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FIVE BEGIN TRAINING FOR FIRST SPACELAB FLIGHT

Five European and American scientists selected last July to operate the experiments on NASA's first Spacelab mission will begin training in the United States this month.

The training tour, which will take them to seven U. S. cities and two in Canada, will prepare them to operate the equipment associated with the scientific investigations previously identified to take place on the laboratory when it is carried into Earth orbit aboard the Space Shuttle in 1981.

The selection and training of these scientists to fly in space represents a departure from earlier NASA practices. They are not career astronauts, and were chosen for the mission by the scientists who devised the experiments to be flown. This will also be the first time that Western Europeans will fly in space and the first time that NASA will have orbited people from a country other than the United States.

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(NASA News-Release-78-198) FIVE BEGIN
TRAINING FOR FIRST SPACELAB FLIGHT (National
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Three of the Payload Specialists, as they are called, are from Europe. The first Spacelab mission, like the building of Spacelab itself, is a joint venture of NASA and the European Space Agency (ESA), a consortium of countries. Of the five men training for the mission, two -- a European and an American -- will actually go into space aboard Spacelab 1. The other three will operate the ground-based experiment equipment and will support the two in orbit. Selection of the Payload Specialists who will actually fly will not be made until later in the training cycle.

The Payload Specialists for Spacelab 1 are:

- Michael L. Lampton, University of California, Berkeley.
- Byron K. Lichtenberg, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- Ulf Merbold, German, Max Planck Institute, Stuttgart.
- Claude Nicollier, Swiss, European Space Technology Center.
- Wubbo Ockels, Dutch, Groningen University, Netherlands.

All five have just returned from Europe, where they had been in training since October, learning to operate the experiments which will be placed on Spacelab by European scientists.

The Payload Specialists will begin their first American training tour January 9, with a four-day session at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. The Marshall Center is NASA's lead center in the development of Spacelab itself, and is managing the first three missions.

After leaving Huntsville the Payload Specialists will train in the following locations.

Redondo Beach, Calif. -- Jan. 15-19

Huntsville, Ala. -- Jan. 22-24

Houston, Texas (Johnson Space Flight Center) -- Jan. 25-26

Philadelphia, Pa. -- Jan. 29 - Feb. 1.

Boston, Mass. -- Feb. 2-7

Montreal, Canada -- Feb. 8-9

Toronto, Canada -- Feb. 10-16

Houston, Texas -- Mar. 5-16

Palo Alto, Calif. -- Mar. 19-20

They will return to Huntsville on March 22.

Forty instruments will be flown aboard Spacelab 1.

The science payload is about equally divided between NASA and ESA experiments in terms of weight, power, and volume requirements. Investigations will be conducted in stratospheric and upper atmospheric physics, materials processing, space plasma physics, biology, medicine, astronomy, solar physics, Earth observations and in technology areas such as thermodynamics and lubrications.

The Marshall Center manages training activities in the U. S. as part of its overall management responsibility for the first three Spacelab missions. ESA manages training activities in Europe.

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