

The crew of Discovery's 41-D mission, the first flight on the new Space Shuttle Orbiter, met the press on May 29, 1984 at the Johnson Space Center. It was their final pre-flight press conference before the flight and all gave an air of excitement for the upcoming flight. Launch was set for June 20.

But this did not work out that way for Discovery's maiden voyage and the SCCS highlighted the important events before the actual launch with several different commemorative covers. These were postmarked on each event day with the Houston MPP hand cancel. The events are as follows:

- May 29, 1984 FINAL PRE-FLIGHT PRESS CONFERENCE. Held at the JSC by the six crew members.
- Jun 22, 1984 CREW LEAVES ELLINGTON AIR BASE FOR CANAVERAL. The crew of six flew from Ellington to Cape Canaveral and the scheduled launch now set for June 25.
- Jun 25, 1984 LAUNCH ABORT. With launch set for 8:43 a.m. EDT, at nine minutes before liftoff, an "internal hardware problem" terminated the launch countdown. Launch was reset for the next day.
- Jun 26, 1984 LAUNCH ABORT. At two seconds before liftoff, and after the main engines began firing, all engines on Discovery were shut down. The only other time that a U.S. space launch had been aborted after the main engines began firing was on Gemini 6 on December 12, 1965. With this, a new launch date could not be set until the cause of this serious problem could be found and corrected.
- Jun 26, 1984 CREW RETURNS TO HOUSTON. Judy Resnik and Steven Hawley returned to Houston, arriving at Ellington Air Base. Henry Hartsfield, Michael Coats and Richard Mullane would stay at KSC for the time being.

We know of no other servicer making all of these covers available to collectors and these should make a nice addition to a space collection, due to the many things that went wrong before finally getting Discovery into orbit.

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Please send me the following 41-D pre-mission covers:

Final Pre-Flight Press Conf (May 29) @ \$1.25	\$	_____
Crew Leaves Ellington for Canaveral (Jun 22) @ \$1.25		_____
Launch Abort (Jun 25) @ \$1.25		_____
Launch Abort (Jun 26) @ \$1.25		_____
Crew Returns to Houston (Jun 26) @ \$1.25		_____
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