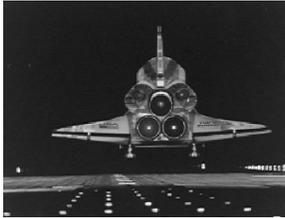




## Mission update



**Mission:** STS-72 on Endeavour

**Landing date, time:** 2:41 a.m., Jan. 20, 1996, at Kennedy Space Center's Shuttle Landing Facility

**Mission:** NEAR expendable vehicle launch on a McDonnell Douglas Delta II rocket

**Launch date, time:** Feb. 16, 3:53 p.m. from Launch Complex 17, Pad B, Cape Canaveral Air Station

**Mission synopsis:** The Near Earth Asteroid Rendezvous (NEAR) will measure the composition and structure of the asteroid Eros and provide fundamental information about objects that make close encounter with Earth.



**Mission:** STS-75 on Columbia

**Launch date, time:** Feb. 22, 3:08 p.m. from Launch Pad 39B

**Synopsis:** The seven-member international STS-75 crew will conduct scientific investigations with both the Tethered Satellite System-1R (TSS-1R) and United States Microgravity Payload-3 (USMP-3) primary payloads during the 75th Space Shuttle mission.

**Landing date, time:** March 7, 7:38 a.m. at Kennedy Space Center's Shuttle Landing Facility

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# Spaceport News

*America's gateway to the universe. Leading the world in preparing and launching missions to planet Earth and beyond.*

John F. Kennedy Space Center



## 51-L crew remembered

KENNEDY SPACE CENTER commemorated the 10th anniversary of the Challenger accident Jan. 29 with 73 seconds of silence followed by a flyover of T-38 jets by members of the astronaut corps and the dropping of a wreath at sea by Launch Director Jim Harrington. A similar observance was held simultaneously at the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, TX. The actual anniversary date of Jan. 28 was marked by observances planned by The Astronauts Memorial Foundation and the City of Titusville. In the photo at left the T-38 jets fly over Spaceport USA during the Jan. 28 ceremony. For more photos, see page 3.

## Saturn V preservationists dust off clues to rocket's past

By Barb Compton

Beneath the seven layers of paint and years of corrosion that have accumulated on the Saturn V rocket located just south of the Vehicle Assembly Building, historians hope to uncover evidence about where each piece originated and how they came to rest at Kennedy Space Center.

Four representatives from the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum (NASM) recently spent several days at KSC overseeing the first phase of the cleaning, preservation and stabilization of the rocket. When it is completed this spring, the Saturn V will be relocated to the new multimillion dollar Apollo/Saturn V Center located near the Banana Creek Viewing Site.

The preservation project and the new center are being paid for by revenues from the public visitor program at Spaceport USA. The rocket, one of only three remaining, is on indefinite loan to KSC from the NASM. The other two rockets are at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, AL, and the Johnson Space Center in Houston, TX.

Preservation work began in



THE SATURN V located near the Vehicle Assembly Building is under wraps for protection from the elements as preservation efforts are underway.

mid-January when the first stage of the launch vehicle was moved back about 12 feet to make room for a protective tent which was placed over the remaining stages. When contractors from Thomarios Painting, the company selected by Spaceport USA concessionaire Delaware North Park Services for the rocket restoration, began the initial cleaning, the tough task of documenting the history of the remaining stages became apparent.

"There is extensive damage to almost every stage," said Al

Bachmeier, NASM's deputy assistant director for Collections Management. Bachmeier, Frank Winter, curator of Rocketry for NASM, Scott Wirz, museum technician, and Bayne Rector, NASM chemist, pored over the rocket's three stages as the cleaning began, looking for additional clues to the vehicle's origins. Serial numbers have been painted over or worn off and records scattered to national archives across the United States.

**(See SATURN V, Page 6)**

