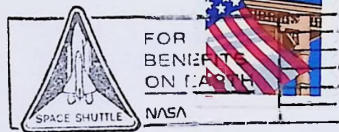
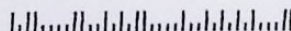
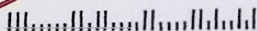


SPACE SHUTTLE
STS-76/ATLANTIS



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SPACE SHUTTLE (STS-76/ATLANTIS)

The third docking between the U.S. Space Shuttle Atlantis and the Russian Space Station Mir will be highlighted by several activities; a crew transfer, an extravehicular activity (EVA), logistics operations and scientific research. Beginning with this mission, designated Shuttle/Mir Mission-3, the orbiter Atlantis will carry at least four U.S. astronauts in succession for extended stays aboard Mir. For the next 26 months there will always be at least one American living on the station. STS-76 also kicks off a series of Shuttle-Mir missions that will carry a SPACEHAB module in the orbiter payload bay.

The STS-76 CREW – The veteran astronaut crew is led by Kevin P. Chilton (Col., USAF), who will be making his third trip into space. He became an astronaut in 1988 and served as pilot on his first two Shuttle flights in 1992 and 1994. STS-76 Pilot Richard A. Searfoss (Lt. Col., USAF) was serving as a flight instructor at the USAF Test Pilot School when selected to join the astronaut corps in 1990. He served as pilot on his first Shuttle flight in 1993. Four mission specialists (MS) are flying on Atlantis. The first is Ronald M. Sega, an Air Force Reserve Officer, that became an astronaut in 1991. His first spaceflight, STS-60 in 1994, also was the first joint U.S./Russian Space Shuttle mission. MS-2 Michael R. "Rich" Clifford (Lt. Col., USA, ret.) has flown in space twice before in 1992 and 1994. He began working at NASA's Johnson Space Center in 1987 and was selected as an astronaut three years later. Both Clifford and MS-3 Linda M. Godwin will conduct a 6-hour EVA during STS-76. Godwin, an astronaut since 1986, has flown in space twice, in 1991 and with Chilton and Clifford on STS-59. MS-4 Shannon W. Lucid is a spaceflight veteran of four Shuttle voyages since 1985. Lucid, an astronaut since 1979, will become the first American woman to visit Mir when she joins the Mir-21 cosmonaut crew for an approximately four-and-a-half-month stay.

The STS-76 CREW INSIGNIA – The crew mission patch depicts Shuttle Atlantis and Russia's Mir Space Station as the vehicles prepare for a rendezvous and docking. The "Spirit of 76" an era of new beginnings, is represented by the Shuttle orbiter rising through the circle of 13 stars in the Betsy Ross flag. The three gold trails and the ring of stars in the union form the astronaut logo. Two suited spacewalking (EVA) astronauts in the outer ring represent the first EVA during Shuttle-Mir docked operations along with the surnames of the crew members that encircle the patch. The patch was designed by Brandon Clifford, age 12, and the astronauts of STS-76.