

## Re: Will NASA cease retrieving SRBs?

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- *From:* "Jeff Findley" <[jeff.findley@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:jeff.findley@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
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"Herb Schaltegger" <[herb.schaltegger@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:herb.schaltegger@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message [news:0001HW.C12830FC01613246F0284530@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:0001HW.C12830FC01613246F0284530@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

It just occurred to me this morning while watching NASA TV's pre-launch coverage during some talk about the SRB recovery ships that at some point in the next dozen launches or so (perhaps substantially less), there will be no real logistical need to retrieve the SRBs. Enough flight-rated segments will be refurbished or in the pipeline so that it won't be necessary to recover the boosters from a logistical standpoint. I understand they are always useful from a post-flight forensics standpoint (to check for O-ring performance and examine for unusual stress/strain or corrosion, et cetera), but with so few flights left, do such concerns justify the costs of retrieval? Especially since sometime in the near future (if it hasn't happened already), there will be no necessity to refurbish the flown segments at all.

What are your thoughts?

They'll want to keep recovering them because they hope to use them for Ares I/V. If Griffin gets his way, business as usual will prevail.

Jeff

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"They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety"

– B. Franklin, Bartlett's Familiar Quotations (1919)

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