# Space News Roundup 



In this artist's illustration, space walking astronauts install the Wide Field/Planetary Camera II in the Hubble Space Telescope as it rests in Endeavour's cargo bay.

## STS-61 Mission summary timeline

This timeline summarizes the activities planned for the Hubble Space Telescope servicing mission. All event times are based on missionelapsed time. EVA times are not given as the durations will be modified as events require
All on-orbit activities may be impacted by the dynamic nature of this mission.

## Flight Day One

Ascent
OMS-2 burn: MET 00/00:45:00 at an orbit of 310 n.m. $\times 297$ n.m. ICBC activation
NC-1 burn: MET 00/05:33:00 at an orbit of 310 n.m. x 302 n.m

Flight Day Two
Remote Manipulator System checkout

Cabin depressurization to 10.2 psi

Space

## t/survey

Configure Flight Servicing Structure NPC burn: MET 00/23:12:00 at an rbit of $310 \mathrm{n} . \mathrm{m} . \times 302 \mathrm{n} . \mathrm{m}$
NSR burn: MET 01/03:57:00 at an rrbit of 310 n.m. $\times 304$ n.m
Extravehicular Mobility Unit checkout NC-2 burn: MET 01/04:32:00 at an Flight Day Three
HST rendezvous operations NH burn: MET 01/17:22:00 at an orbit of $320 \mathrm{n} . \mathrm{m} . \times 305 \mathrm{n} . \mathrm{m}$. This burn adjusts the altitude of Endeavour's orbital high point and fine-tunes its course to arrive at a point 40 nm behind HST at the same altitude. NC-3 burn: MET 01/18:10:00 at an orbit of $320 \mathrm{n} . \mathrm{m} \times 310 \mathrm{n} . \mathrm{m}$. This burn
begins closing in on HST at a rate of about $16 \mathrm{n} . \mathrm{m}$. per orbit aimed at arriving at a point $8 \mathrm{n} . \mathrm{m}$. behind HST at the same altitude, two orbits later.

NCC burn: MET 01/20:23:00 at an orbit of $320 \mathrm{n} . \mathrm{m} . \times 310 \mathrm{n} . \mathrm{m}$. The first burn calculated by onboard computers using onboard navigation derived from using onboard navigation derived from orbiter star tracker sightings of
HST. It fires while the orbiter is closing on a point about 8 nm behind HST to fine-tune its course

TI burn: MET 01/21:23:00 at an orbit of 320 n.m. x $312 \mathrm{n} . \mathrm{m}$. It fires on arrival at a point $8 \mathrm{n} . \mathrm{m}$. behind HST and begins terminal interception of

HST grapple at an orbit of 320 n.m 313 n.m.
HST survey
Group B powerdown
Please see TIMELINE, Page 4

## Hubble servicing presents big challenge

By Eileen Hawley

The ambitious goals of the Hubble Space Telescope servicing mission include three primary objectives designed to be accomplished in an enprecedented series of five spac unprecedented Ultims.
Ultimately, the goal of STS-61 is to restore Hubble's scientific capabilities and the reliability of its operational systems, and to validate the concept of on-orbit servicing for the spacecraft during its anticipated 15 -year life

Hubble is an amazing instrumen even with the problems it's had," said STS-61 Pilot Ken Bowersox. "I think it's a testimony to the flexibility of our agency that we've come up with a way to make it work. People provided
going to fix it," he said. going to fix it, he said.
Once on orbit, the challenges will just be beginning for this veteran crew as it capture the telescope and install upgraded equipment. "Surprise was the one thing I wanted to accommodate," said Payload Commander Story Musgrave. "No matter how good your historical process of development is, no matter how many stones you turn over trying to eliminate surprises, trying to build a flight plan that you can live with...it just doesn't turn out that way," he said.

During five scheduled space walks, the astronauts will perform a variety of tasks in their efforts to successfully repair and upgrade the telescope.
"Our goal is to accomplish what we set out to do," said Mission Specialist Kathy Thornton.

The primary servicing tasks to be performed by the space-walking astronauts include:

- Installing the Solar Array II to eliminate the "jitter" the solar panels currently experience twice each orbit as the telescope passes from dark into light and vice verssa. Additionally, drive units for the solar array electronics control assemblies will be replaced to restore redundancy and provide improved heat protection for the transistors;
- Replacing two non-functioning gyroscope pairs to restore redundanPlease see ASTRONOMERS, Page 4


## Endeavour crew ready for Hubble servicing tasks


#### Abstract

By Audrey Schwartz After nearly two years of planning and hundreds of hours of simula tions for servicing the Hubble Space Telescope, the STS-61 crew may have been delayed, but not daunted, by Mother Nature. Low clouds and wind gusts scrubbed the planned launch of Endeavour on Wednesday, but forecasts called for improving conditions later in the week. "It's time to go do it," said Story


 Musgrave, payload commander. The veteran crew members Pilot Ken Bowersox and Mission Specialists Kathy Thornton, Claude Nicollier Jeff Hoffman, Tom Akers and Musgrave Akers nd Musgrave - have in space between them space between them.The Hubble Space Telescope servicing mission is perhaps the most difficult and challenging satellite ser vicing mission shuttle astronauts have ever attempted. A record five space walks are planned during the scheduled 11 -day flight with many complex tasks to be performed with in a limited time frame
Despite their 400 hours of simulaions in the Weightless Environment raining Facility and the neutral buoyancy tank at Marshall Space Fight Center, the crew and flight controllers know to expect the unexpected during a servicing mission, particularly one as ambitious as HST.
"There's opportunities for a lot of things to go wrong-obviously," said

Randy Brinkley, HST mission direc tor. "Don't count us out until the gun goes off and the game is over."
JSC mission planners began preparing for a December 1993 Hubble servicing mission to replace failed parts and add updated tech nology even before HST was launched three years ago and the flawed primary mirror discovered Other servicing missions are sched uled for 1997, 1999 and 2002.

The STS-61 mission is the first to perform this regularly scheduled form this regularly scheduled
 tune-up" and install cor arrays. As a result of this planning, HST was designed to be astronaut-friendly Two grapple fixtures allow Endeavour's mechanica arm to retrieve the satellite from its 370 -mile-high orbit and secure it in the cargo bay on flight day three. Hubble is studded with handholds to allow easier movement by space walkers and its modular design allows access for servicing.
Hoffman, Musgrave, Akers and Thornton will work in two-member eams to conduct the nearly 30 EVA hours, scheduled for flight days four hrough eight. EVA crew members can be distinguished by markings on the legs of their space suits Hoffman, solid red stripe; Thornton dashed red stripe: Akers, a diagona dasted red stripe. and a diagonal with no red stripe, and Musgrave with no stripe. All four crew mem bers have been cross trained to per form any give days can be added if necessary


## Planetary probes continue the exploration of space

NASA's planetary probes are continuing to trek through the galaxy encountering asteroids, planets, and solar winds.
The Galiteo spacecraft is almost 415 million miles from Earth on its way to a 1995 rendezvous with Jupiter.

With the high-gain antenna still only partially deployed, the low-gain antenna will be used during the Jupiter mission. Following a September encounter, Galileo transmitted images of the asteroid Ida. Transmissions will resume in Spring.
Another of the successful interplanetary probes, Galileo was
launched Oct. 18, 1989.

Galileo flew by Venus and Earth in 1990 and 1992 for gravity assists, and flew by the asteroid Gaspra in October 1991.
The Magellan spacecraft currently is in a gravity-mapping orbit around Venus. The probe has mapped about a third of the planet's gravitational field through precision tracking. Magellan has successfully radar-mapped more than 98 percent of Venus's surface from September 1990 to September 1992
Magellan achieved orbit through an aerobraking maneuver earlier this year. Magellan was launched May 4, 1989.

The Topex/Poseidon satellite is
healthy with all scientific instruments performing normally. The satellite is mapping global sea level changes, reflecting seasonal warming and cooling and winds. Topex/Poseidon was launched Aug. 10, 1992.

The Ulysses spacecraft, launched Oct. 6, 1990, is in a highly inclined solar orbit more than 45 degrees south relative to the sun's equator and is 390 million miles from Earth. The probe received a gravity assist following a flyby of Jupiter in February 1992. The spacecraft will make solar polar passages in 1994 and 1995. Ulysses is gathering data on the heliosphere - the realm dominated by the solar wind.

The two Voyager spacecraft are continuing their interstellar mission currently taking data on magnetic fields and charged particles as well as ultraviolet data
Voyager 1 was launched Sept. 5 1977 and is currently 5.11 billion miles from Earth. The spacecraft has had flyby encounters with both Jupiter and Saturn in 1979 and 1980.

Voyager 2 was launched Aug. 20, 1977. The spacecraft has flown by a number of planets in our solar sysem including Jupiter, Saturn Uranus, and Neptune. The spacecraft is now 3.94 billion miles from Earth.

## Ticket Window

 $10 . a 9.2$
$\times 30909$.
Christmas dinner dance - Tickets for the Dec. 10 and Dec. 11 EAA Christmas dinner dances are on sale through Dec. 8. Cost is $\$ 22.50$ per person.
Metropolitan Ballet's Nutcracker - Performances
Metropolitan Ballet's Nutcracker - Performances will be 8 p.m. Dec. 10 and 12, and 2 p.m Dec. 11. A limited number of tickets is on sale for $\$ 12.50$ per person.
$\$ 30$ each, $\$ 1$ off first book for civil servants. Gold C Books: $\$ 8$
$\$$ Space Center Houston - Discount tickets: adult, $\$ 7.50$; child ( $3-11$ ), $\$ 4.50$; commemorative,
$\$ 9.95$ \$9.95.

Metro tickets - Passes, books and single tickets available
Movie discounts - General Cinema $\$ 450$ AMC Theater
Movie discounts - General Cinema, $\$ 4.50$; AMC Theater, $\$ 3.75$; Loew's Theater, $\$ 4$ Upcoming events: Children
Stamps: Book of $20, \$ 5.80$

## Gilruth Center News

Sign up policy - All classes and athletic activities are first come, first served. Sign up in person up two weeks in advance. Payment must be made in full, in exact change or by check, at the time of registration. No registration will be taken by telephone. For more information, call $\times 30304$.
EAA badges - Dependents and spouses may apply for photo identification badges from 6:30-9 p.m. Monday-Friday. Dependents must be between 16 and 23 years old.
$8-9: 30$ p.m. Dec. 16. Pre-registration is required. Cost is $\$ 5$.
Defensive driving - Course is offered from $8: 15$ a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday. Next class is Jan. 8 . Cost is $\$ 19$.
Aerobics - High/low-impact class meets from 5:15-6:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Cost is $\$ 32$ for eight weeks.
Exercise - Low
Exercise - Low-impact class meets from 5:15-6:15 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Cost is
Aikido - Martial arts class meets from $5-7: 30$ p.m. Tuesdays and $6: 15-8: 15$ p.m. Wedn
Black Belt class from 6-8 p.m. Fridays, requires instructor permission. Cost is $\$ 25$ per month.
Selt-defense 68 . .i. Fridays,
Self-defense - Selif-defense workshop for wom
Registration is required but there is no cost to attend.
7-8:30 p.m. Mondays and advanced class meets from $8: 30-10$ pem. Jond Beginner class meets from
for six weeks.
Line dance - Classes meet from 7-8 p.m. Tuesday nights beginning Jan. 4. Cost is $\$ 10$ per person for six weeks.
Flag football registration-Men's " C " teams play Tuesday or Wednesday nights, mixed teams
Thay information are available at the Gilruth Center.
Soccer registration - Men's and mixed teams play Saturdays beginning January 22.
Registration is at 7 a 2 m . Dec. 13. Roster forms and additional information are available at the Gilruth Registration
Center.
Center. Volleyball registration — Mixed "C" league will play Tuesdays and Fridays. Registration is Dec. at 7 a.m. Mixed "B" Wom's and " " league will play Tuesdays and rriays. Registration is De . Basketball registration - Registration is at 7 a.m., Dec. 16. Play begins in January Fitness program - Health Related Fitness Program includes a medical examination screening $\times 30301$

JSC

## Dates \& Data

## Today

Engineering applications - The latest developments in mechanical system simulation software will be demonstrated at 9 a.m. in Bldg. 12, Rm. 112. Dec. 6. Representatives of MDI Adams will discuss space engi neering applications. For additional information, call Ken Tanoury, 214 789-5353.
Cafeteria menu - Special: Italian cutlet. Total Health: roast beef au jus. Entrees: chicken a la king, enchiladas with chili, baked lasagna with meat, steamed fish, French dip sandwich. Soup: split pea and ham vegetables: Brussels sprouts, orien tal vegetables, buttered carrots, lima

## Tuesday

Cafeteria menu - Special stuffed cabbage rolls. Total Health roasted turkey. Entrees: turkey and dressing, country style steak and hash browns, beef ravioli, baked chicken, French dip sandwich Soup: tomato Florentine. Vege tables: Italian blend, okra and toma toes, corn cobbette, navy beans.

## Wednesday

Russian speakers - Practice Russian language skills from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Dec. 8 in the Bldg. 3 Jack Bacon, x38725, or Amy Mendez, x 38066 .
PSI meets - Clear Lake/NASA Area chapter of Professional Secretaries International will meet at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 8 at the Holiday Inn on NASA Road 1. For more information, contact Elaine Kemp, x30556.
Astronomy seminar - The JSC Astronomy Seminar will meet at
noon Dec. 8 in Bldg. 31, Rm. 129. For more information, call Al Jackson, 333-7679.
Software seminar - The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers will host a seminar on software reliability from 11 a.m.p.m. Dec. 8 at the Gilruth Center Ted Keller of IBM will speak. For additional information, contac Frankie Hap, 333-6064
Cafeteria menu - Special: pep per steak. Total Health: stir fry pork with rice. Entrees: liver and onions, catfish and hush puppies, stir-fry pork with rice, steamed fish, Reuben sandwich. Vegetables: steamed broccoli, yellow squash, macaroni and cheese, vegetable

## sticks

## Thursday

IEEE meets - The Galveston Bay section of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers will meet at 11:30 a.m. Dec. 9 at Gilruth Center. Joe Loftus will discuss "Orbital Debris: Issues and Solutions." For additional information, contact Barbara Nepveux,
$\times 30194$.
AIAA meets - The Houston section of the American Institute o Aeronautics and Astronautics will host the annual JSC director's reception at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 9 at the Gilruth Center. For reservations and additional information, contact Shirley Brandt, 929-7183.
Blood drive - Rockwell will host a blood drive from 8-10:30 a.m. Dec. 9 at the Rockwell LSF Bldg. at Feathercraft and Gemini. For additional information, contact Liz
Sanders, 282-3418
Cafeteria menu - Special:
chicken fried steak. Total Health: fat-free vegetable soup. Entrees: beef tacos, scrod with Hollandaise sauce, steamed fish, French dip sandwich. Soup: navy bean. Vegetables: spinach, cut corn, breaded okra, pinto beans.

## Friday

Cafeteria menu - Special: tuna noodle casserole. Total Health: steamed salmon steak. Entrees: steamed salmon steak, roast beef, baked chicken, steamed fish, Reuben sandwich. Soup: seafood gumbo. Vegetables: French cut green beans, cauliflower with cheese, green peas, black-eyed peas.

## Monday

Cafeteria menu - Special: breaded cutlet. Total Health: crispy baked chicken. Entrees: baked chicken, beef chop suey, smoked sausage and Gerich potap salad, French dip sandwich. Soup: cream of broccoli. Vegetables: okra and tomatoes, peas, navy beans, baby

Dec. 15
Astronomy seminar - The JSC Astronomy Seminar will meet at noon Dec. 15 in Bldg. 31, Rm. 129. Dr. George Ciangaru of Lockheed with discuss the near-Earth space environment and local space activities. For more information, call Al Jackson, 333-7679.
Blood drive - Lockheed will host a blood drive from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Dec. 15 at Lockheed Plaza 3 and from 1:30-4 p.m. Dec. 15 at Lockheed Plaza 5. For more information, contact Joe Victor, x34791.

## Swap Shop

| Swap Shop ads are accepted from current and retired ees. Each ad must be submitted on a separate full-sized revised JSC Form 1452. Deadine is 5 p.m. every Friday, twoweeks before the desired date of pubtication. Ads may be run only once. Send ads to Roundup Swap Shop, Code AP3, ordeliver them to the deposit box outside Am. 147 in Bldg. 2 No phone or tax ads accepted. |  |  | stands, armoire, solid wood, will deliver, $\$ 750$. Jan, 480- |
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| Property |  |  |  |
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| Sale: Nassau Bay House, 4-2-2, on quiet street, excellent |  |  |  |
| Sale: Clear Lake Shores, 3 BR, wood floors, if kitchen,decks, $538-1849$. |  |  |  |
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| Sale: LC/Brittany Bay, ig kitchen, DR, breakfast area, FR master bath has shower and oval tub, walk in closet in mas- ter. $\$ 86.5 \mathrm{k}$. David, $544-5514$ or $282-3827$. <br>  |  |  |  |
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| ft, poolspa, on cul-de-sac, island kitchen, 3 BR suites, bal-conies, art studio, $\$ 290 \mathrm{k}, 3 \%$ co-op, Fichard $\times 30271$ or 326 - |  |  | Warted |
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| Lease/Aent: Forest Bend, 4-2-2A, 1 story, FPL, fenced, Sale: Rockport Wooded lot, 2.40 ac , can be divided, black |  |  |  |
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| Sale: LC/Waterfront Marina townhome, 2-2, 15 min to NASA/JSC, $\$ 99.5 \mathrm{k}$. Steve Brody, $703-487-7138$ or $703-532-$ 3415 eve. |  |  |  |
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| Friendswood/Poll 169 k . $996-0788$. room, $\mathrm{FPL}, 3000 \mathrm{sq} \mathrm{ft} \$ 163$, huge family room, Sale: Country place on 3 acres, $3-2$, |  |  |  |
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| Sale: LaMarque, south bound side of $1-45,75$. $\times 213$ wooded tot w/pine trees. Dee, 337888 or $409-938-1167$. |  |  |  |
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| Cars \& Trucks $\$ 7 \mathrm{k}$ Jery Craig, x48116 or $420-2936$. |  |  |  |
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| ' 91 Mazda Miata, wht convertible, 5 spd , 48 k alarm, new tires, $\$ 10.7 \mathrm{k} .333-1335$.' 62 Porsche $356 \mathrm{~B}, 1750 \mathrm{cc}$, 912 S cam, counter balanced |  |  |  |
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Top right: The rising Earth as seen from Apollo 8 in lunar orbit. Top left: Command Module Pilot Jim Lovell waves to well-wishers in a pre-dawn departure for the pad with Commander Frank Borman, leading, and Bill Anders. The astronauts were launched on the first manned lunar flight Dec. 21, 1968 at 6:51 a.m. CST. Above: Dr. Robert Gilruth, director of the Manned Spacecraft Center, left, and Apollo Spacecraft Manager George Low check on Apollo 8 status from a Mission Control console. Right: The Surveyor C lunar surface sample was one of several unmanned precursors for the Apollo lunar missions. Below: Lovell, left, Anders and Borman review for their historic flight.


# To boldly go. Apollo 8 celebration relives first human space flight to moon <br> Auditorium. The sessions are open to the pubic. 

[Editor's Note: This article is the first in a two-part series commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Apollo 8, America's first mission to the Moon.]

By Audrey Schwartz

$\square$Wenty-five Decembers ago, Apollo 8 realized a timeless dream. Astronauts Frank Borman, Jim Lovell and Bill Anders literally ventured where no one had gone before - to the moon, a quarter-million miles beyond the boundaries of Earth. While Apollo 11 culminated our national challenge to land humans on the moon, with Apollo 8 we became an interplanetary society.
Apollo 8 was a Christmas gift from the United States to the world. War, conflict and daily worries were put aside for a few moments as people of ail faiths, all nationalities and all politics looked up to the heavens and "saw" their home planet, and themselves, for truly the first time.
JSC employees, contractors and the public are invited to relive the inspiring adventure of Apolio 8 at a special silver anniversary celebration to be held Dec. 17 and 18 at JSC and Space Center Houston.

Events include panel discussions about the mission Dec. 17 in Teague Auditorium and a gala reception with Apollo crew members at Space Center Houston Dec. 18.
"The decision to go to the Moon for the first time was one of profound significance," said Joe Loftus, JSC assistant director for plans, and chairman of the Apollo 8 silver anniversary celebration. "On the 10th and 20th anniversary we made much of Apollo 11, but it seemed we never before have given Apollo 8 the proper attention it deserved."

In a way, the Apollo 8 mission was a fluke. Apollo 7 tested the command and service module in Earth orbit and the next scheduled mission would try out the lunar module, but the LM development was behind schedule.
"We didn't want to stand down, so George Low (manager of the Apollo Program) put forward a daring proposal to change the sequence and go to the Moon before testing the lunar module in low-Earth orbit," Loftus explained.
However, a more fateful question loomed-would Apollo 8 fly by or orbit the Moon? A decision to orbit the moon required the service module to work perfectly, and that was far from a given, said Loftus. The mission had other problems to resolve as well. The Saturn rocket was vexed by pogo vibrations and the Spacecraft Lunar Module Adapter atop the third stage suffered from delamination.
"What we really had was a bunch a failures with a random success or two. So here we were with all that history, yet we decided to go to the Moon. This really was our first bold mission. That's the reason we put together this celebration so we could talk about it," Loftus said.
As part of the Apollo 8 anniversary celebration, two panel discussions will be held Dec. 17 in Teague

Pre-Apollo lunar science will be the topic of the first seminar beginning at 1 p.m. Mike Duke, a space scientist in the Space and Life Sciences Directorate, will moderate a panel discussion concerning the unmanned scientific missions that blazed the trail for Apollo. Among the missions to be reviewed include Ranger, the first unmanned spacecraft to the Moon of which four were complete failures; the Surveyor missions and the successful soft landing on the lunar surface; the Lunar Orbiter Moon mapping satellites as well as landing site assessment research by the Apollo 8 astronauts.
The science panelists include Eugene Shoemaker, one of the leaders in lunar science, astronaut training and site selection for Apollo, now with the U.S. Geological Survey in Arizona; Oran Nicks, professor of aerospace engineering at Texas A\&M University, and former director of the Lunar and Planetary Programs former director of the Lunar and Planetary Progra Office at NASA Headquarters in the 1960s; Don
Wilhems, author of "A Rocky Moon: A Geologist's Wilhems, author of "A Rocky Moon: A Geologist's
History of Lunar Exploration"; and Jack Sevier,
History of Lunar Exploration"; and Jack Sevier,
director of the education division at Universities
Space Research Association, who selected lunar
surface objectives for the Apollo landing
missions.
Russian geologist Alexander Basilevski of the Vernadsky Institute of Geochemistry at the Russian Academy of
Science has been invited to discuss Science has been invited to discuss
Russian robotic flights to the Moon, Russian robotic flights to the Moon,
such as Lunakhod and Luna sample return missions.
Following the science panel, key members of the Apollo 8 team will discuss the decision to go to the Moon and mission execution at a seminar beginning at 3 p.m. in Teague Auditorium.
Apollo 8 astronauts Borman, Lovell and Anders will reminisce with former center directors Aaron Cohen and Chris Kraft. Cohen was the Apollo 8 commandservice module project manager, and Kraft served as director of flight operations during the mission.
Also participating in the discussion are Glynn
Lunney, an Apollo 8 flight director, and Bill Tindall, Lunney, an Apollo 8 flight director, and Bil Tindall,
former chief of the Mission Planning and Analysis former chief of the Mission Planning and Analysis
Division. Moderator Joe Loftus plans to discuss such topics as space sickness, the crew's reaction to its sudden mission re-assignment and other behind-thescenes experiences.
The Apollo 8 crew will be guests of honor at the Silver Anniversary Gala beginning at 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 18, at Space Center Houston. Apoilo 8 Flight Director and former JSC Director Gerry Griffin will emcee the program beginning at 8:30 p.m. featuring remarks by the astronauts and other special guests. Desserts and refreshments will be served and a cash bar will be available. Holiday attire is recommended
Tickets to the Apollo 8 gala are $\$ 10$ per person and are on sale through Dec. 14 at Space Center Houston, the JSC Exchange Store, the Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce, Spaceweek Headquarters and at many JSC contractor offices.
For additional information, contact Community Affairs at $\times 33276$

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## Satellites aid in war on famine in Africa

Scientists from Goddard Space Flight Center are helping detect early warning signs of potential famine and desert locust swarms in Africa using information from NASA satellite data.
Using daily data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration meteorological satellites, scientists measure the density of green vegetation in a specific region every 10 days. By comparing satellite data to ground data dating back to 1981 scientists have gained a better
rainfall patern throughout Africa The effort attempts to undrica the natural variations of climate they relate to desert boundaries and adjacent semi-arid arnas and to adjacent semi-arid areas and to detween 1980 and 2000 .
In addition to 2000
In addition to the climatic studies and early famine warnings, the same satellite data are being used to identify areas where desert locus
warms are developing in Africa.
Locust eggs can remain dormant
in the soil for 10 to 30 years, hatch ing when rainfall which enables the growth of green vegetation, pro vides the soil moisture needed for the eggs to hatch. The newly hatched desert locusts then feed on the green vegetation. Another bene fit of the technology is the reduced use of powerful insecticides since they can be restricted to localized areas before the swarms become mobile and disperse.
The work is being conducted
through a cooperative agreemen

## Toys for Tots annual campaign under way

JSC employees and contractors are invited to spread the holiday spirit by joining Space Center Houston in supporting the U.S Marine Corps Reserves' Toys for Tots Program.
Space Center Houston will be collecting toys for needy children Dec. 18-19.
Every guest bringing a new toy to the center on these two days will receive a $\$ 2$ discount off the regular admission price. To receive the discount, tickets must be purchased at the Space Center Houston ticket window.
Uniformed Marines will be at the center from 9 a.m.-7 p.m. to accept donations. The Marine Reserve colects and distributes new toys every holiday season and has become an integral part of the Christmas spirit for many under-privileged children. Their activities allow some three million children to experience the delight of finding a new, shiny toy waiting for them on Christmas morning.
Help make Christmas special for the less fortunate by supporting the Toys for Tots Program. The program also accepts monetary donations. For additional information, contact Space Center Houston at 244-2130.


VESSEL WRESTLE-Workers from C.L. Vick Construction and McRay Crane and Rigging Co. deliver the new Space Station Airlock Test Article to Bldg. 7. It will be used to develop space station airlock components and train crew members. Once fully outfitted it will be used to verify the interface with shuttle space suits, develop space walk procedures and investigate malfunctions.

## New Year's Eve gala slated for Gilruth

Ring in 1994 at the New Year's Eve dinner dance beginning at The evening begins with the pm. social hour followed by dine p.m. social hour followed by dinner hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, cold hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, cold cuts and salads, a complimentary midnight champagne toast and a
helping of traditional black-eyed
peas. In addition, party goers may partake of a continental buffet breakEntertainment for the
Entertainment for the event will be provided by the Phil Gray Orchestra and the Boot Leg Band. The orchestra will play in the ballroom and country and western music can be heard in the gym.

Tickets for the dinner dance are
on sale beginning Wednesday through Dec. 29. Cost is $\$ 25$ per person and the tickets are nonrefundable. JSC employees, retirees and NASA-badged contractors may purchase tickets individually or in tables of 6,8 or 12 seats.
For additional information, call
Mike Gaudiano at $\times 38318$.
between GSFC and the U.S. Agency for International Development. "The agency contacted us after seeing publications on remote sensing of the Sahel of Africa" con ducted by NASA. Goddard scientist Compton Tucker said. "Since we use satellites to look at vegetation in these regions, we can obtain data on countries that historically have been affected by famine and do so very close to real time.'
According to Compton, by assess
ing current and future vegetation
growth, the AID is able to "determine where droughts are occurring, their severity and how widespread" the drought is.
The satellite information helps AID maximize the efficiency of sup plying food aid to needy countries saving lives and reducing waste The use of the satellites has been particularly valuable in gathering data in those countries where political instability makes it difficult to obtain information in any othe way.

## Mission Control viewing room open for STS-61

The Mission Control Center view ing room will be open to JSC and contractor-badged employees and their families during portions of the STS-61 mission
Based on a Thursday launch, employees will be allowed to visi the MCC Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. 2:30 p.m. and 5-7 p.m.; Wednesday from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; Thursday, from 11 a.m. $-2: 30$ p.m. and $5-7$ p.m.; and Saturday, from 1-5 p.m.

Employees must wear thei
badges and escort family members

## Timeline lists mission plans

(Continued from Page 1)

## Flight Day Four

HST Extravehicular Activity No. 1 - Hoffman and Musgrave: Two Rate Sensor Units/Secondaries

## Flight Day Five

HST Extravehicular Activity No. 2 -Thornton and Akers: Solar Arrays
Flight Day Six
HST Extravehicular Activity No. 3 - Hoffman and Musgrave: Wide Field/Planetary Camera; Two Magnetic Sensing Systems

## Flight Day Seven

HST Extravehicular Activity No. 4 otics Space Th Akers: Corrective placement/Secondaries

## Flight Day Eight

HST reboost burn at an orbit of 320 n.m. $\times 313$ n.m.

HST Extravehicular Activity No. 5 - Hoffman and Musgrave: Solar Array Drive Electronics/Secondaries
Flight Day Nine
Group B power up
HST grapple
HST unberth
HST release: MET 08/00:43:00 at
through the regular public entrance on the northeast side of Bldg. 30 Children under 5 years will not be permitted.
No flash photography or loud talking will be permitted at any time. Because of the dynamic nature of shuttle missions, or changes in launch time, viewing hours may be rescheduled or canceled without notice.

For the latest information on the schedule, call the Employee Information Service at x 36765 .
an orbit of 320 n.m. $\times 313$ n.m. Separation burn 1: MET 08/00 $44: 00$ at an orbit of 320 n.m. $\times 313$ n.m. This burn begins a slow separa tion of Endeavour from the vicinity of HST.
Separation burn 2: MET 08/01 08:00 at an orbit of 320 n.m. $\times 313$ n.m. Increases the rate at which Endeavour departs from the HST.
Separation burn 3: MET 08/01 32:00 at an orbit of $320 \mathrm{n} . \mathrm{m} . \times 311$ n.m. Puts Endeavour on its final course departing the vicinity of HST. Group B power down
Flight Day Ten
Cabin repressurization to 14.7 psi Off-duty half day for STS-61 crew

## Flight Day Eleven

Group B power up
Flight Control Systems checkout Reaction Control System hot fire Cabin stow

## Flight Day Twelve

Space Support Equipment power down

Deorbit preparations
Deorbit burn: MET 10/20:31:00 Landing: MET 10/21/:45:00

## Astronomers look forward to refurbished observatory

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cy. The telescope has six pairs of gyroscopes on board and requires three for proper operation;

- Replacing the Wide Field/Planetary Camera, which has studied bright, high-contrast objects such as planets, nearby star clus ters and galaxies. WF/PC II has been modified to compensate for the spherical aberration of the main mirror. Small actuators will fine-tune the positioning of the mirrors on orbit ensuring the precise alignment required;
- Installing the Corrective Optics Space Telescope Axial Replacement to restore the optical performance of other instruments on the telescope; and
- Improving magnetic sensing systems that measure the spacecraft's relative orientation with respect to the Earth's magnetic field will be installed over the existing magnetometers. All of these tasks are scheduled to be completed by the end of EVA 4.
With these activities successfully accomplished, what lies ahead for the Hubble Space Telescope? It has gathered vast amounts of scientific data since its deployment in April 1990 despite the spherical aberration in the main mirror. Hubble has conducted long-term observations of global weather changes on Mars, documented the development of a rare, planet-wide storm on Saturn, and uncovered the strongest evidence yet that many stars form new planetary systems.
Astronomers are looking forward to the A Wmissioning of this orbiting observatory Ed Weiler, Hubble chief scientist, said the first
thing astronomers hope to look at with the refurbished telescope is the expansion rate of the universe. This will be accomplished by using Hubble's unique capabilities to precisely measure the light curve of Cepheid Variable 50 stars in galaxies out to the distance of at leas 50 million light-years.

Think of them as a cosmic mile marker in astronomy," Weiler said. "To really establish the distance scale much depends in measuring the age of the universe and determining its nature and eventual fate, you need to see
farther out than a few million years.
HST already has been able to HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE detect Cepheid Variables out to
10 or 15 million light years but with its improved sensitivity, astronomers should be able to see the three or four times farther. The age of the universe is currently estimated to be between 10 and 20 billion years, but with the precise measurements expected from the ser viced telescope, this prediction can be narrowed to an accuracy range of 10 percent Installing COSTAR and WF/PC II will allow Hubble to further the study of the evolution of galaxies. "We'll be able to see objects which are 10 to 15 times fainter than those we can see now," Weiler said. "We've started this process of seeing how galaxies form and with COSTAR and WF/PC II we hope to look back right to the very beginning when galaxies began to form."

The telescope also will look for gravitational signatures of massive black holes in the cores of normal and active galaxies. HST has already produced "very strong circumstantial evidence for a black hole," Weiler said Hubble's spectrograph will measure the velocities of gas and stars orbiting the center of a galaxy, and if these velocities increase toward the galaxy center it would signal the existence of a massive, compact central object. "We hope to do that observation very early in the era of the repaired Hubble which hopefully will come about in February," said Weiler.

Hubble also will be able to determine the shapes of very distant galaxies and measure the ages of globular clusters by observing the faintest stars in the clusters. Globular clusters are thought to be the oldest objects in the universe and their ages provide insights into how stars evolve These measurements also will provide independent corroboration on the age of the universe.

Will accomplishing all of the objectives of the servicing mission allow us to attain all the promise and potential of the telescope? "Absolutely not," Weiler said. "Hubble was always dreamed of as a long-lived observatory To justify the huge investment in it we have to keep it running as long as possible doing world class science, and that will take routine maintenance."
"Gratification in science and astronomy does not always come quickly," Weiler added.

Following the visit of the Endeavo the telescope faces a long recommissioning period. It will be 12-14 weeks before the telescope begins to gather new scientific data.
Dr. David Leckrone, senior scientist at Goddard Space Flight Center, said that period will be spent calibrating gyros, testing pointing systems, and locating apertures and focal points on the instruments.
This relatively protracted period of focusing

