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KENNEDY SPACE CENTER SPACE SHUTTLE STATUS REPORT
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1995 (2:35 PM EDT)

LAUNCH - 2 DAYS

MISSION: STS-73 -- U.S. MICROGRAVITY LABORATORY-2

VEHICLE: Columbia/OV-102
LOCATION: Pad 39B
TARGET LAUNCH DATE/TIME: Oct. 6 at 9:40 a.m. EDT
LAUNCH WINDOW: 2 hours, 30 minutes
TARGET KSC LANDING DATE/TIME: Oct. 22 at 7:35 a.m.
MISSION DURATION: 15 days, 21 hours, 55 minutes
CREW SIZE: 7
ORBITAL ALTITUDE and INCLINATION: 172 statute miles/39 degrees

NOTE: The launch of Columbia on mission STS-73 has been postponed for 24 hours. The delay is due to expected high winds associated with Hurricane Opal affecting operations at KSC during the hours prior to tanking and through the launch window on Thursday. Opal is forecast to make landfall near Pensacola, Fla., tonight. Winds, thunderstorms and lightning associated with this tropical system would have likely prohibited tanking operations that were scheduled to commence early Thursday morning.

Mangers have now set Friday, Oct. 6, as Columbia's launch date. The 2 1/2 hour window opens at 9:40 a.m. Given an on time launch on Friday, Columbia is scheduled to land at KSC's Shuttle Landing Facility at 7:35 a.m. Oct. 22.

The countdown clock will remain at the T-11 hour built-in hold until 7:20 p.m. Thursday.

The orbiter's onboard cryogenic tanks were loaded yesterday with liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen reactants. The mid-body umbilical unit has been demated and retracted into the fixed service structure. Final mid-deck payload loading operations and spacelab experiment stowage operations are also complete.

On Thursday, preparations will be made to retract the rotating service structure to launch position at about 2:30 p.m., weather permitting. This move could be delayed several hours, if weather constrains operations, without impacting the overall schedule. Loading of the external tank with cryogenic propellants is scheduled to begin at about 1:20 a.m. Friday.

Air Force weather forecasters are indicating a 70 percent probability of weather prohibiting launch on Friday. This is due to the potential for gusting winds, rain and clouds associated with anticipated remnants of Hurricane Opal. There is a 10 percent probability of tanking criteria violation for a launch attempt on Friday.

During Friday's launch window, the winds at Pad B are expected to be from the southwest at 12 - 20 knots; temperature 81 degrees F; visibility 7 miles; humidity 79 percent; and clouds broken at 2,500 feet, 10,000 feet and 25,000 feet. The 24-hour delay forecast reveals somewhat improved conditions and a 40 percent chance of violation.

CREW FOR MISSION STS-73

Ken Bowersox	Commander (CDR)	Red Team
Kent Rominger	Pilot (PLT)	Red Team
Catherine Coleman	Mission Specialist (MS1)	Blue Team
Michael Lopez-Alegria	Mission Specialist (MS2)	Blue Team
Kathryn Thornton	Mission Specialist (MS3)	Red Team
Fred Leslie	Payload Specialist (PS1)	Blue Team
Albert Sacco	Payload Specialist (PS2)	Red Team

SUMMARY OF STS-73 LAUNCH DAY CREW ACTIVITIES

Thursday, Oct. 5

7:00 p.m.	Wake up (Blue Team)
7:30 p.m.	Breakfast (Blue Team)

Friday, Oct. 6

12:30 a.m.	Lunch (Blue Team)
4:00 a.m.	Wake up (Red Team)
* 5:15 a.m.	Breakfast/Dinner and Crew Photo
5:45 a.m.	Weather briefing (CDR, PLT, MS2)
5:45 a.m.	Don launch and entry suits (MS1, MS3, PS1, PS2)
5:55 a.m.	Don launch and entry suits (CDR, PLT, MS2)
* 6:10 a.m.	Crew suiting photo
* 6:25 a.m.	Depart for Launch Pad 39B
* 6:55 a.m.	Arrive at white room and begin orbiter ingress
* 8:10 a.m.	Close crew hatch
* 9:40 a.m.	Launch

* Televised events (times may vary slightly)
All times Eastern

NOTE: For additional details regarding STS-73 countdown milestones, please refer to KSC Release No. 99-95.

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