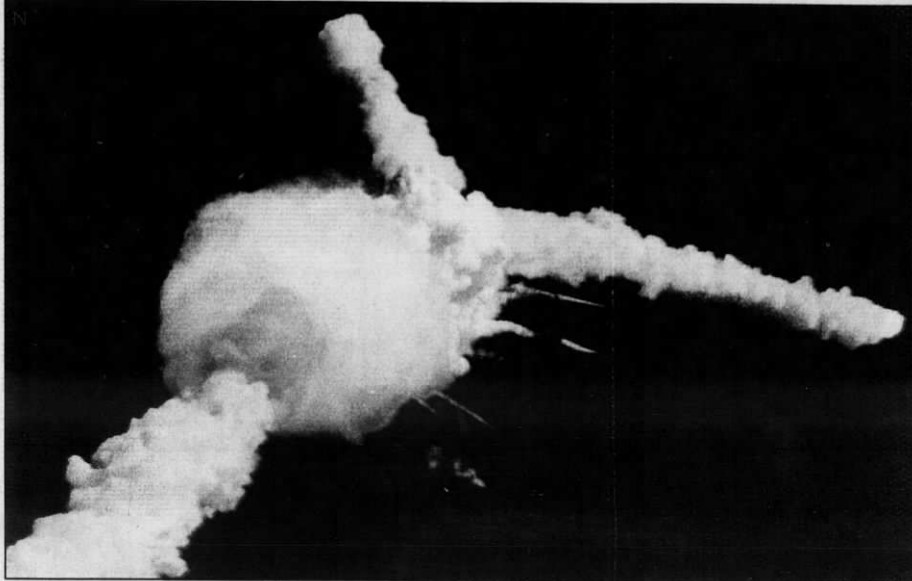


The Arizona Daily Star

© 1986 The Arizona Daily Star

Vol. 145 No. 34 **BEST AVAILABLE COPY** Final Edition, Tucson, Wednesday, January 29, 1986 35c

'We mourn 7 heroes' Shuttle program will continue, Reagan vows



Challenger's huge external fuel tank explodes into a fireball, and pieces of the space shuttle and its booster rockets start to fly wildly over the Atlantic

Launching pattern



Space shuttle explodes

10.35 miles high
8.05 miles downrange from launching pad



July Margolis, The Arizona Daily Star

The path, the crew — Challenger lifts off normally, but then explodes, shortly before the shuttle would have shed its booster rockets and continued its journey. Members of the crew

were, from left: in front row, Michael J. Smith, Francis R. Scobee and Ronald E. McNair; in back row, Ellison S. Onizuka, Christa McAuliffe, Gregory B. Jarvis and Judith Resnik.

Challenger explodes; teacher, 6 others die

By Howard Benedict

The Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A catastrophic explosion blew apart the space shuttle Challenger 74 seconds after liftoff yesterday, sending schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe and six NASA astronauts to a fiery death in the sky eight miles out from Kennedy Space Center.

"We mourn seven heroes," President Reagan said.

The accident defied quick explanation, though a slow-motion replay seemed to show a flame or other abnormality on one of two post-away rocket boosters, followed by the detonation of the shuttle's huge external fuel tank. The tank burst into a fireball destroyed Challenger high above the Atlantic Ocean while crew families and NASA officials watched in despair from the Cape.

Other observers noted that the boosters continued to fly crazily through the sky after the explosion, indicating that the problem might have originated in the giant tank itself.

"We will not speculate as to the specific cause of the explosion based on that footage," said Jesse Moore, NASA's top shuttle administrator. National Aeronautics and Space Administration officials are organizing an investigating board, and Moore said it will take a "careful review" of all data "before we can reach any conclusions."

Never before in 50 manned space missions had Americans died in flight. Jan Glen, a former astronaut, recalled that three astronauts died in a launch-pad training accident in 1967.

See TEACHER, Page 5A

The inside story

- Reagan postpones the State of the Union speech for a day of mourning. Page 5A.
- Tucsonans remember Dick Scobee for his spirit. Page 4A.
- Challenger explodes 19 years and a day after an Apollo fire killed 3. Page 10A.
- Transcript of the mission's final words. Page 5A.
- The tragedy will almost certainly delay future flights. Page 10A.
- A Star editorial and cartoon pay homage. Page 12A.
- More stories on the shuttle. Pages 2A and 4B.
- News summaries of the day's other stories are on Page 2A.

Weather

Not so bright. Mild winter weather will continue today, but the forecast calls for increasing high clouds. The high should be in the upper 70s, with the low in the mid-40s.

Yesterday's high was 86, and the overnight low was 45. Details on Page 2A.

Index

Arrest	1-30	Horwepo	4D
Actualities	11a	Moony	4B
Bridge	7D	Mexico	4B
Classified	4C-4E	Obituaris	4C
Comics	4D	Public records	4C
Comment	12-14	Sports	14C
Correspondent	4D	Tucson, Arizona	2B
Dear Abby	2D	Tucson today	2D
Dr. Cost	2D	TV/radio	7D