



# Briefing Sheet: Evacuation Team

## Sept 4, 1996: Team Information

### The Mission

Barring any new developments on Montserrat, at the beginning of the e-Mission, the Space Shuttle's crew will repair the Low Earth Orbiting Satellite. If the repairs are successful, you will begin to receive important data that will update your Emergency Response Teams on the situation both on Montserrat and within 500 miles of the island.

You will plan and direct the evacuation of the island based on advice from the hurricane and volcano teams.

Good luck,  
Mission Control

### Team Tasks

Your team needs to have people in charge of the following tasks:

1. **Runner to Comm Team.** Select one or two spokespersons to send and receive messages with the Communications Team
2. **Runner to Volcano Team.** Select one spokesperson to talk to the Volcano Team
3. **Runner to Hurricane Team.** Select one spokesperson to talk to the Hurricane Team
4. **Recorder.** Select one person to write down all questions from Mission Control and to respond to mission control using the Communications or data officers. This person should also write down any decisions you take and effects they have.
5. **Reporter.** Select one person to update a white board every few minutes so that each team can tell what is going on at a glance.

### Fast Facts about Montserrat

[source: CIA World Factbook 1995]

- **Location:** Eastern Caribbean, 16° 45 minutes North latitude and 62° 12 minutes West longitude
- **Area:** 100 sq. km./ 40 sq. mi. Coastline: 40 km.
- **Climate:** tropical
- **Population:** 13,000
- **Life expectancy:** 78 years
- **Ethnic groups:** black, white
- **Religions:** Anglican, Methodist, Roman Catholic, other Christian denominations
- **Language:** English
- **Literacy:** 97 percent
- **Economy:** unstable because of volcanic activity
- **Industries:** tourism, rum, textiles, electronic appliances
- **Agriculture:** cabbages, carrots, cucumbers, tomatoes, onions, hot peppers, livestock products, limes
- **Currency:** About 5 East Caribbean dollars equals £1 Sterling.
- **Transportation system:** Montserrat is a relatively poor economy so everyone does not have a car. Most public transportation originates from Plymouth City. This consists of a fleet of 8 buses. Each bus can hold approximately 30-40 passengers. The main road that circle Montserrat is Windy Hill Road. It is a 2 lanes paved road.
- **Dependency status:** overseas territory of the United Kingdom
- **National bird:** Montserrat oriole (black and yellow, native to Montserrat's mountains)



- **Capital:** Plymouth
- **Flag:** blue, with flag of UK in one corner and Montserrat's coat of arms
- **National flower:** lobster claw (banana-like plant with showy bracts)

## Montserrat: Background Information

### Montserrat: The Caribbean As It Used to Be June 26, 1988

For centuries Montserrat was a small, half-forgotten island in the Caribbean, overshadowed by the more coveted islands of Antigua to the northeast and Guadeloupe to the south. It is only 14 miles long by 8 miles wide, and it has only one port of entry, Plymouth, the only town of any size. From the azure seas that surround the island, the lush, fertile terrain quickly rises to a series of peaks of volcanic origin. The highest is Chance's Peak at 3,000 feet. Because of Montserrat's small size, lack of alternate ports, and hilly terrain, the island never played a leading role in the West Indian sugar industry. But what was once a drawback has now become a tremendous asset. Montserrat remains a peaceful, unspoiled, friendly place. It is poised to become a coveted tourist destination for adventurous travellers.

Montserrat has one airport, and most visitors arrive here by small plane from Antigua. As you cross the mountains on a narrow paved road to reach Portsmouth, you realize why it has been nicknamed the Emerald Isle of the Caribbean. The scrub vegetation and turquoise waters along the coast give way inland to a deep-green rainforest where huge tree ferns and philodendron leaves lord over tiny pink impatiens and wild orchids. Many trails lead through these forests. The most popular trails lead to the island's natural wonders. At the Great Alps Falls the stream drops 70 feet into a lovely natural grotto. The Soufriere Hills are blanketed with rainforest and volcanic peaks. Galway's

Soufriere is a surreal setting of bubbling muddy water, steamy fumaroles, hot sulphurous springs, and other volcanic curiosities. Galway's Plantation is the newly excavated ruins of a 17th-century plantation. And the

Bamboo Forest features bamboo canes up to 80 feet high that creak in the gentle winds that rise from the sea. The government is committed to maintaining these trails and developing new ones. With few cars, more than one hundred miles of paved roads, extremely friendly people, beautiful trails, and government support, Montserrat is a hiker's paradise.



Montserrat is nicknamed the Emerald Isle for more reasons than its physical similarities with the island of Ireland. Among the original European settlers were Irish Catholics who migrated here from the British island of St. Kitts. Many place names, such as Galway, hark back to those times.



Some people swear that Montserratians speak with a bit of the Irish brogue. St. Patrick's Day is a national holiday, and visitors' passports are stamped with a shamrock!

When you reach the capital of Plymouth, home to a quarter of the island's 13,000 residents and reputed to be the cleanest town in the Caribbean, you get the feeling you have gone back in time to the reign of the British Empire. Large shade trees and Georgian-style homes, reputedly built from the ballast brick of early sailing vessels (gold and other treasures became the ballast for the return voyage to Europe), line the town's main street. Set on a hill, Government House is vintage Victorian architecture surrounded by tropical gardens. Two shops



sell beautifully made towels, shawls, and other items woven out of locally grown sea-island cotton. The beach here (like

most beaches on Montserrat) has black sand, a quaint reminder of the island's volcanic past. Rendezvous Bay is Montserrat's only pale-sand beach.

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Beginning in the 1970s, famous rock stars began visiting our island! Did you know that the Englishman George Martin, producer of most of the Beatles' albums, installed a complete state-of-the-art recording facility on a hilltop above Plymouth, and singers the likes of Jimmy Buffett were often glimpsed in town! We have a medical school, and its students rent our rooms, eat our food, and explore our island, greatly adding to the modest economy.

When Hurricane Hugo churned over us in 1989, we suffered great damage. Crops were lost, trees were downed, and many houses lost their roofs. But we recovered, and five years later the ravages of the hurricane were scarcely noticed by newcomers to the island.