



SpaceX Launches Classified Payload for NRO

Description

A classified payload for the National Reconnaissance Office, known as NROL-95, is set to launch on Thursday, July 30. The mission will take place at Space Launch Complex 40, located at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. Liftoff is scheduled for 3:10 a.m. EDT (0710 UTC).

SpaceX will provide live coverage of the event, starting about one hour before the launch. Meteorologists from the 45th Weather Squadron predict a 70% chance of suitable weather for the launch. They are keeping an eye on possible cloud cover and thunderstorms that might affect the launch.

Weather officers noted that there is some uncertainty about the weather during the overnight hours. This means the risk of weather issues during both the primary and secondary launch windows is higher than usual for summer launches. However, they still see a good chance for acceptable weather.

The Falcon 9 rocket used for this mission has the tail number B1096. This launch will be its seventh flight, following several previous missions including NASA's IMAP and Starlink 6-87. After liftoff, B1096 aims to land at Landing Zone 2 at Cape Canaveral, marking the 18th landing at that site and the 642nd successful booster landing for SpaceX.

The NROL-95 mission is part of a contract managed by the U.S. Space Force's Space Systems Command, awarded to SpaceX in August 2024.

Vocabulary List:

1. **classified** /'klæsɪfaɪd/ (adjective): kept secret by a government or group
2. **payload** /'peɪləʊd/ (noun): things carried by a vehicle or rocket
3. **reconnaissance** /rɪ'kɒnəsəns/ (noun): looking or learning about a place or people
4. **meteorologists** /,mi:tɪə'rɒlədʒɪsts/ (noun): people who study or predict the weather
5. **uncertainty** /ʌn'sɜ:tənti/ (noun): not being sure about a future condition
6. **booster** /'bu:stə/ (noun): a part of a rocket that gives power

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice



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1. What is the launch date for the NROL-95 mission?
Option: July 30
Option: August 28
Option: September 12
Option: June 25
 2. At what time is liftoff scheduled for the NROL-95 mission?
Option: 1:00 a.m. EDT
Option: 3:10 a.m. EDT
Option: 5:45 a.m. EDT
Option: 7:30 a.m. EDT
 3. Which rocket is being used for the NROL-95 mission?
Option: Falcon Heavy
Option: Falcon 9
Option: Atlas V
Option: Delta IV
 4. What is the tail number of the Falcon 9 rocket for this mission?
Option: B1095
Option: B1096
Option: B1097
Option: B1098
 5. Which organization is managing the NROL-95 contract?
Option: NASA
Option: U.S. Space Force
Option: National Reconnaissance Office
Option: SpaceX
 6. What percentage chance of suitable weather did meteorologists predict for the launch?
Option: 50%
Option: 60%
Option: 70%
Option: 80%

True-False



7. The NROL-95 mission is set to launch at Cape Kennedy.
8. Live coverage of the NROL-95 launch will begin one hour before liftoff.
9. The Falcon 9 rocket is making its first flight with the NROL-95 mission.
10. Meteorologists predict a 30% chance of unsuitable weather for the launch.
11. The NROL-95 mission will take place at Space Launch Complex 40.
12. B1096 will land at Landing Zone 2 after the NROL-95 launch.

Gap-Fill

13. The NROL-95 mission is scheduled to launch on July 30 at _____ a.m. EDT.
14. Live coverage of the NROL-95 launch will be provided by _____ .
15. There is a _____ chance of suitable weather for the NROL-95 launch.
16. The Falcon 9 rocket used in this mission has the tail number _____ .
17. The NROL-95 mission is part of a contract managed by the U.S. Space Force's _____
Command.
18. This launch will mark the _____ successful booster landing for SpaceX.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. July 30 2. 3:10 a.m. EDT 3. Falcon 9 4. B1096 5. U.S. Space Force 6. 70%

True-False: 7. False 8. True 9. False 10. False 11. True 12. True

Gap-Fill: 13. 3:10 14. SpaceX 15. 70% 16. B1096 17. Space Systems 18. 642nd

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL3

POST TAG

1. classified payload



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2. ESL learning
 3. esl news
 4. Level 3
 5. National Reconnaissance Office
 6. spaceX

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Date Created

2026/07/30

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