

## GENERAL NOTES

**Note 1, STS Mission Numbers:** Throughout the text, the Shuttle mission numbering system follows the historical designations, whereby the missions were numbered sequentially, starting with STS-1, up through STS-9. A “new” numbering system was implemented in 1984 with STS-41B, to designate when (using the last digit of the fiscal year) and where (1 for Kennedy Space Center and 2 for Vandenberg Air Force Base) a given Shuttle mission was scheduled to launch, plus its sequential position in the launch schedule (A=1, B=2, etc.). In the aftermath of the *Challenger* accident (STS-51L) in 1986, the new numbering system was abandoned, as was the idea of launching from Vandenberg. Thus, NASA returned to numbering Shuttle missions sequentially, beginning with STS-26, the Return to Flight mission. For a variety of reasons, including weather delays and technical problems, Shuttle missions often did not fly in their correct numerical order.

**Note 2, Force units/measurements:** Three force units/measurements are used in this report, pounds per square inch (psi), pounds per square inch, absolute (psia), and pounds per square inch, gauge (psig). Pounds per square inch is a unit of pressure resulting from a force of one pound-force applied to an area of one square inch. The pounds per square inch, absolute, measurement includes atmospheric pressure, whereas pounds per square inch, gauge, excludes atmospheric pressure.