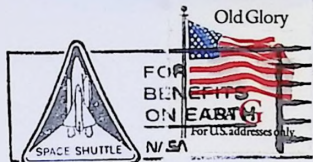


SPACE SHUTTLE
STS-63/DISCOVERY



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SPACE SHUTTLE (STS-63 / DISCOVERY)

The 1995 Space Shuttle launch schedule begins with a flight that lays the groundwork for future space endeavors. Research and experimentation planned for Mission STS-63 will continue to pave the way toward a permanently occupied international space station. The flight will also help prepare for the first in a series of dockings between the U.S. Space Shuttle and the Russian Mir Space Station – a major element in the first phase of the International Space Station program. The STS-63 flight of Discovery will make a number of significant accomplishments: the first flight of a female Shuttle pilot; the second flight of a Russian cosmonaut on the U.S. Shuttle; and an extravehicular activity (EVA) and a flyaround of Mir. The two primary payloads are the SPACEHAB-3 and the SPARTAN-204 satellite.

The STS-63 crew patch depicts the Shuttle Orbiter maneuvering to rendezvous with the Russian Mir Space Station. The name Mir is printed in Cyrillic on the side of the station and visible in the Orbiter payload bay are the commercial space laboratory Spacehab and the Spartan satellite. The six points on the rising sun and the three stars form mission number 63 with both the United States and Russian flags at the bottom of the patch.

Mission Commander is James D. Wetherbee, a veteran of two previous spaceflights. The only rookie is Pilot Eileen M. Collins, who becomes the first female Shuttle pilot. Veteran astronauts C. Michael Foale, Janice E. Voss, and medical doctor Bernard A. Harris Jr. are mission specialists. Also flying as a mission specialist is veteran Russian cosmonaut Vladimir G. Titov, who became one of the first human beings to live in space for more than a year.