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Discovery ends secret military mission after high winds delayed landing 1 day

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Discovery's five astronauts, forced by high winds to remain in space an extra day, aimed Monday for an afternoon landing in California's Mojave Desert to end their secret military mission.

Astronaut Frederick Gregory, the first black man to command a shuttle mission, was to guide Discovery to a landing at 2:52 p.m. PST at Edwards Air Force Base. The five-day flight reportedly has put in orbit a satellite to monitor military communications over a wide area of the globe.

The weather outlook at Edwards was considerably better than Sunday, when 30 mph winds gusted across the runways, forcing NASA to "wave off" a landing just four hours before the planned touchdown.

The forecast called for clear skies, visibility of more than seven miles and winds of 12 mph, gusting to 17.

The delay shifted the touchdown from nighttime to daylight, during which landing rules are less stringent. A shuttle is not allowed to land at night if crosswinds exceed 12 mph. The figure

rises to 17 mph in daytime.

The space agency initially rescheduled the landing for 4:32 p.m., but then decided to bring the spacecraft home one orbit earlier, thereby reducing the sun's glare on Discovery's windows during the final descent.

It was the sixth time in 32 shuttle missions that a return to Earth has been postponed by bad weather.

The delay posed no threat to the five astronauts because they had enough fuel and other supplies to stay in orbit until Wednesday if necessary. NASA also has other landing sites at White Sands, N.M., and at Cape Canaveral but prefers the long, wide-open runways at Edwards.

Discovery's other crew members are pilot John Blaha and mission specialists Manley Carter Jr., Story Musgrave and Kathryn Thornton.

In announcing the landing delay, Mission Control said that the shuttle and its crew "continued to be in excellent condition." A Pentagon-imposed news blackout that affected most of the mission kept the space agency from discussing

the astronauts' reaction to the delay.

However, sources close to the project have said the astronauts achieved their main goal Thursday, the second day of the flight, when they released a two and a half-ton, \$300 million satellite designed to listen in on military and diplomatic communications in the Soviet Union, Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

The crew also reportedly conducted experiments related to the "Star Wars" missile defense system. It was believed the astronauts also performed research into how people can serve military observers in space.

As Discovery was ending its Thanksgiving mission, sister ship Columbia was being readied at Cape Canaveral for a 10-day Christmas mission during which five astronauts are to deploy a Navy communications satellite and retrieve a scientific satellite that has been orbiting the Earth for nearly six years.

Columbia was scheduled to be transported to launch pad on Tuesday.

Experts: food prices to rise

WASHINGTON (AP) — Food prices will go up again in 1990, but farm exports probably won't. Crop production may equal or exceed this year's output, but that will depend on the weather.

It's forecasting time at the Agriculture Department when hundreds of bureaucrats, economists, consultants, researchers, commodity traders, bankers, food processors and even a few farmers gather to hear the latest predictions.

Many foreign governments, notably the Soviet Union, Japan and members of the European Economic

Community, which provide much of the financial base for farmers, did well in 1989, reaching almost \$40 billion, the most since the record \$43.8 billion in 1981.

But exports in 1990? Department analysts have been saying those will be down because of lower prices and reduced volumes expected for some key commodities.

The net cash income of farmers rose to record levels in recent years, peaking at \$59.9 billion in 1988. This is the money farmers have left over in a calendar year after deducting cash expenses from gross cash income.

However, 1989 net cash income will drop to a range of \$52 billion to \$57 billion, according to USDA economists. That reflects greater expenses from more cropland being put back into production this year, along with sharp declines in government payments.

The outlook for 1990 farm income will depend greatly on national and international weather and crop situations, particularly for wheat, soybeans and feed grains. Livestock expansion — or contraction — also will reflect crops and markets.

Thus, the conference will attempt to fill in many of the gaps concerning the supply and demand for commodities in the coming year. But those aren't the only concerns.

"Conditions affecting farmers and rural Americans will be an important focus of Outlook '90, with such topics as farm finance, new action on rural development, rural transportation policy, and the well-being of rural families and children," organizers said.

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— Organizers, Outlook '90

Community also watch the annual conference for tidbits that may help their agricultural trade fortunes.

The department's 66th annual conference, Outlook '90, will run from noon Tuesday to noon Thursday. During that time, dozens of general sessions and individual meetings will cover the overall international and U.S. domestic situation, plus separate sessions for various commodities and other topics.

Much of the outlook for 1990 already has been described in general terms by USDA analysts in recent reports.

Kremlin gives in to Baltics

MOSCOW (AP) — Legislators on Monday approved major concessions from the Kremlin, granting the Baltic republics the right to issue their own currency and take a share of profits from centrally controlled factories.

After four months' work, the Supreme Soviet gave final approval to a plan launching Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia on the road to economic autonomy from Moscow beginning Jan. 1.

In other action, the legislators gave preliminary approval to the Soviet Union's first law explicitly repudiating years of press censorship.

Deputies from the tiny Baltic republic of Estonia smiled, stood and cheered after the legislature approved the economic independence measure on a vote of 296-67. Thirty-seven deputies abstained.

"It's a very big step forward," Lithuanian Communist Party chief Algirdas Brazauskas said in an interview after the vote.

ON CAMPUS

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Andrew "Cappy" Pelletier '85 Golf

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Carl "Wick" Gartley '84 Rabbit

Introducing seven members of the Delta Tau Delta Fraternity and their Volkswagens. We caught up with these brothers—University of Maine chapter—and snapped this photo before the snow came.

"Up here, winter is not a season to be taken lightly" explained fraternity President Andrew "Cappy" Pelletier. "A lot of people drive Volkswagens. They've got front wheel drive and


they're dependable. Especially when it's cold."

Brother Wick Gartley agreed, "I don't know how you happened to pick our fraternity. Seems like everyone up here drives a Volkswagen."

"I love my Vee Dub," offered Ben Maxcy. "I've got 135,000 miles on it and it's still running great."

Andrew Michaud, the newest Delt, had his mind on more important matters. "How's my car look?"

Where's this ad gonna run? Will girls see it? At the Delta Tau Delta Fraternity in Orono, Maine—even the cook drives a Volkswagen.

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If you drive a Volkswagen, you might be selected to appear in an ad like the one above. Send your story and a photo to: Volkswagen Testimonials • 187 S. Woodward, Suite 200 • Birmingham, MI 48009