

# 'All systems go' for spaceship Columbia

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Joe Engle and Richard Truly arrived at the Cape Monday, eager and ebullient, and said they are "more than ready" for the mid-week launch of space shuttle Columbia. The ship, on Launch Pad 39A, was pronounced as fit as the crew.

If the countdown continues well and the weather cooperates, the shuttle will blastoff at 7:30 a.m. EST Wednesday and become the first ship returning to space a second time.

"Columbia's ready and Joe and I are more than ready," Truly said. "We're all set to go." Engle, commander for the shuttle flight, said: "We're ready to go. We're going to tune up and polish up tomorrow."

Before leaving Houston, the astronauts passed a half-hour physical examination Monday at Johnson Space Center. Things were going so well for Columbia on the launch site that some tasks were moved ahead in the schedule to get them out of the way.

"Since we got into the count, everything has gone bang, bang, bang," said shuttle test manager Donald "Deke" Slayton. He said the countdown was smoother than preparations for Columbia's maiden flight last April.

Columbia will carry Air Force Col. Engle and Navy Capt. Truly high above Earth at 17,000 mph for five days and 83 orbits.

The astronauts were smiling, relaxed and obviously in a happy frame of mind.

After their arrival remarks, Engle and Truly were taking T-38 trainer planes back up for some aerobatics to adjust their inner ears to accelerations and thereby reduce the possibility of motion sickness in orbit. Said Slayton: "It's a good way for them to unwind."

The launch day weather forecast was in the acceptable range, with scattered clouds, winds of 12 mph and visibility at 7 miles.

If it rains Wednesday, after super-cold fuels have been loaded into Columbia's huge external fuel tank, the flight would have to be delayed at least two days. The moisture could freeze on the outside of the tank and chunks of ice could vibrate off at blastoff to damage the vehicle.

On the day before their big flight, the first in orbit for both military pilots, Engle and Truly will "probably be goofing off mostly," Slayton said.

Their schedule today calls for a 5:30 a.m. breakfast, a sunrise visit to the launch pad, and a few hours doing emergency landing practice in a plane that handles like the Columbia. They'll go to bed early and will be awakened at 2:40 a.m. on launch morning.

The Columbia is scheduled to land next Monday at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

## TV plans coverage

NEW YORK (AP) — The three major TV networks will provide live coverage of the second flight of the space shuttle Columbia, beginning at 6 a.m. Wednesday.

Cable News Network also will report live from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida on the launching scheduled for 7:30 a.m. EST.

All four networks will follow the flight with live and special reports through the scheduled

landing at 11:40 a.m. Monday, Nov. 9.

Launch coverage will begin at 6 a.m. Wednesday on all three major TV networks. Coverage will continue to 9:30 a.m. on ABC and 10 a.m. on CBS and NBC.

First-day coverage on the three networks and CNN will include the final countdown, lift-off, the first orbital engine burn and the first TV pictures from the spacecraft.

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| AR Eugene              | 9:55a    | 11:25a    | 6:10p  | 11:00p   | LV Eugene            | 6:25a    | 10:35a | 4:10p    |

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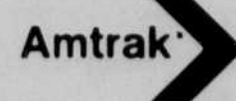
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