

Thursday, December 16, 1999

Astronauts to make four space walks to service Hubble Space Telescope



Data from weather buoys critical to launch countdown



▲ **Shuttle Update: Rollback of the Rotating Service Structure** at Launch Pad 39B was scheduled for 3 a.m. this morning. Countdown continues for the launch of STS-103 at 9:18 p.m. tonight. This mission, to service the Hubble Space Telescope, includes four planned EVAs.

Four astronauts will work in teams of two on a variety of tasks that include replacing gyroscopes (day 1), replacing an old computer with a new, improved one (day 2), installing another solid state recorder, replacing an S-band transmitter, and replacing damaged insulation (day 4). Landing is targeted for Dec. 26 at 6:56 p.m. at the SLF.

▲ **Buoys Vital But Need Seclusion:** Boaters and fishermen who are used to seeing weather buoys in the ocean east of Cape Canaveral may wonder at the unusual devices on new ones recently placed there. Those devices are vital in relaying hourly weather data, especially during a launch countdown and landing. The closest is 20 nautical miles offshore from the Cape in the Gulfstream; another is a distant 110



nautical miles ENE. The National Weather Service in Melbourne also uses the data for accurate forecasts of wind and seas over the area offshore from Brevard County. Boaters are reminded not to get too close to the buoys, and especially not tie up to them, as that can affect the accuracy of the data.

◆ **CD to Present Second Briefing to Workforce:** Don't forget that Mr. Bridges will be briefing our workforce regarding the KSC 2000 Reorganization on Monday, Dec. 20 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Universe Theater at the KSC Visitor Complex. However, due to many employees scheduled for holiday leave beginning that week, a second presentation will be held on Jan. 4, 2000. The location and time will be the same, and bus transportation also will be provided.

Since the proposed reorganization affects all of us, Mr. Bridges wanted to do everything possible to reach out to each employee and get their feedback. Both presentations will be televised live on closed circuit TV, channel 7, and will be recorded. The presentations will contain only a top-level look at the organization structure and the basic functions and responsibilities of each. Over the next 8-10 weeks, implementation teams will identify and work on the specific actions associated with implementing the new KSC 2000 organization, including where each employee will be assigned.

Mr. Bridges and your KSC 2000 Team invite and encourage everyone's attention, either at the presentations or by viewing it on TV.

◆ **Did You Know? KSC Fitness Centers** will offer Beginning Aikido classes this January on Tuesdays and Fridays from 5 to 6 p.m. in the O&C Fitness Center, room 1108. There will be a demonstration before class Jan. 4, at 5 p.m., for those who are interested in seeing what the class is all about. For more information about the group exercise class schedule and using KSC Fitness Centers, please check out the Web site at <http://fitness.ksc.nasa.gov>

KSC Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday.

Deadlines: 10 a.m. the day before. Send information, comments or questions to:

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Countdown on the Internet -- <http://www-pao.ksc.nasa.gov/kscpao/ksccount/1999/1999.htm>