

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
John F. Kennedy Space Center



Michael A. Seay
Network & Security Systems Engineer

Communications Services Branch

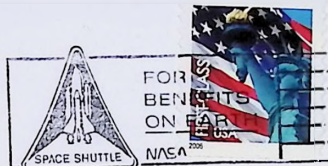
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Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899

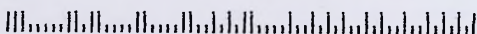
(321) 867-4117

Michael.Seay@nasa.gov

Michael A. Seay
995 Luna Terrace
Titusville, FL 32796



Denise Carroll
7 Blackstone Dr. #54
Nashua, NH 03063



SPACE SHUTTLE (STS-121/DISCOVERY)

During the STS-121 mission to the International Space Station (ISS), Space Shuttle Discovery's crew will continue to test new equipment and procedures that increase Shuttle safety. STS-121, also designated Utilization Logistics Flight (ULF-1.1), is the second and final mission in the Return to Flight sequence and the 18th station flight since 1998. Discovery will carry NASA's Italian-built pressurized multi-purpose logistics module on its fourth trip to the station, known as Leonardo, that will contain more than two tons of equipment and supplies for future station expansion. In addition, two large orbital replacement units will be delivered to ISS, in which one will replace a failed mechanism which powers the station's mobile transporter. Three spacewalks, or EVAs, are planned during the 12-day mission that will test the 50-foot robotic arm boom extension and test techniques for inspecting the reinforced carbon-carbon segments that protect the Shuttle's nose cone and wing leading edges. One crew member will stay behind aboard the orbiting outpost after Discovery's mission is complete.

THE STS-121 CREW – Three-time Shuttle flier **Steven W. Lindsey**, selected as an astronaut in 1995, will be making his fourth spaceflight as Discovery's commander; his second as commander. The pilot for Discovery is **Mark E. Kelly**, making his second space trip, has been an astronaut with NASA since 1996. The STS-121 Mission Specialists that have not yet flown in space are: **Michael E. Fossum**, **Stephanie D. Wilson**, and **Lisa M. Nowak**. Both Wilson and Nowak were selected in the same 1996 astronaut group. Fossum, selected as an astronaut in 1998, is one of two assigned mission spacemen. His companion spaceman is **Piers J. Sellers**, a mission specialist astronaut since 1996, and a veteran of almost 20 EVA hours during three spacewalks. European Space Agency astronaut **Thomas Reiter** of Germany will work with the station crew and will return to Earth on a future Shuttle mission or a Russian Soyuz spacecraft. He logged 179 days in space more than 10 years ago aboard the Russian Space Station Mir and performed two EVAs.

THE STS-121 CREW INSIGNIA – The STS-121 eight-sided patch depicts the Shuttle Discovery docked with the ISS in the foreground, overlaying the astronaut symbol with three columns and a star. The Earth-orbiting ISS is shown in the configuration that it will be in during the STS-121 flight. The background of the mission emblem shows the nighttime Earth with a dawn breaking over the horizon.

**I just wanted to check in and let you
know that I am still working for**

NASA at the

John F. Kennedy Space Center

in Florida and am getting along just fine.

**We have been very busy these last
several months getting ready for
'Return To Flight' in early July, 2006.**