

AVIATION WEEK & SPACE TECHNOLOGY

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UNITED'S STRATEGY FOR CHANGING TIMES

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SPECIAL REPORT - PART I



ARE FUEL TANKS SAFE ENOUGH?

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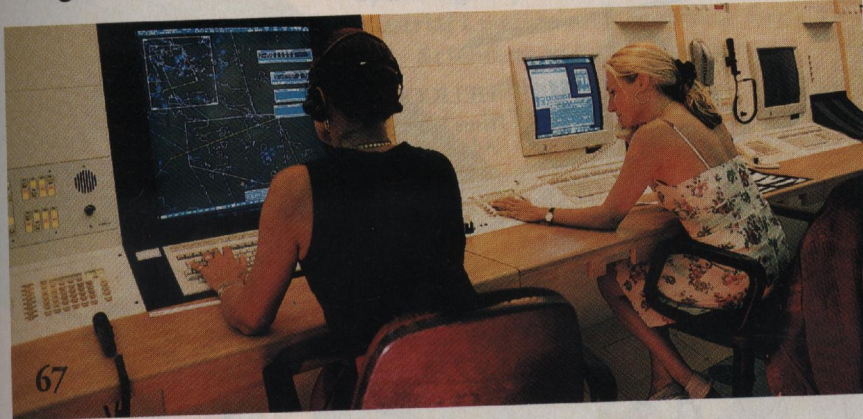
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AVIATION WEEK & SPACE TECHNOLOGY

About the Cover

United Airlines Boeing 777, on final approach to Newark (N.J.) International Airport, is one of the aircraft serving the carrier's expanding global network (see p. 54). Photo by Joseph Pries.



HEADLINE NEWS

Russia and U.S. chart daring Mir salvage

Station crisis forces unprecedented space cooperation; orbiting crew readied for effort to save vehicle 22

Crew describes collision: 'We are alive, thank God'

U.S. astronaut radios description to Earth about what collision was like for him and Russian cosmonauts 23

Waltz by Mathilde is Nearly perfect

Spacecraft images asteroid that is both common and unusual 25

FCC awards licenses for more 'Big LEOs'

Ventures plan international mobile phone services via small satellites in non-geosynchronous orbits 29

<http://www.awgnet.com>

Aviation Week's Web site offers daily news updates, a gallery of photos and features from special issues. Its Safety Resource Center features the Windsock virtual dialog area and links to other aerospace sites.

We're available on CompuServe, too; just GO AWG.

Countdown change allows shuttle to elude storms

Initial science ops in Columbia's Spacelab module were going smoothly 30

ISS mating adapter to launch on STS-88

To connect U.S. and Russian modules 30

U.S.-built node for ISS begins design checks

Shipped to Kennedy Space Center launch site, a major milestone 30

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Needs more than additional delays to weapon programs 32

Raytheon, rivals score with TI compromise

Raytheon must sell TI unit that designs and produces gallium arsenide high-power amplifier MMICs 45

New Sukhoi boss sets strategies

Plans to speed up development of the Su-37 and -34 combat aircraft

Turkey judged 'vulnerable' as NATO prepares to expand

Enemies bent on severing Ankara's close and long-standing ties to NATO and Washington

Boeing prepares EKV for hit-to-kill test

To be evaluated against target launched as part of Ground-Based Interceptor program

JSF manufacturing combed for 25% cut

Program officials assemble reforms to save manufacturing costs

AIR TRANSPORT

Agencies face off over TWA

FAA officials argue that a fire in wing tank may have spread to the center tank, causing explosion

Bombardier repairs cracks in RJ bulkheads

One apparently responsible for failure of cabin air pressure to achieve the 8.3-psi. standard