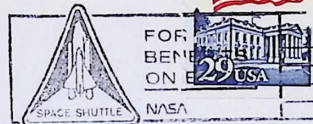
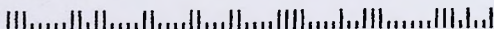


SPACE SHUTTLE
STS-65/COLUMBIA



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SPACE SHUTTLE (STS-65/COLUMBIA)

The more than 80 microgravity and life sciences experiments that will be conducted during the STS-65/International Microgravity Laboratory-2 (IML-2) mission will provide new insights into physical and biological processes in developing new materials and treatments for use on Earth and in Space.

The STS-65 mission emblem depicts the Space Shuttle Columbia, with the Spacelab in the payload bay, orbiting the IML logo and reaching off into space. The two yellow stars, shooting toward the heavens behind the IML lettering, represents the second of the IML missions to be flown.

Once in orbit, the seven-person flight crew will activate the IML-2/Spacelab laboratory module and its experiments. Then the crew, working in two shifts, will begin the hectic, around-the-clock schedule of experiments throughout the 14-day flight. A team of more than 210 scientists representing five international space research organizations and NASA will work together with the crew.

Commander for the STS-65 astronaut crew is Robert D. Cabana with pilot James D. Halsell, Jr. Richard J. Hieb, a mission specialist, is the IML-2 payload commander. Mission Specialists Leroy Chiao and Donald A. Thomas are space rookies, while Carl E. Walz has flown before in space. Payload Specialist Chiaki Mukai will be the second NASA astronaut and the first Japanese woman to fly into space.