

Re: MMU Question

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In article <g%X%d.178296\$pc5.144297@tornado.tampabay.rr.com>, LooseChanj <really@cfl.rr.com> wrote:

>...Someone is arguing if the MMU were to fail, the poor astro is
>screwed. I'm thinking it would be relatively easy to just fly the orbiter
>over, and either grabbing him with the RMS or scooping him up in the payload
>bay...

The arm can't grab him because he doesn't have a grapple fixture. But of course, he can grab the arm. Or the cargo bay.

Yes, this was the backup for a major MMU failure (pretty unlikely in itself, mind you, because the MMU is highly redundant).

>And one more thing, what
>sort of failure modes did the MMUs have? What could have possibly stranded
>an astro out riding one?

Given the number of built-in backups in the hardware, the main risk was just getting too ambitious with the maneuvers, and running out of nitrogen for the thrusters.

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"Think outside the box -- the box isn't our friend."		Henry Spencer
-- George Herbert		henry@spsystems.net