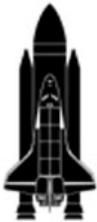


Thursday, Jan. 11, 2001

Destiny closed up in Atlantis' payload bay

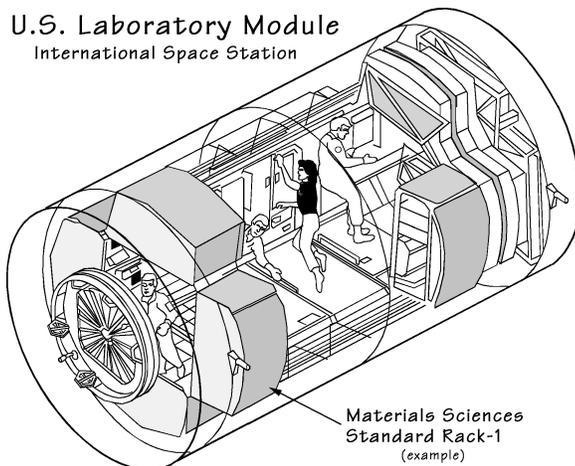
BEST to host 2001 African-American History Month events



▲ **Mission Update:** The STS-98 payload, the U.S. Lab Destiny, was transferred to Atlantis' payload bay on Jan. 6. The payload bay doors were expected to close last night. The lab, a key component of the International Space Station, is an aluminum module 28 feet long and 14 feet in diameter. It consists of three cylindrical sections and two end cones with hatches

that will be mated to other Station components. A 20-inch-diameter window is located on one side of the center module segment. This pressurized module is designed to accommodate pressurized payloads. It has a capacity of 24 rack locations. Payload racks will occupy 13 locations especially designed to support experiments. An exterior waffle pattern strengthens the hull of the lab. The exterior is covered by a debris shield blanket made of a material similar to that used in bulletproof vests. A thin aluminum

U.S. Laboratory Module
International Space Station



debris shield is over the blanket for additional protection.

▲ **KSC's African-American History Month Celebration** -- The annual observance of African-American History occurs in February. The 2001 national theme is "Creating and Defining the African-American Community: Family, Church, Politics and Culture." KSC's Black Employee Strategy Team (BEST) will host the 2001 celebrations. BEST encourages all KSC employees to participate in the upcoming events:

◆ **Feb. 2, 9, 16 & 23 -- BEST Fridays**

Wear BEST logo shirts and relish Lackmann's African-American traditional foods. [See box below about shirt orders.]

◆ **Feb. 7 -- Luncheon**

Debus Conference Center, KSC Visitor Center.
Tickets available in January.

◆ **Feb. 25 -- Fellowship**

Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, Oviedo.

Additional information will be distributed throughout January and February.

BEST has begun taking shirt orders with checks at KSC Cafeterias. Today, Jan. 11, BEST will take shirt orders at the OSB Cafeteria from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Shirts will be on display in all cafeterias. You may also bring order forms with checks to Barbara Brown (HQ/ 2315) during January. Orders received by Jan. 19 will receive shirts on or before Feb. 1. Orders received by Jan. 31 will receive shirts on or before Feb. 15. Note: The 100-percent cotton shirts will incur a small amount of shrinkage. Contact Michelle Amos (7-6681) or Michael Bell (7-1160) for further details.

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/ksccount/2001/2001.htm>