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INVADING MARS

A Preview of NASA's Mars Exploration Program Pre-Launch Mission Briefing

In November 1996, NASA and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory will begin America's return to Mars after a 20-year absence since the Viking missions in 1976. That month, Mars Global Surveyor will be launched on a Delta II from CCAS Launch Complex 17A to perform the most comprehensive orbital study of any planet in the history of space exploration. In December, NASA will launch Mars Pathfinder from Complex 17B. After reaching the red planet, Pathfinder will crash land on the surface at fantastic speeds, protected only by airbags. Then, a microrover will be deployed to drive around the Martian surface to collect data.

By studying Mars, the next target for human exploration in space, NASA scientists hope to gain insight into the formation and evolution of Earth and the inner solar system. Take advantage of a unique opportunity to learn about these missions as we begin a new and exciting phase in the exploration of Mars. This talk will preview the two missions as well as describe NASA's future plans for exploring the red planet over the next decade.

**Speaker: Wayne Lee Mission Planner for Mars Operations
NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory**

Mission Briefing Rm.

July 8, 1996

9:00 a.m.

Question & Answer Session To Follow Briefing