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SPACE SHUTTLE (STS-52/COLUMBIA)

STS-52 CREW INSIGNIA — The STS-52 crew patch, designed by the crewmembers, features a large gold star to symbolize the crew's mission on the frontiers of space. A gold star is often used to symbolize the frontier period of the American West. The red star in the shape of the Greek letter lambda represents both the laser measurements to be taken from the Laser Geodynamic Satellite (LAGEOS II) and the Lambda Point Experiment, which is part of the United States Microgravity Payload (USMP-1). The LAGEOS II is a joint Italian/U.S. satellite project intended to further our understanding of global plate tectonics. The USMP-1 is a microgravity facility which has French and U.S. experiments designed to test the theory of cooperative phase transitions and to study the solid/liquid interface of a metallic alloy in the low gravity environment. The shuttle remote manipulator and maple leaf are emblematic of the Canadian payload specialist who will conduct a series of Canadian flight experiments (CANEX-2), including the Space Vision System test. The 6-member crew of STS-52/Columbia will be commanded by James D. Wetherbee and piloted by Michael A. Baker. Payload Commander is Tamara E. Jernigan with Mission Specialists William M. Shepherd, Charles Lacy Veach and Canadian Payload Specialist Steven G. MacLean.