Space News ROUNDUP!

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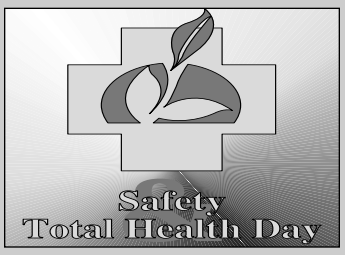

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Safety, Total Health Day to be bigger, better

The 1997 JSC Safety and Total Health Day on Oct. 15, will be bigger and better than last year and promises to touch the lives of every employee, providing new information and reinforcing what everyone should already know about being safer and healthier.

"Safety and good health are a person's most vital assets in living a full and productive life," said Larry Neu, co-chair of the Safety and Total Health Day Planning Committee along with Kelsey-Seybold's chief nurse, Lynn Hogan. "Recognizing this, JSC has set aside one day devoted entirely to safety and health education. We sincerely hope all employees can participate.

"There will be numerous information booths and displays that will be scattered around the pond area," Neu said. "Each booth is packed with information and the people staffing these booths are just bursting at the seams to teach you something about their particular subject. The booths will be staffed from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you come earlier than 10 a.m. we will put you to work!"

Central to Safety and Total Health Day is the program designed by individual management teams specifically for their employees' needs and interests. In most cases, the employees themselves have contributed to this planning as well.

Employees also will be able to explore personal safety and health issues on their own. Numerous booths will be located around the pond area and in selected buildings around the JSC main site. They will be staffed by professionals armed with detailed information and handout material.

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NASA Electronic Photo STS086E5402

The new Mir-24 crew, in the docking module between the Space Shuttle *Atlantis* and the Russian Mir Space Station, waves goodbye to the STS-86 *Atlantis* crew, as the two vehicles prepare to undock. The crew, from left, includes Commander Anatoly Solovyev; U.S. Astronaut Dave Wolf and Flight Engineer Pavel Vinogradov. Wolf, giving a thumbs up, replaced Mike Foale onboard Mir, during the seventh *Atlantis*/Mir docking mission. Foale returned to Earth with the crew of *Atlantis.* Wolf will return to Earth in January after four months of research aboard the orbiting complex.

Wolf arrives on board Mir, Foale returns

Astronaut Mike Foale returned home this week with the crew of the Space Shuttle *Atlantis*, ending his four-month stay aboard the Russian Mir Space Station, as compatriot Dave Wolf began settling in for his long-duration stay.

"I'm leaving behind good things, not bad things," Foale said as he prepared to leave Mir, in particular the friendships he had forged with Cosmonauts Anatoly Solovyev and Pavel Vinogradov, and with their predecessors, Vasily Tsibliev and Alexander Lazutkin.

"I'm looking forward to the adventure of learning how to walk again and to live in my house with my wife and children, get to know my wife again, date her again, maybe marry her again," Foale said.

Mir's new resident, Dave Wolf, gave Foale some tongue-in-cheek advice: "Be careful down there on Earth," said Wolf, who is scheduled to return to the blue planet on STS-89 in January 1998. "It's awful close to the ground and somebody could get hurt."

Foale, Wolf and the rest of *Atlantis*'s crew—Commander Jim Wetherbee, Pilot Mike Bloomfield and Mission Specialists Vladimir Titov, Scott Parazynski, Jean-Loup Chretien and Wendy Lawrence—worked with their

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Managers, partners verify station on track

By James Hartsfield

With the first launch nine months away, representatives of the 15 nations building the International Space Station gathered in Houston recently to finalize the station's assembly sequence and confirm that construction remains on target.

"All of the partners reported they were on schedule with their contributions to the station," International Space Station Program Manager Randy Brinkley said. "The first elements, the Functional Cargo Block and the U.S. Node 1, remain on track for launches next year. In September, during a General Designer's Review for the third element, the Russian Service Module, we were reassured by the Russian Space Agency that they can meet the scheduled launch date of December 1998."

The latest assembly sequence approved by the board maintains a launch of the European Space Agency's Columbus Orbital Facility in October 2002 and establishes the launch of a third connecting module, called Node 3, to the station. The Revision C Assembly Sequence had been approved in preliminary form during a May board meeting. The last 15 flights of the 45-flight sequence remained under review following the May meeting, pending further evaluation of launch date options for the Columbus module.

The Service Module, the first fully Russian contribution to the station, completed a critical milestone Sept. 12 when the general designer's review was held in Moscow. Under construction at the Khrunichev State Research and Production Space Center in Moscow, the module has progressed rapidly this summer. It remains on target for the December 1998 launch from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazahkstan.

Manufacturing of the module will

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Third phase of life support testing targets 90-day stay

By Linda Matthews-Schmidt

The next phase of testing of regenerative life support systems is under way at JSC as a crew of four is living and working in a closed chamber environment for 90 days to validate life support systems for future space exploration missions, such as to Mars.

Phase III of the Lunar-Mars Life Support Test Project began Sept. 19. Phase III Commander Nigel Packham, a 36-year-old Lockheed-Martin life support system scientist; and crew members Vickie Kloeris, 41, JSC's shuttle food system manager, John Lewis, 30, a Lockheed-Martin life support system engineer; and Laura Supra, 28, an Allied-Signal life support system engineer, plan to remain in the chamber until late December.

This is the fourth in a series of tests evaluating a variety of biological, mechanical, and chemical means to recycle all their air and water, and combina-

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JSC Photo 97-12483 by Nick Nelms

The Phase III crew of the Lunar-Mars Life Support Test Project is sealed into the chamber in Bldg. 7 on Sept. 19. From left are Test Manager Burt Laws, Controls System Engineer Pat O'Rear, the Phase III crew—Life Support Systems Specialist Laura Supra, Science Coordinator Vickie Kloeris, Life Support Systems Specialist John Lewis and Commander Nigel Packham—and Chief Facility Engineer David Staat.