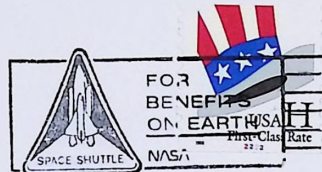
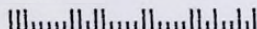


SPACE SHUTTLE
STS-93/COLUMBIA



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SPACE SHUTTLE (STS-93/COLUMBIA)

The Chandra X-ray Observatory — NASA's latest and greatest X-ray telescope — is the primary payload of the STS-93 mission aboard Space Shuttle Columbia. Orbiter Columbia will carry Chandra, formerly known as the Advanced X-ray Astrophysics Facility (AXAF), into low Earth-orbit initiating its planned five-year mission. The new telescope is 20 to 50 times more sensitive than any previous X-ray instrument and is expected to provide important new revelations about our expanding universe. Chandra will be used by scientists across the globe to study some of the universe's most distant, powerful and dynamic objects. STS-93 will be the shortest scheduled Shuttle mission since 1990 with a duration planned to be about 4 days and 23 hours.

THE STS-93 CREW — The five-person crew will be the first to be commanded by a woman, **Eileen M. Collins**. A pilot on two previous Shuttle missions, Collins was also the first woman Shuttle Pilot (STS-63). She has spent over 419 hours in space since joining the astronaut corps in 1990. **Jeffrey S. Ashby** will serve as pilot on STS-93, his first space trip. During his career as a Navy test pilot, Ashby earned many honors, including a designation as Navy Attack Aviator of the Year 1991, before being selected to the astronaut program in Dec. 1994. **Steven A. Hawley**, an astronaut for more than 20 years, brings the experience of four previous Shuttle flights and more than 651 hours in space to his duties as a mission specialist. Mission Specialist **Catherine G. "Cady" Coleman**, an astronaut since 1992, will make her second Shuttle flight. As a volunteer test subject in the Air Force's centrifuge program, she set several endurance and tolerance records. Mission Specialist **Michel Tognini**, a French astronaut, has flown in space aboard Russia's Soyuz TM-15 spacecraft to the Mir Space Station and now takes his first Shuttle flight.

THE STS-93 CREW INSIGNIA — The STS-93 patch, designed by the crew, depicts the Chandra X-ray telescope separating from the Space Shuttle Columbia after a successful deployment. A spiral galaxy is shown in the background as a possible target for stellar observations. The two flags near the center of the emblem represent the international crew, consisting of astronauts from both the United States and France.