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SPACE SHUTTLE (STS-53/DISCOVERY)

STS-53 CREW INSIGNIA — The STS-53 crew patch, designed by the crewmembers, shows the Space Shuttle Discovery rising to new achievements as it trails the symbol of the Astronaut Office against a backdrop of the American flag. The five stars and the three stripes serve to symbolize the mission designation (STS-53) and our nation's continuing commitment to world leadership in space. The 5-sided pentagonal shape of the emblem represents the Department of Defense and its support of the Space Shuttle program. The band delineating the flag from space includes the four colors of the military services of the astronaut crew. Along with its classified DOD-1 primary payload, Discovery will carry two secondary payloads and nine middeck experiments into orbit on the six-day mission. Commander of the five-man crew is David M. Walker, making his third space flight. Pilot Robert D. Cabana is making his second trip into space. Mission Specialist 1 Guion S. Bluford has the most time in space of any of the crew, more than 500 hours, from his three shuttle missions. James S. Voss, who is mission specialist 2, previously flew on a shuttle flight in 1991, while mission specialist 3, Michael R. (Rich) Clifford, is making his first trip into space.