



The Chandra Observatory will be carried into orbit by the Space Shuttle Columbia, on shuttle mission STS 93. The space shuttle commander for this mission will be Col. Eileen Collins, USAF, NASA. Colonel Collins will be the first woman to command a space shuttle mission. The shuttle pilot will be Cmdr. Jeff Ashby, USN, NASA. Dr. Steven Hawley, NASA, Dr. Cady Coleman, Maj. USAF, NASA, and Col. Michel Tognini, of the French Air Force and French Space Agency, will be the mission specialists in charge of carrying out the scientific objectives of the mission.

Eileen Collins was born in Elmira, New York. She is married to Pat Youngs. They have one child. She enjoys running, golf, hiking, camping, reading, photography, and astronomy. She graduated from Elmira Free Academy, Elmira, New York, and received degrees from Corning Community College and Syracuse University and a master of arts degree in space systems management from Webster University. Before becoming an astronaut, Col. Collins was an instructor pilot at the Air Force Academy in Colorado. She has logged over 5,000 hours in 30 different types of aircraft, over 400 hours in space. In 1995 she became the first woman to pilot the space shuttle.

Jeffrey S. Ashby was born in Dallas, Texas and raised in the Colorado mountains. In his spare time he likes to ski, backpack and go fly-fishing. Major Ashby graduated from Evergreen High School, Evergreen, Colorado, received a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Idaho and a master of science degree in aviation systems from the University of Tennessee. He is a Top Gun aviator and test pilot with over 6000 flight hours, 1000 carrier landings, and 33 combat missions during Operation Desert Storm. This will be his first flight into space.

Steven A. Hawley was born in Ottawa, Kansas and grew up in Salina, Kansas. He is married to the former Eileen Keegan. He enjoys basketball, softball, golf, running, playing bridge, and umpiring. Hawley graduated from Salina (Central) High School; received a bachelor's degree in physics and astronomy from the University of Kansas and a Ph.D. in astronomy and astrophysics from the University of California in 1977. This will be Dr. Hawley's fifth flight on a space shuttle mission. Altogether, he has logged 650 hours in space.

Catherine G. "Cady" Coleman was born in Charleston, South Carolina. Married, she enjoys flying, scuba diving, sports, and music. She graduated from W.T. Woodson High School, in Fairfax, Virginia, received a bachelor of science degree in chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a Ph.D. in polymer science and engineering from the University of Massachusetts. Dr. Coleman, who is also a Major in the U.S. Air Force, was a mission specialist on a previous space shuttle Columbia flight, in 1995.

Michel Tognini was born in Vincennes, France. He is married to the former Elena Vassilievna. They have four children. Hobbies include Aeroclub, parachuting and parenting, tennis, wind-surfing, water-skiing, snow-skiing, cross-country running, wave-surfing and microcomputers. Col. Tognini was educated at Lycee de Cachan, Paris. He received an advanced mathematics degree from Epa Grenoble, and an engineering degree from Ecole de l'Air (the French Air Force Academy). He is an experienced test pilot and made his first space flight on board the Soyuz spacecraft.