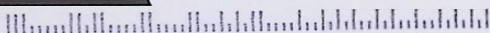


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SPACE SHUTTLE (STS-96/DISCOVERY)

Mission STS-96 is geared toward the continuing construction and outfitting of the International Space Station (ISS). The 10 day flight of the Space Shuttle Discovery will result in the first docking to the station. More than 5,000 pounds of supplies, including laptop computers, cameras, maintenance tools and clothing, will be stored aboard the station for the use of future crews. Discovery's mission sets the stage for the arrival of the first ISS living quarters, the Russian-provided Service Module, scheduled to be launched by Russia in late 1999. Discovery will spend five days docked to the station, and during that time the crew will transfer supplies to the interior of the station. During a space walk, astronauts Jernigan and Barry will fasten parts of the Russian crane to the station and stow the U.S. crane inside it.

THE STS-96 CREW – The seven-member flight crew will be commanded by **Kent V. Rominger**, who has flown three times as a Shuttle pilot, since becoming an astronaut in 1992. First-time space flier **Rick D. Husband** will be the Shuttle pilot. A former test and demonstration pilot, he was selected to the astronaut program in 1995. The four mission specialists are: Four-time space veteran **Tamara E. Jernigan**, the crew's most experienced flier, has more than 1,277 hours in space; **Ellen Ochoa** embarks on her third Shuttle flight after joining the astronaut program in 1990; **Daniel T. Barry** will make his second Shuttle flight. He joined the astronaut team in 1992 and took part in a spacewalk of more than 6 hours on a previous mission; Space rookie **Julie Payette** makes her first space trip after being selected as an astronaut by the Canadian Space Agency in 1992; and Russian cosmonaut **Valery I. Tokarev**, a colonel in the Russian Air Force, is making his first space flight after joining the Russian cosmonaut corps in 1987.

THE STS-96 CREW INSIGNIA – The crew patch highlights the major themes of the ISS Program: Earth-directed research, the advancement of human space exploration, and international cooperation. Shuttle Discovery is depicted shortly after reaching orbit as the crew prepares to carry out the first docking with the new Station, consisting of the first ISS modules – Zarya and Unity – shown orbiting Earth. The triangular shape of the patch represents building on the knowledge and experience of earlier missions, while the three vertical bars of the astronaut emblem point toward the future human endeavors in space. The five-pointed star that tops the emblem is symbolic of the five space agencies participating in the development of ISS: NASA, the Russian Space Agency, the European Space Agency, the National Space Development Agency of Japan, and the Canadian Space Agency. The blend of red, white, and blue is a tribute to the nationalities of the crew members who are from the United States, Canada, and Russia.