

Space Log



SPACE CITY COVER SOCIETY

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AMERICA'S SPACE SHUTTLE PROGRAM RE-ACTIVATED WITH SHUTTLE ATLANTIS ON THE LAUNCH PAD

For the first time since Challenger's tragic end on January 28, 1986, one of our nation's three remaining space shuttles is on the launch pad. On October 9, 1986 space shuttle Atlantis was mounted on launch pad 39B at Cape Canaveral. It is there for a seven-week stay where dozens of tests will be conducted.

Included in these tests are a practice countdown with a crew of five astronauts on board and an emergency escape drill in which seven astronauts will pretend to be injured, requiring evacuation from the shuttle on launch pad. After completion of all of the tests, Atlantis will then be moved back to its hangers about the end of November.

COUNTDOWN DEMONSTRATION TESTS. On October 17, 1986 NASA announced the crew of five for these important tests aboard Atlantis. They are Robert L. Gibson, commander; Charles F. Bolden, pilot; and mission specialists Franklin R. Chang-Diaz, Steven A. Hawley and George D. Nelson. This is the same crew that flew on Columbia's 61-C mission (January 12-18, 1986) the last completed shuttle mission before Challenger's 51-L tragic ending.

EMERGENCY ESCAPE TESTS. The crew of seven for these emergency escape tests was also selected by NASA on October 17, 1986. The seven are: Frank L. Culbertson, commander; Stephen S. Oswald, pilot; mission specialists G. David Low, Carl J. Meade and Kathryn C. Thornton. Joining them are payload specialists Jerome Apt and Pierre J. Thuot. None of these seven has flown the shuttle in space.

SCCS COVERS FOR ATLANTIS' TESTS

We will have two different sets of two for the start and finish of these important tests for Atlantis, and the two astronaut crews. The first set is machine cancelled at the Canaveral area post office for both the starting date and ending date of these tests. The second set is MPP hand cancelled at Houston on those two dates. Since the astronauts assigned to these tests will be having such an important role in this event, we felt both sets were needed. And it will give the collector a choice of either or both.

We have another set of two...one cover for each of the crew selections (October 17, 1986). These are MPP hand cancelled in Houston on that date. Each cover will have its cachet pertaining to that individual crew selection.

We will have two different sets of two for the crews leaving JSC for Canaveral and then arriving back at JSC from the tests. The first set of two is for the crew of five for the countdown tests. The second set of two is for the crew of seven and the emergency escape tests.

ASTRONAUTS RESUME "FLIGHTS" IN SIMULATED SPACE SHUTTLE SESSION

Mission 61-H was supposed to have launched on June 24, 1986 but when Challenger, on its 51-L mission, was destroyed, it left this 61-H mission in limbo. However, on October 29, 1986, this same five astronaut-crew-members began the first lengthy simulation of a shuttle mission since the Challenger accident.

The simulation began at the Johnson Space Center at 9:09 a.m. on October 29, 1986 and ended the next day at 5:00 p.m. This simulation covered the first 32 hours of mission 61-H, including the "launches" of two satellites. One simulated launch was for SKYNET (a British military communication satellite) and the other for PALAPA, an Indonesian communication satellite.

The 61-H crew members (originally chosen on January 29, 1985) for this mission simulation were: Michael L. Coats, commander; John E. Blaha, pilot; and mission specialists James F. Buchli, Anna Fisher and Robert C. Springer.

This first lengthy simulation had its start in training on February 3, 1986. On that date astronauts at the Johnson Space Center resumed their training, which had been halted right after Challenger's accident on January 28, 1986. With this re-start in February, no on-orbit training or activities for a specific mission were practiced, but involved only basic shuttle skills, launches and re-entries. So this 61-H simulation is a first and the re-start of specific flight training for a specific mission.

SCCS COVERS FOR 61-H

- + Crew of five chosen on January 29, 1985.
- + Astronaut training re-starts at JSC on February 3, 1986
- + Crew of 61-H holds a two-day mission simulation at JSC (set of two) first is beginning day (October 29, 1986) and second cover is ending day (October 30).
- + Simulated launch of British SKYNET satellite.
- + Simulation of launch of Indonesian PALAPA satellite.
- + Double cancelled cover for 61-H. First cancel is January 29, 1985, date the crew was originally chosen. Second cancel is January 28, 1986, day that the loss of Challenger halted America's space shuttle program and aborted the 61-H flight.

All of these covers for 61-H are MPP hand cancelled and none has been offered by us before this time.

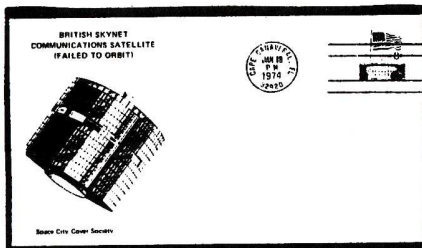
SKYNET LAUNCH SIMULATION ON 61-H RECALLS A SPACE RECORD SET IN THE PAST

The British SKYNET satellite that was to have been launched during the 61-H mission of June 1986 recalls a previous SKYNET launch that became a space "record". The British SKYNET II-A was developed by Marconi Space and Defence Systems Ltd. in the United Kingdom under contract to the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence (MOD).

The U. S. Department of Defense (DOD), under an intergovernment agreement between the U. K. and the U. S., was responsible for representing the project in the U. S., including responsibility for procurement of the spacecraft propulsion systems from U. S. manufacturers and launch of the spacecraft. DOD delegated this responsibility to the U. S. Air Force, Space and Missile Systems Office (SAMSO). The USAF/SAMSO, in turn, contracted with NASA for the launch and launch services, using the Delta launch vehicle, on a reimbursable basis.

Thor-Delta was originally developed in 1959-60 as an interim launch vehicle with the expectation that more sophisticated vehicles would be developed for the diverse payloads being developed or planned at that time. However, the original Air Force Thor first stage and improved Vanguard second and third stages which made up the Delta proved to be so reliable and so easily and economically uprated that it readily fulfilled the requirements of these satellites as they evolved. The Delta became a real "workhorse".

The British SKYNET II-A was launched on January 18, 1974 by the workhorse Delta rocket. This was the 100th launch by a Delta rocket and a milestone for launching unmanned spacecraft. But as luck would have it, a failure developed in the second stage during the launch and the SKYNET II-A failed to achieve its orbit. Its replacement, SKYNET II-B was launched on November 22, 1974 and was successful.



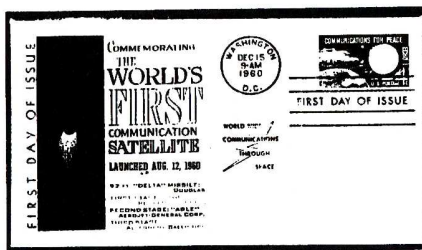
The first Delta launch was on May 13, 1960 of the famous ECHO passive communications sphere but was not successful. However, Delta's second launch was ECHO-1 and it was successful. This ECHO-1 was the world's first communication satellite and was launched on August 12, 1960. On December 15, 1960, at Washington D.C. the U. S. Post Office Department issued a 4¢ postage stamp commemorating ECHO-1.

The SCCS has three covers for these three important Delta events. One for the SKYNET II-A launch (Jan 18, 1974); the SKYNET II-B launch (Nov 22, 1974); and the ECHO-1 first day cover. This first day cover for ECHO-1 was issued by the Aerojet Stamp and Coin Club and is listed in Mellone's Cachet Catalog at \$15.00. The reason for this higher price is that this cachet is the first for the Aerojet Club and "first" cachets for first day covers is a highly specialized topic and prices for those covers are much higher. For you ordering from this list, we offer this Aerojet "first" cachet for ECHO-1 for only \$5.00. Ask a first day cover collector and you will find that this is really a bargain!

And the prices on the two for SKYNET are also a chance for you to secure these very early Delta launch covers.

ENCLOSED ORDER FORMS We are enclosing three different order forms for the three different topics mentioned in this issue. The reason for this is that each will be shipping at different times. And it should be more convenience for each of you to order.

Some cover servicers have dropped from the scene since the Challenger loss, but SCCS is still on hand to service all of the important space events for you. And we look forward to being of service to each of you.



TO: SPACE CITY COVER SOCIETY, P O Box 53545, Houston, Texas 77052

Please send me the following Atlantis covers per Space Log of 11-86:

Launch Pad Tests (Set 2) Canaveral @ \$2.50 per set	\$	
Launch Pad Tests (Set 2) Houston @ \$2.50 per set		
Crew Selection (2 diff crews) (Set 2) @ \$2.50 per set		
1st Crew Leaves JSC/Arrives Back JSC (Set 2) @ \$2.50 per set . .		
2nd Crew Leaves JSC/Arrives Back JSC (Set 2) @ \$2.50 per set . .		
Postage and handling40
Total remittance	\$	

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

(Nov 86-A) Please include one addressed, gummed label with order. Thank you.

TO: SPACE CITY COVER SOCIETY, P O Box 53545, Houston, Texas 77052

Please send me the following 61-H covers per Space Log of 11-86:

Crew of 5 Chosen (Jan 29, 1985) @ \$1.25	\$	
Astronaut Trng Resumes at JSC (Feb 3, 1986) @ \$1.25		
Crew Holds 2-day Sim. at JSC (Set of 2) @ \$2.50 per set . . .		
Simulated Launch SKYNET @ \$1.25		
Simulated Launch PALAPA @ \$1.25		
Dbl Cancel cover (1st cancel 1-29-85 Crew Chosen) (Second cancel 1-28-86 Mission 61-H aborted) @ \$2.50		
Postage and handling40
Total remittance	\$	

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

(Nov 86-B) Please include one addressed, gummed label with order. Thank you.