

STS-75 Pilot Andrew Allen:

Date: Friday, April 21, 2000 10:59:51 AM

From: Andrew.M.Allen@USAHQ.....

Jim,

As far as the question about floating objects that we see, it is mostly debris and Orbiter induced particulates. We see a lot of dust, ice, and other debris collected in the vehicle during ground processing (it's very clean but not perfectly clean) that will dislodge or float up in zero gravity. We also see a lot of crystals and particles as remnants from water dumps, RCS firings, OMS firings, etc.

Contrary to what some folks may think, there is no direction or effort for astronauts to restrict their conversations and observations. The only exception, which no longer applies, was when we were flying classified payloads on our DOD missions and could only discuss the payload under a need to know. It is utterly impossible that all those who travelled in space from many different countries would have adhered to any restrictions.

Andy



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Allen is front row center