Center, Hampton, Va.; and Lewis Research Center, Cleveland. Aldrich is currently Director, National Space Transportation System (NSTS), and provided the program leadership in the safe and successful return to flight of the Shuttle.

In his new role, Crippen will have full responsibility for the operation and conduct of the Space Shuttle program and will report directly to Dr. William B. Lenoir, acting Associate Administrator for Space Flight. Crippen is currently Deputy Director, NSTS Operations.

Administrator Truly commented, "I'm delighted that NASA has two outstanding executives in Arnie Aldrich and Bob Crippen who are so well prepared to take on these important new responsibilities. It speaks well for the inherent strength of the NASA organization. These management changes bode well for a strong future in NASA's aeronautics and technology programs, as well as insure stability in the Space Shuttle leadership."

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Aldrich has been associated with the U.S. manned space program almost since its inception, joining the NASA Space Task Group the forerunner of NASA's Manned Spacecraft Center (later the Johnson Space Center, Houston) in 1959 after graduation from Northeastern University. From 1966 to 1975, he held increasingly responsible positions in the Apollo program.

In 1975, Aldrich joined the Space Shuttle program office where he managed various aspects of the program until his appointment as overall Shuttle program manager in 1985. In November 1986, he was named to his current position as Director, NSTS.

Aldrich is an Associate Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and a Fellow of the American Astronautical Society. He has twice received the Presidential Rank of Meritorious Executive, as well as the NASA Distinguished Service Medal, the Arthur S. Fleming Award, the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal, the NASA Exceptional Service Medal and numerous other honors.

Crippen, a native Texan and a graduate of the University of Texas, is a former Navy carrier pilot and became a NASA astronaut in 1969. He was in the astronaut support crew for the Skylab 2, 3 and 4 missions as well as the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project. Crippen has the distinction of having flown on a record four Shuttle missions, having served as pilot of the first Shuttle flight in April 1981 and commander of three subsequent missions in June 1983 and April and October 1984.

Crippen is a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and a Fellow of the American Astronautical Society. Among his many awards are the NASA Exceptional Service Medal, the NASA Distinguished Service Medal, the Department of Defense Distinguished Service Award and four NASA Space Flight Medals.