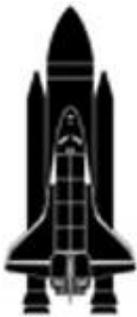


Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2000

STS-106 to land at KSC Sept. 20 after successful mission



Titan II launch of NOAA-L from VAFB to be on NASA TV



▲ **Mission Update:** After a successful mission to the International Space Station, the crew on STS-106 are scheduled to return to KSC about 3:56 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 20. Preliminary forecasts indicate generally favorable weather conditions for landing opportunities. At this time, mission managers do not plan to call up Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., to support Wednesday's landing attempts.

▲ **NOAA-L/Titan II To Launch:** The launch of the NOAA-L polar-orbiting weather satellite for NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) aboard a U.S. Air Force Titan II rocket is scheduled to occur on Wednesday, Sept. 20. Liftoff will be from Space Launch Complex (SLC) 4W at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. The 10-minute launch window extends from 3:22 - 3:32 a.m. PDT. NASA TV coverage of the countdown will begin at 2 a.m. PDT. It will conclude after spacecraft separation from the Titan II occurring about 16 minutes after launch. A complete NOAA-L video package will be broadcast during the NASA TV Video File on Sept. 19 at 9 a.m., noon, 3 p.m., 6 p.m., and 9 p.m. PDT.

◆ **Florida Space Grant Consortium Program Announces NASA MarsPort Engineering Design Student Competition 2001** -- a national program that gives university students an invaluable "capstone" educational opportunity to make a real contribution in support of the human exploration of Mars. Based on the strength of their proposals, up to six student teams will be selected to perform engineering trade studies to design optimal configura-

tions for a MarsPort Cryogenics and Consumables Station -- a vital element of the complex infrastructure needed to launch spacecraft from the Martian surface. The teams will present their work at the NASA MarsPort 2001 Design Conference to be held at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida during spring 2001.

All entering teams will compete by writing and submitting proposals, which will be peer-reviewed by professional NASA scientists and engineers. Selected teams will receive cash awards of \$500, opportunities to receive up to an additional \$2,000 in cash awards, and international recognition for their contributions to NASA's Mars exploration planning effort. The **deadline** for submission of proposals is **Nov. 17, 2000**. Details regarding the NASA MarsPort Engineering Design Student Competition 2001 are located at <http://www.tsgc.utexas.edu/marsport/> and <http://www.tsgc.utexas.edu/marsport/>.

◆ **Volunteers Needed:** Those who would like to volunteer to support the planning and coordination of the Joint NASA/Air Force 2001 Environmental & Energy Awareness Week (EEAW), please contact Barbara Naylor, 867-8452/ Barbara.Naylor-1@ksc.nasa.gov or Janice Everett, 867-8421/ Janice.Everett-1@ksc.nasa.gov. Please leave your name, mail code, and phone number. The EEAW is tentatively scheduled the week of April 15, 2001. Planning meetings will begin in October 2000.

◆ **Did You Know?** Atmospheric studies aboard the Shuttle have fine-tuned the satellites that track the Earth's ozone layer and researched the destruction of ozone and chemistry of the upper atmosphere. ★

KSC Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday.

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

E-mail - Anita.Barrett-1@ksc.nasa.gov ◆ Mail Code - IDI-011 ◆ Telephone - 867-2815

Countdown on the Internet -- <http://www-pao.ksc.nasa.gov/kscpao/kscpao/2000/2000.htm>