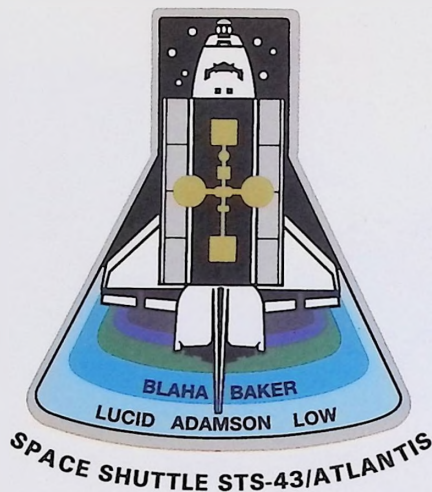




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SPACE SHUTTLE (STS-43/ATLANTIS)

STS-43 CREW INSIGNIA — The STS-43 patch, designed by the astronaut crew, portrays the evolution and continuity of America's space program by highlighting 30 years of manned space flight experience — from Mercury to the Space Shuttle. The emergence of the Shuttle Atlantis from the outlined configuration of the Mercury spacecraft commemorates this special relationship. The energy and momentum of launch are conveyed by the graduations of blue which mark the Shuttle's ascent from Earth to space. Once in Earth-orbit, Atlantis' cargo bay opens to reveal the Tracking and Data Relay Satellite which appears in gold emphasis against the white wings of Atlantis and the stark blackness of space. A primary mission objective, the Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System will enable almost continuous communication from Earth to space for future Shuttle missions. The stars on the patch are arranged to suggest this mission's STS number: four stars to the left of the Shuttle and three stars to the right. Crewmembers for STS-43 are astronauts John E. Blaha, commander; Michael A. Baker, pilot; and mission specialists James C. Adamson, G. David Low and Shannon W. Lucid.