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SPACE SHUTTLE (STS-131 / DISCOVERY)

Space Shuttle Discovery with a crew of seven astronauts on Mission STS-131 will carry the Leonardo Multi-Purpose Logistics Module, a pressurized "moving van," that will be temporarily installed to the International Space Station. The cargo module will deliver science and storage racks, the last of the four crew quarters, and supplies to laboratories on the orbiting outpost. The planned 13-day mission, which will be the 33rd flight to the space station complex, will include 3 spacewalks to replace an ammonia tank, retrieve a Japanese experiment from the station's exterior, and switch out a rate gyro assembly on the SO element of the station's truss.

THE STS-131 CREW – Veteran shuttle astronaut **Alan G. Poindexter** will lead the Discovery crew aboard STS-131. He has logged more than 306 hours in space as a shuttle pilot since he was chosen for the astronaut program in 1998. First-time shuttle flier, **James P. Dutton**, an astronaut since 2004, will be the shuttle pilot. The STS-131 mission specialists are; Spaceflight veteran **Clayton C. Anderson**, an astronaut since 1998 and currently assigned to Discovery's spacewalk team, has logged 152 days in space with over 18 spacewalk hours. Another spacewalk crewmate, **Richard A. Mastracchio**, is a veteran of 2 shuttle flights since his astronaut selection in 1996. He has logged over 588 hours in space, including 3 spacewalks totaling more than 18 hours. Also from the astronaut class of 1996, **Stephanie D. Wilson**, is a veteran of 2 shuttle flight with over 28 days in space. An astronaut since 2004, **Dorothy M. Metcalf-Lindenburger**, will be making her first space trip along with Japan's **Naoko Yamazaki**, selected in 1999 for the Japanese astronaut/ISS program. She completed her NASA astronaut training as a mission specialist in 2000.

THE STS-131 CREW INSIGNIA – The STS-131 crew patch highlights the shuttle orbiter in the Rendezvous Pitch Maneuver (RPM). This maneuver is heavily photographed by the ISS astronauts in which the photos are analyzed back on earth to clear the shuttle's thermal protection system for re-entry. Depicted in the cargo bay of the shuttle is the Leonardo cargo carrier, and directly behind the transport module (but out of view), is the ammonia tank assembly. The orbit of Discovery is illustrated by the three gold bars of the astronaut symbol, and its elliptical wreath contains the orbit of the ISS. The star atop the astronaut symbol is the dawning sun, which is spreading its early light across the earth. There is a background star field that contains seven stars, one for each crewmember, as they are proud to represent the United States and Japan during this mission.