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SPACE SHUTTLE (STS-127 / ENDEAVOUR)

Space Shuttle Mission STS-127 will be the final of a series of three flights dedicated to the International Space Station (ISS) assembly of the Japanese "Kibo" laboratory complex. A Japanese module exposed facility will be added to the station that will provide a type of "front porch" for experiments in the outside exposed-space environment. The planned 16-day flight of Endeavour, also designated as ISS Flight 2J/A, will be the 29th shuttle mission to visit the space station and the 32nd construction flight of the orbiting outpost. Five spacewalks and the operation of four different robotic arms are required to complete the mission tasks. In addition, STS-127 will deliver a new ISS/Expedition crew member and return another one back to Earth.

THE STS-127 CREW — A veteran astronaut, **Mark L. Polansky** will lead the STS-127 crew. Twice flown, he has logged over 618 hours in space since becoming an astronaut in 1996. First-time space flier **Douglas G. Hurley**, an astronaut since 2000, will be the shuttle pilot. Lead spacewalker **David A. Wolf**, a mission specialist astronaut for almost 2 decades, has logged nearly 158 days in space and over 23 spacewalk hours. Canadian astronaut **Julie Payette** makes her second space trip after logging 465 hours in space since becoming an astronaut in 1992. First-time shuttle fliers, all mission specialists, are: **Christopher J. Cassidy**, one of the assigned mission spacewalkers, has been an astronaut since 2004; another member of the same 2004 astronaut class, **Thomas H. Marshburn**, is part of the STS-127 spacewalk team; the mission will deliver **Timothy L. Kopra**, an astronaut since 2000, to the ISS as a flight engineer and science officer and return Japanese astronaut Koichi Wakata back to Earth after a planned 3-month stay aboard the space station.

STS-127 CREW INSIGNIA — A crew spokesman had the following words for the STS-127 crew patch design, "Bathed in sunlight, the blue Earth is represented without boundaries to remind us that we share this world. In the center, the golden flight path of the space shuttle orbiter turns into three distinctive rays of the astronaut symbol culminating in the star-like emblem characteristics of the Japanese Space Agency, yet soaring further into space as it paves the way for future voyages and discoveries for all humankind."