

MSG 202 - RED FD14 EARTH OBS TEXT

1 STS-107 EARTH OBS FLIGHT NOTE

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3 Widespread cloud-cover is reducing the number of opportunities in many parts of the world,
4 including the Middle East.

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6 METs are times of closest approach to target.

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RED AND BLUE

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10 MET 12/16:41 HORN OF AFRICA. Ocean features such as eddies and
11 internal waves in the Gulf of Aden and around the
12 island of Socotra off the Horn of Africa will appear in
13 sunglint, right of track. Oblique. Digital Camera
14 180mm. Atlas page 18.

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16 MET 12/18:01 GIBRALTAR-ATLAS MTS. Look left for a good oblique of
17 the strait. Then panoramas left and right along
18 Africa's greatest mountain range. Oblique. Digital
19 Camera 180mm. Atlas page 14.

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21 MET 12/21:11 DAKAR. Sunglint opportunity of Dakar's characteristic
22 cape right of track. Oblique. Digital Camera 180mm.
23 Atlas page 14.

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RED

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27 MET 12/22:49 ASCENSION ISLAND. This central Atlantic island is 35 sq
28 miles in size. From 1943-45 over 25,000 US planes
29 transited Ascension Island's "Wideawake Field"
30 destined for North African, the Middle East and
31 Europe. Ascension is now also the Southeast tracking
32 station of the USAF Eastern Test Proving Ground. In
33 1967 a NASA tracking station was built but has since
34 closed down. Look right about 1 deg off track. Oblique.
35 Digital Camera 400mm. Atlas page 36.

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37 MET 13/01:31 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PASS. Los Angeles at nadir, and
38 Edwards AFB left of track about 1 degree. Then the
39 Salton Sea left, and Yuma, AZ, on the Colorado River, at
40 nadir. Near Vertical. Oblique. Digital Camera 180mm
41 400mm. Atlas page 2.

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43 MET 13/03:15 GALAPAGOS ISLANDS. Nadir pass. Shoot any greening
44 predicted to appear due to the present El Nino
45 conditions. Major islands just right of track (partial
46 glint views). Near Vertical. Hasselblad 110mm
47 250mm. Atlas page 12.

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END OF PAGE 1 OF 2, MSG 202

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1 MET 13/03:24 NORTH ARGENTINA PASS. Your pass follows the line of the
2 infamous Pilcomayo river at nadir for 700 km. The
3 Pilcomayo River is dying in its own sediment, becoming
4 shorter in the process (400 km shorter in 50 yrs) and
5 making this a unique river on the planet. Canals have
6 been dug on both sides of the river to maintain water
7 flow as far as Argentina and Paraguay. Detailed images
8 are requested along the length of this river (i. e. for
9 ~2 min) to show the dead main course, newly formed
10 swamps and the state of engineering works. Near
11 Vertical. Digital Camera 180mm 400mm. Atlas page 33.
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RED AND BLUE

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16 MET 13/06:03 MIDWAY ISLAND. Possible view between cloud masses,
17 about one degree right of track. Oblique. Digital
18 Camera 400mm. Atlas page 24.
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20 MET 13/06:07 HAWAIIAN ISLANDS. Your descending pass is parallel to
21 and south of the island chain. Some islands should be
22 visible between cloud, 1-2 deg left of track. Oblique.
23 Hasselblad 110mm 250mm. Atlas page 24.
24

BLUE

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28 MET 13/10:34 CHINA-TAIWAN PASS. The densely populated lower Yangtze
29 appears left of track. Mapping series requested for the
30 lake-filled floodplain. Relatively good viewing
31 continues to the indented Chinese coast: look right
32 towards sunglint to document the major shoreline
33 reclamation works in the region of fast growing Fuzhou
34 city. Then the north end of Taiwan with capital city
35 Taipeh may be visible right of track. High oblique
36 views right should reveal Taiwan's famous west-side
37 smog blanket. Oblique. Hasselblad 110mm 250mm. Atlas
38 pages 20, 21.
39

40 MET 13/14:03 NEW ZEALAND. Weather clearing nicely over the North
41 Island. Auckland city just left of track on the west
42 coast. Geothermal region volcanoes and rift faults
43 right of track. Oblique. Digital Camera 180mm 400mm.
44 Atlas page 41.
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46 MET 13/15:31 SE AUSTRALIA FIRES. Views left may show the large smoke
47 pall blowing northeast ahead of a major approaching
48 storm. Oblique. Digital Camera 180mm. Atlas page 28.
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END OF PAGE 2 OF 2, MSG 202