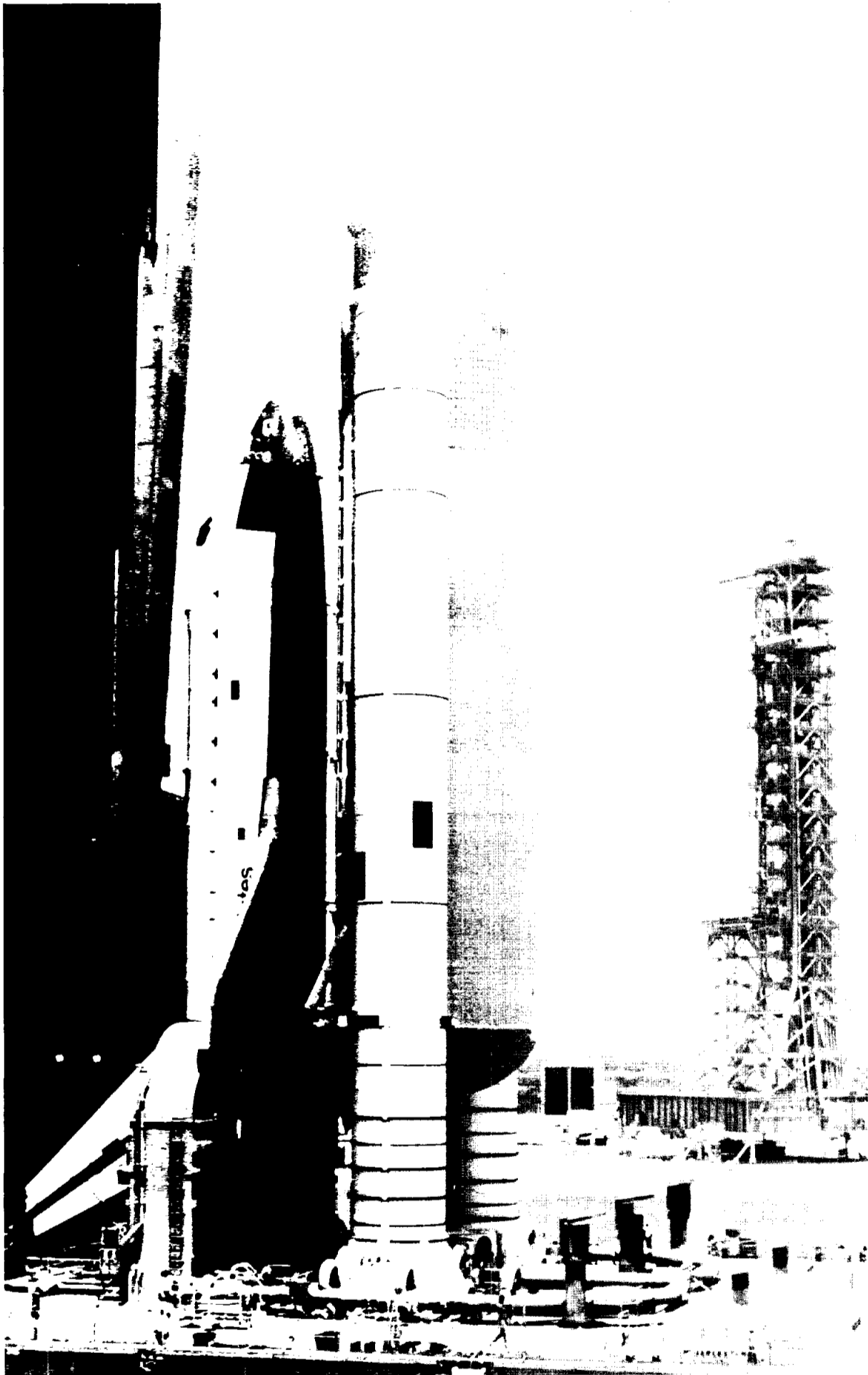


Space News Roundup

Vol. 22 No. 11

June 10, 1983

National Aeronautics and Space Administration



Rollout of the Space Shuttle Orbiter *Challenger* and its solid rocket boosters and external tank for STS-7 began at 12:32 p.m. May 26. The move ended with a hard down at Launch Pad 39A at 8:17 p.m. The 3.5 mile crawl to the pad was a major milestone for the mission, now set for June 18 launch.

TDRS deleted from manifest

The second in a series of Tracking and Data Relay Satellites (TDRS) that was scheduled for launch aboard STS-8 has been officially deleted from the flight cargo list.

The decision by NASA program managers to remove TDRS-B from the STS-8 cargo was based on the failure of the Inertial Upper Stage (IUS) solid rocket booster to propel the first TDRS to geosynchronous orbit after deployment from *Challenger* on STS-6. Reasons for the IUS anomaly and final corrective actions are under continuing investigation by a joint U.S. Air Force and NASA Anomaly Investigation Board.

Meanwhile, TDRS-A is nearing its planned orbit after a month-long series of successful thruster firings, sent through the TDRS ground station at White Sands, New Mexico. Gradually, through burns lasting from several minutes to as much as three hours, the apogee had been raised to 22,189

miles and the perigee to 22,012 statute miles as of late last week. At that time, the orbital period was 21 hours and 58 minutes. The NASA, TRW and Spacecom engineers are aiming at a 22,234 statute mile circular orbit. No firm target date for reaching that orbit has been set, although officials said it could be later this month.

The replacement payload for TDRS-B will be the Payload Deployment and Retrieval System Test Article, originally planned to be carried aboard *Challenger* on STS-11. The test article is a 15x16-foot, 8,500 lb. aluminum and stainless steel structure fitted with four remote manipulator arm grapple fixtures.

The test article simulates a large-mass payload and will be used to conduct dynamic tests of the robot arm. The tests will evaluate elbow, wrist and shoulder joint reaction to higher loads and to gain crew experience in operating the 50-

(Continued on page 4)

W5LFL to broadcast from orbit on STS-9

While Spacelab orbits the Earth this fall on its first mission, there will be more than one communications network in touch with its crew.

Dr. Owen Garriott, an STS-9 mission specialist and amateur radio operator, will use a handheld radio during part of his off-duty time to communicate with some of the thousands of "ham" radio operators around the world. Garriott's call sign is W5LFL.

Original proposals to place an amateur radio transceiver aboard an orbiting U.S. spacecraft surfaced when NASA was about to launch Skylab in the early 70s. NASA rejected the plan, then dubbed SKYLARC (for Skylab Amateur Radio Communications) because it came too late in the development of the program.

Space Shuttle flights presented another opportunity. The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) and the Amateur Radio Satellite Corporation (AMSAT) jointly requested that NASA supply a small transceiver to be carried by Garriott, a ham operator since his teens.

NASA accepted the proposal with the stipulation that the plan would not interfere with mission activities and that safety requirements were met.

Crew members aboard the Spacelab 1 flight will work on a 12-hour-on, 12-hour-off schedule. Use of the transceiver will be limited to one hour a day.

All "ham" radio operations for STS-9 will be in the two-meter band. Transmissions will be in the range 145.51 to 45.770 MHz FM. Reception will be in the range 144.910 to 145.470 MHz FM. Twenty kilohertz steps will be used to both transmit and receive.

The radio will be operated from the aft flight deck of the Space Shuttle Orbiter *Columbia*, which is carrying the Spacelab in its cargo bay.

The transceiver itself will be a battery-powered unit capable of five watts of output. The printed-circuit antenna will be placed in the upper crew compartment window on the aft flight deck.

Garriott will wear the standard in-flight headset when operating

(Continued on page 4)

NASA stressing productivity gains

NASA, long seen as a model for the government in fiscal and personnel management, is now pushing as one of eight major goals to become a government leader in productivity enhancement, management practices and the application of advanced technologies.

The effort will include bringing more employees into the decision-making process, setting up employee teams similar to quality circles in the private sector, promoting more office automation and providing a creative environment for employees.

The Productivity Improvement and Quality Enhancement (PIQE) Program grew out of the Agency decision to include productivity enhancement as one of its eight

major goals. The PIQE Program calls for a voluntary and largely decentralized effort on the part of management and employees at each of the NASA centers.

At JSC, a Productivity Committee consisting of representatives from all staff offices, program and project offices and directorates, met for the first time May 17 for a briefing on the Agency program. Members of the committee were asked to consider where elements of the program might fit into their areas.

In the next few months, the Center hopes to have a pilot program of from four to six NASA Employee Teams, or NETs, in operation. The NETs will be voluntary, and are seen as a NASA version of the quality circles which have been

gaining popularity in many private businesses.

The philosophy is that employees know their job as well or better than anyone, and are in the best position to make suggestions and decisions which can improve productivity, quality and the overall conduct of the job.

Westinghouse has been an industry leader in quality circles, and American automakers have adopted the concept with measurable success over the past few years. Locally, Rockwell and Northrup are two examples of contracting organizations which have already adopted the philosophy.

The Center will also continue to emphasize the Productivity Improvement Awards Program (formerly

the Cost Reduction Program), which is seen as a way to bring all employees into the effort. The award program provides recognition for acts or ideas which save time or money, reduce funding or staffing necessary for a particular project or which improve the effectiveness of a particular activity.

Other major NASA goals adopted in March include:

- Making the Space Transportation System fully operational and providing routine and low cost access to space;

- Establishing a permanent presence in space;

- Conducting an aeronautics program which contributes mate-

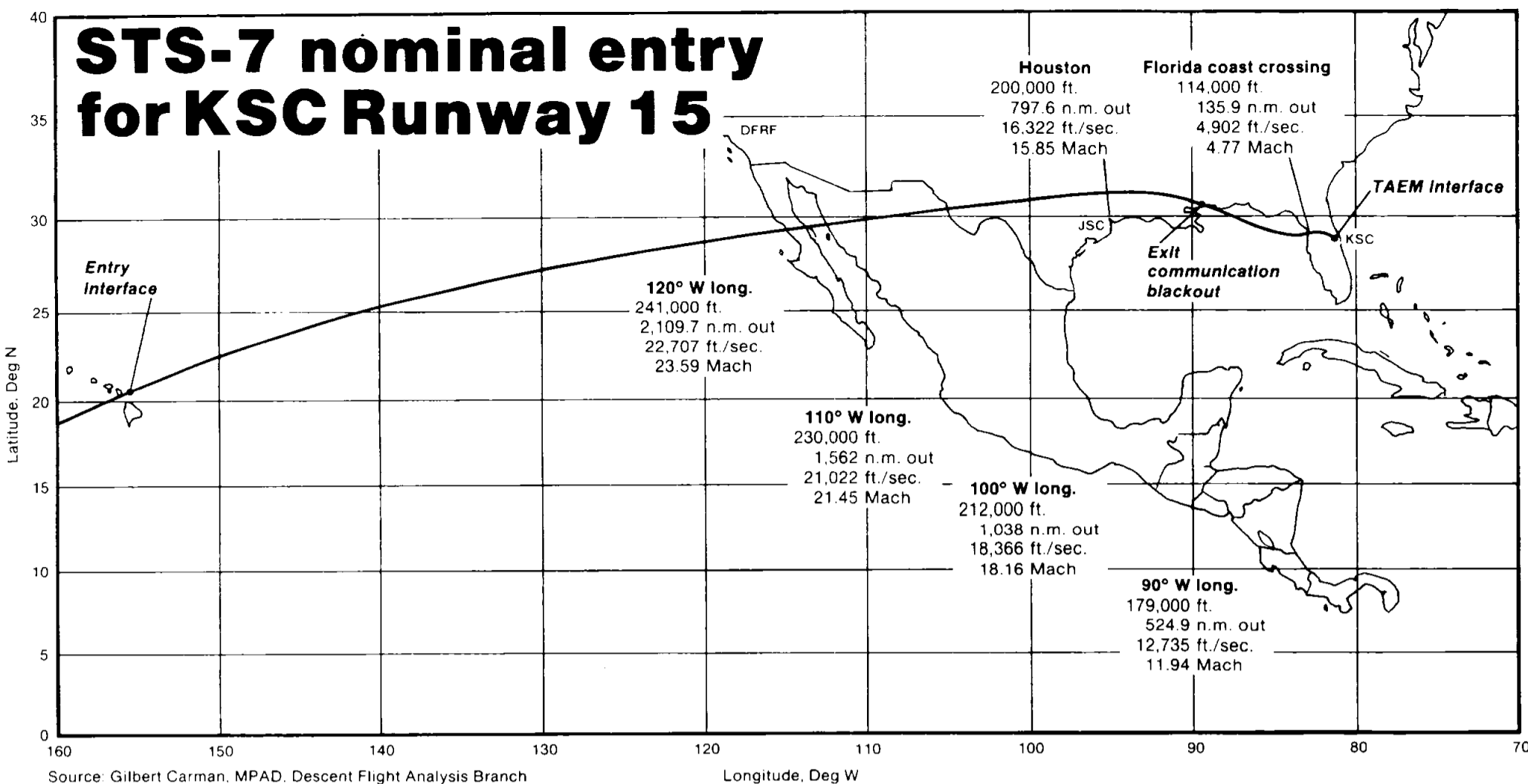
rially to the preeminence of U.S. civil and military aviation;

- Conducting a space science program which expands human knowledge of the Earth, its environment, the solar system, and the universe.

- Conducting an effective and productive space applications program which enhances U.S. technology leadership and security;

- Expand opportunities for private sector investment in space-related activities.

- Provide a creative environment and the best of facilities to NASA employees to enhance their performance in NASA's research, development and operational responsibilities.



Source: Gilbert Carman, MPAD, Descent Flight Analysis Branch

Space News Briefs

IRAS sights yet another comet

The international Infrared Astronomical Satellite, IRAS, has sighted a second comet now on its way out of the solar system. It is the second comet to be sighted by IRAS in two weeks and the third sighted in the solar system since May. Comet IRAS (1983F) was discovered by the orbiting telescope May 13 and was confirmed by ground observations on May 19. The comet is one million times fainter than Comet IRAS-Araki-Alcock, which made a close approach to Earth on May 11. The newest comet came within about 130 million miles of the Sun last January 20, and is now visible only with powerful telescopes. Another comet, named Sugano-Saigusa-Fujikawa, was sighted by Japanese astronomers two weeks ago and will make a close approach to Earth on June 12 and 13. IRAS astronomers say many faint comets may pass the inner solar system without being noticed. The infrared telescope on IRAS, however, is proving to be very sensitive to the dust that trails even faint comets. Astronomers think IRAS may sight a number of comets during its year-long survey of the sky in infrared wavelengths.

Direct broadcast service planned

The Satellite Television Corp., a wholly owned subsidiary of COMSAT, has given RCA the go-ahead to produce six satellites which are expected to provide direct-to-the-home pay television service across the United States. The \$100 million contract calls for the production of four operating and two on-orbit spare satellites with a first launch planned for 1986. The four primary satellites will broadcast pay TV to areas roughly coincident with the four U.S. time zones. The satellite at 105° W longitude will cover the Eastern Time Zone, while others at 130°, 155° and 175° W longitude will cover the Central, Mountain and Pacific Time Zones, respectively. Programming will be transmitted to the satellites in the 17.3 to 17.8 GHz band from a ground site in Las Vegas. The satellite transponders will retransmit to Earth in the 12.2 to 12.7 GHz band. Each satellite will weigh approximately 2,750 lbs. The satellites are capable of being launched either on the Space Shuttle or the European Ariane rocket.

Star's companion raises eyebrows

A gaseous companion to a young star some 450 light years from Earth may be the first planet ever observed outside our solar system, a University of California astronomer says. The object is 7.5 billion miles from its star, T Tauri, and is known by the acronym "TIRC" for T Tauri Infrared Companion. TIRC is from five to 20 times larger than Jupiter. Douglas Lin, one of three UC astronomers working on the observations, said TIRC, if it is a planet forming, could help astronomers test models for the formation of our own solar system. The other school of thought in the astronomical community is that TIRC is a small sun and that both objects could be a binary system. Radio, optical and infrared telescopes revealed the object in the past year.

EXOSAT now on station

The European Space Agency's X-Ray Observatory Satellite, EXOSAT, was successfully launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base on an American Delta 3914 May 26 and is now on station in a highly elliptical orbit. EXOSAT will study cosmic X-ray sources in the energy range from 0.04 keV to 80 keV. It has six mission objectives, which include mapping, broad-band spectroscopy and high-resolution spectroscopy undertaken in conjunction with imaging telescopes aboard. The satellite is in a 119,300 x 210-mile orbit inclined 72° to the equator.

Shuttle conference to cover fundamentals

As many as 1,500 scientists, engineers and technical experts connected with the Space Shuttle Program are expected to gather at JSC June 28 to 30 for a conference seen as the definitive review of America's latest space flight project.

A total of 84 papers ranging across 15 fundamental disciplines associated with the Shuttle development program will be presented. Lt. Gen. James A. Abrahamson, NASA Associate Administrator for Space Flight, will present the keynote address during the opening session.

"The Space Shuttle Program: From Challenge to Achievement," is the conference theme, and papers will address the advances in such areas as avionics design and development; aerodynamic challenges faced during launch and entry; guidance, navigation and control; Shuttle struc-

tural design; life support, environmental control and crew equipment; ground operations; propulsion and power; communications and tracking; mechanical systems; and thermal environments associated with the Orbiter's flight regime.

The General Chairman for the conference is Aaron Cohen, Director of Research and Engineering. JSC Director Gerald Griffin will deliver the welcoming remarks at the opening session.

Abrahamson's keynote address will focus on the challenges faced during the design, development and testing that led to the operational Shuttle system. His speech will be followed by a plenary session with the key Space Shuttle development managers led by former JSC Director of Engineering and Development Dr. Maxime A. Faget.

The afternoon of the first day and the two subsequent days will feature three parallel technical sessions running in three buildings on the central campus of the space center.

From 6 to 9 p.m. June 28, attendees will gather for a dinner at the Gilruth Center with Dr. Glynn Lunney, Manager of the National Space Transportation Systems Program, as the featured speaker.

From 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. June 29, a luncheon will be held at the Gilruth Center with Donald K. "Deke" Slayton, former astronaut and Shuttle Orbital Flight Test Manager, as the featured speaker. Cost for the dinner is \$15, and the luncheon cost is \$8. Reservations should be made before June 23 by calling x3995.

A summary of the conference sessions follows.

Space Shuttle Program Technical Conference "From Challenge to Achievement"

The Challenge

TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 1983 — BUILDING 2 AUDITORIUM

9:00 a.m.	Opening Remarks	Mr. Aaron Cohen
9:10	Welcome	Mr. Gerald D. Griffin
9:20	Keynote Address	Lt. Gen. James A. Abrahamson
9:45	"The Challenge"	Dr. Maxime A. Faget and Panel

The Achievement

Date/Time	Building 2 Auditorium	Building 30 Auditorium	Building 7 Auditorium
Tuesday 6/28/83 1:00-4:00 p.m.	Aerodynamics #1	Ground Operations #1	Life Support, Environmental Control and Crew Station
Wednesday 6/29/83 8:30-11:30 a.m.	Integrated Avionics #1	Propulsion & Power #1	Communications & Tracking
Wednesday 6/29/83 1:30-4:30 p.m.	Mechanical Systems #1	Aerodynamics #2	Ground Operations #2
Thursday 6/30/83 8:30-11:30 a.m.	Structures	Integrated Avionics #2	Propulsion & Power #2
Thursday 6/30/83 1:00-4:00 p.m.	Thermal, Contamination Environments, Protection Systems	Guidance, Navigation & Control	Mechanical Systems #2

Social and Dinner, Tuesday, June 28 (Speaker, Dr. Glynn Lunney)

\$15 — 6 p.m. — Gilruth Center

Luncheon, Wednesday, June 29 (Speaker, Dr. Donald K. Slayton)

\$8 — 12 noon — Gilruth Center

For reservations, please call Norm Chaffee's office, EP, x3995, by noon June 23, 1983.

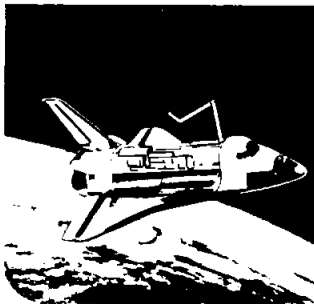
NASA
Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center

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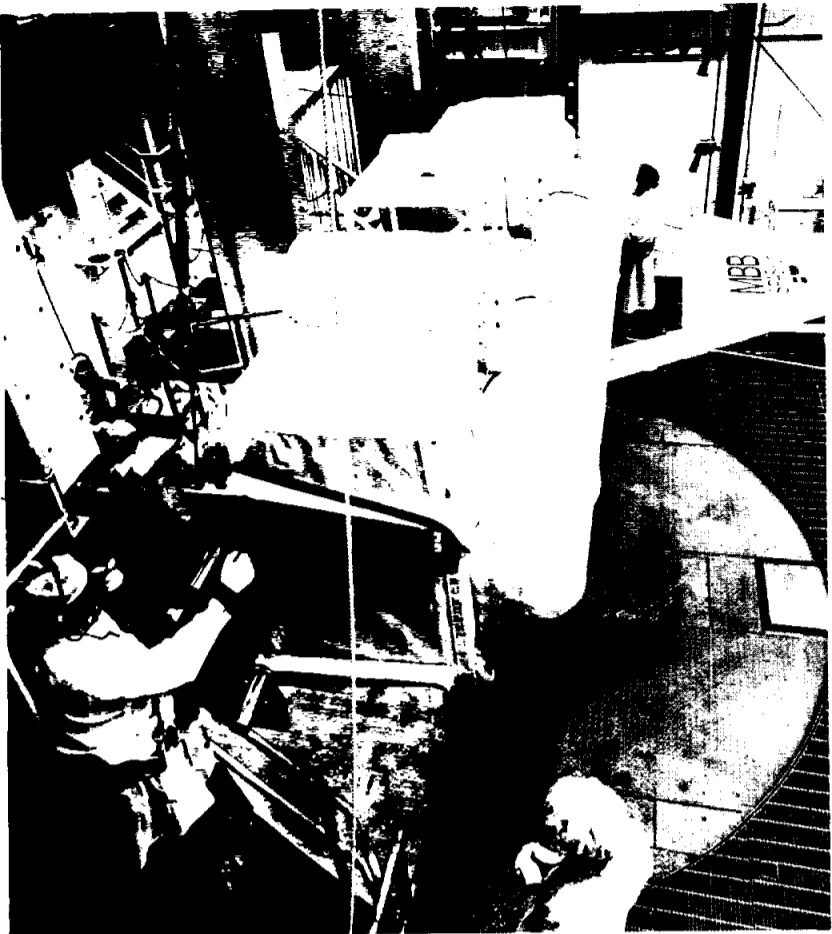
Editor

Brian Welch



The summer heats up

A quick look at the next three Space Shuttle flights



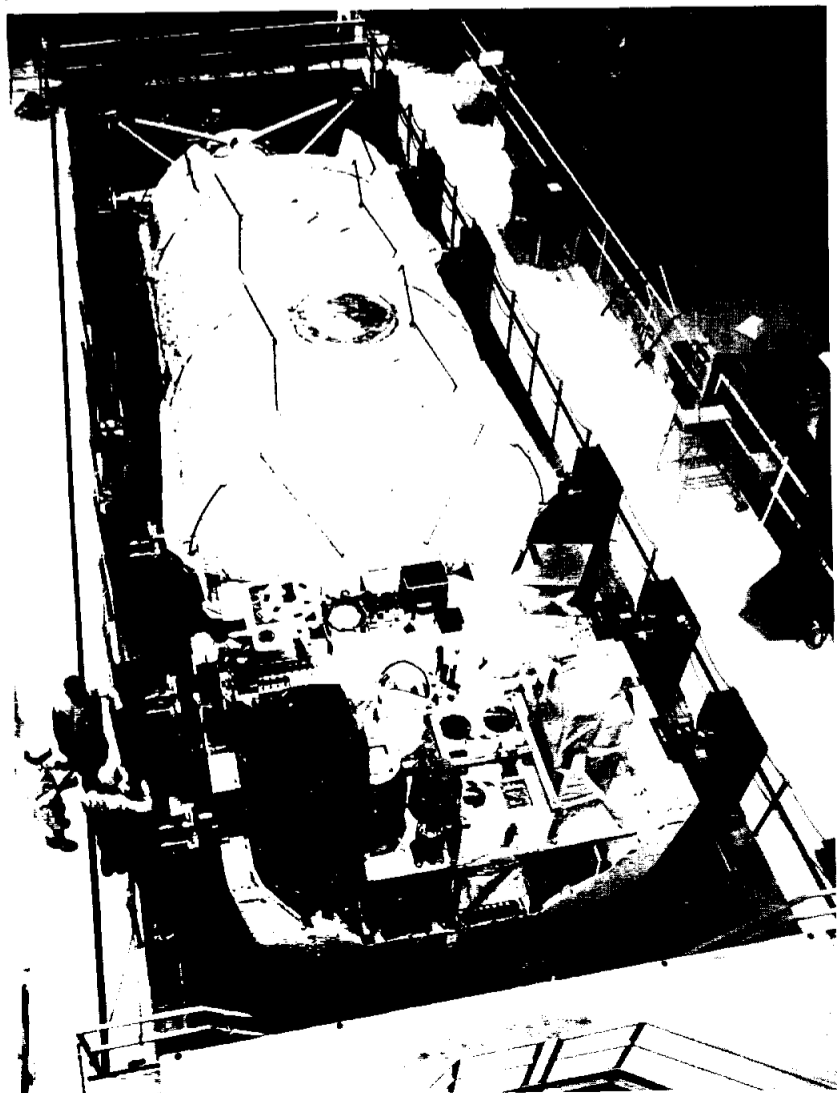
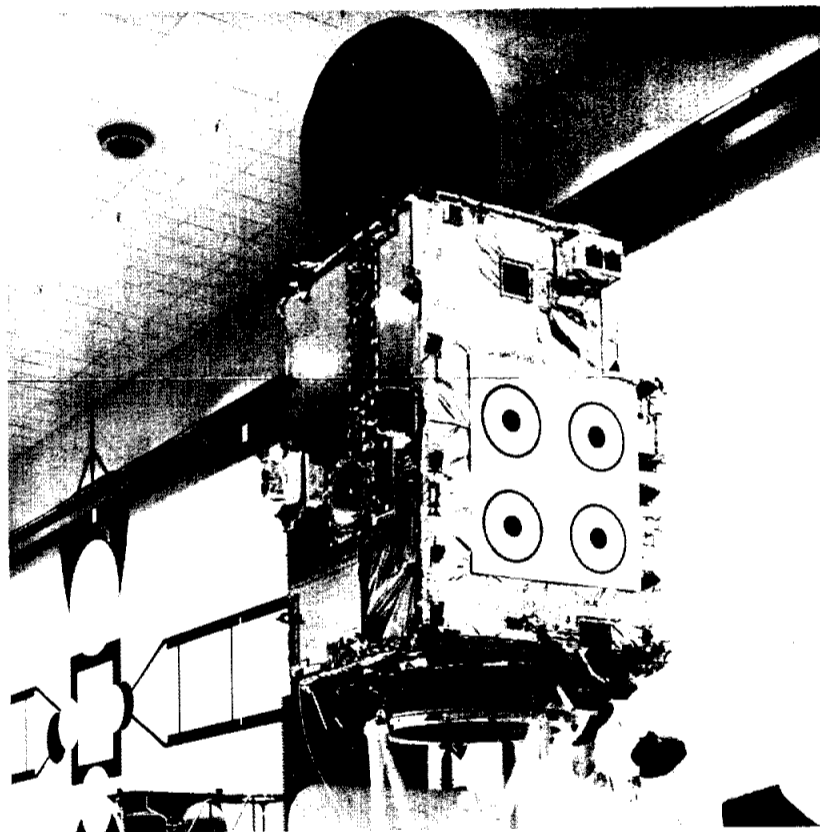
STS-7

The Orbiter is now at the pad and pre-launch activities are picking up as preparations continue for the June 18 launch of STS-7. Shown at right is the *Challenger* from a bug's eye view during the rollover into the Vehicle Assembly Bldg. at KSC. At left, technicians prepare the first Shuttle Pallet Satellite, SPAS-01, for final inspection and checkout last month. The SPAS will carry television, still and motion picture cameras, and proximity operations with the satellite promise never before seen views of the full Orbiter against the backdrop of Earth. Two communications satellite launches, two different materials processing experiments and the SPAS proximity ops highlight the mission. NASA plans to conclude the flight with the first KSC landing.



STS-8

Mid-August is the target date for the launch of STS-8. NASA's first night launch since Apollo 17. At left is the crew patch for the mission, and at right is a view of INSAT 1-B, a communications satellite to be deployed for the Government of India. INSAT will provide telecommunications, television broadcasting and meteorological services to India in a unique three-in-one system. STS-8 will also feature the Shuttle program's first night landing, scheduled for Edwards Air Force Base.



STS-9

The triumphant return of the Orbiter *Columbia* will come on STS-9, when she carries Spacelab, one of the most ambitious payloads ever flown. The flight article of the space laboratory is shown at left in the Operations and Checkout Bldg. at KSC. Installation in the *Columbia* is scheduled for mid-August. At right is the crew patch for STS-9, unveiled this week. At six people, the mission will be carrying the largest number of people into space ever. Launch is now scheduled for Sept. 30.



