

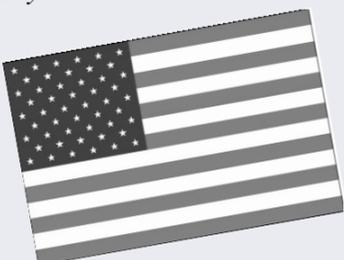
## Susan Helms and Jim Voss wish America a happy Fourth of July

**Jim Voss:** Welcome aboard the International Space Station. I'm flight engineer Jim Voss along with my crewmate and fellow flight engineer Susan Helms. We're orbiting the Earth this Fourth of July with our Commander, Cosmonaut Yury Usachev. Greetings to all Americans who are watching us from the steps of the capital building and from throughout the world.

**Susan Helms:** Today is the Fourth of July, one of the most special days of the year. It's the day that we celebrate our independence and our freedom. It's also the day when we give thanks to our ancestors who fought hard to make this a reality. And most importantly, it's the day that we recognize within ourselves that patriotic and special uniqueness that we can only call "American."

**Jim Voss:** 245 years ago, our founding fathers brought together many different peoples into one nation. Today, as we work 240 miles above the Earth, we hope this grand project in space will bring together many nations, working to create a better life for all humanity. To all Americans...

**Both:** Happy Independence Day!



## Veteran Astronaut Brian Duffy retires

By Eric Raub

**A**stronaut Brian Duffy (Col., USAF) recently retired from the astronaut corps to accept a senior management position with Lockheed Martin.

Duffy, a veteran of four Space Shuttle flights and commander of STS-72 and STS-92, is now in Florida at the Kennedy Space Center. He considers the move to be the best option he had both personally and professionally. He has made a change in his involvement with the space program, but plans on regularly seeing some of his old friends.

"I was interested in remaining a part of the space business," Duffy said. "Coming here to the Kennedy Space Center seemed to be the best thing for me and for my family.... I'll be going back (to Houston) regularly, but I hope to see people I know when they come here."

Duffy's presence in the astronaut corps will be missed. During his 16 years of service his fellow astronauts learned so much from him that some say they still feel his influence.

"He is a natural leader who is sorely missed," said Astronaut Leroy Chiao, Ph.D., who flew with Duffy on STS-72 and STS-92.

"He's one of these guys who teaches you things and, at the time, you don't

even realize that you are learning from him," Chiao said. "Whenever I get into a tough situation nowadays, I just think 'What would Brian do?' And the answer always comes."

While Duffy's skills as a leader will be missed at JSC, former crewmates say they will also miss their good friend.



Astronaut Brian Duffy recently retired. He is a veteran of four Space Shuttle flights and was the commander of STS-72 and STS-92.

After spending years proving his abilities, many of his friends will feel a little more comfortable when they strap in for launch at KSC.

"His incredible leadership skills served NASA well in many jobs," said astronaut Pamela Melroy, who served as the pilot on STS-92. "He is a cherished friend to all his crewmates and we will miss him

and his family every day... We will all feel very secure launching from KSC knowing that he is in charge of Lockheed operations there."

In his most recent mission, STS-92 in October 2000, Duffy commanded a crew that continued assembly of the International Space Station by attaching the Z1 Truss and a pressurized mating adapter to the vehicle. He logged more than 40 days in space and flew in three different Space Shuttle orbiters.

Duffy believes his astronaut career has been rewarding.

"I not only met but exceeded all of my dreams," Duffy said. "I can honestly say that I gave it all I had and didn't leave anything behind."

As a Space Shuttle pilot, commander, spacecraft communicator and one-time Acting Deputy Director, Duffy had many responsibilities to ensure the success of whatever mission he was given. However, he is always ready to credit the team for the overall success of the human space flight mission.

"I've been honored to have been a part of the NASA/JSC team for the last 16 years," Duffy said. "I've learned that the success of the program is a direct result of the people who dedicate themselves to safely flying missions. They make the very difficult look very easy." ■

## Did You Know?

**Space Shuttle *Atlantis* is debuting a new engine, called the Block II configuration, during mission STS-104. The improvements over the old Block IIA should allow for safer, more reliable shuttle flights with more time between overhauls.**

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## NASA Web site attracts millions

Those with a specific subject in mind can search by at least a dozen different variables, such as city, latitude/longitude, date, geographical area, distinctive features, mission, cloud cover and focal length.

The site is also friendly to casual browsers since most of the pictures are only a few mouse clicks away. A clickable map also allows users to see, from beyond the atmosphere, destinations they have never visited.

The site has received awards ranging from Science Magazine's Site of the Year for 1999 to inclusion on several exclusive lists of recommended links. The site's most recent honors have come from the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and the National Science Teachers Association.

The AAAS, which placed the site on its Science NetLinks page, wrote a review praising the site's organization and amazing content.

"This excellent site, which offers a well-organized library of images of the earth taken by the astronauts from space, is a testament to NASA's goal of making space imagery accessible to the general public," reviewer Jonathan Gradie wrote. "This organizational approach sparked my imagination and I spent unanticipated, but thoroughly enjoyable, hours looking

at cities, islands, volcanoes and any number of natural phenomena from that special perspective of an astronaut."

Accolades for content and technical excellence are only one part of measuring the Web site's success; the other part is how many people visit the site. Over the course of a year, the Earth from Space Web site typically registers between

800,000 to a million "hits," or visits, from Internet users.

"This site is appropriate for anyone with an interest in the earth from space, from student to professional alike," Gradie wrote. "It serves not only as a source of imagery for classroom lessons or student research, but as a link to other wonderful NASA Web sites." ■

### Thunderstorms, Upper Gulf Coast, Texas June 1991

A number of large thunderstorms are visible crossing over the upper Texas Gulf Coast near Galveston Bay. Lake Anahuac and the upper portion of Trinity Bay are discernible between the clouds near the center of the image. During the late spring and summer months, thunderstorms will build in the early morning hours out over the Gulf of Mexico and along the Texas coast.

