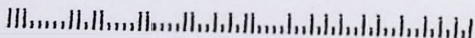


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NASA



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SPACE SHUTTLE (STS-124 / DISCOVERY)

Space Shuttle Discovery's STS-124 mission to the International Space Station (ISS) is the second of three flights that will launch components to complete the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's (JAXA) Kibo laboratory. During the 14-day flight, the shuttle crew of seven will install Kibo's large Japanese Pressurized Module and its remote manipulator system during three spacewalks. STS-124, also designated as flight 1J in the ISS assembly sequence, is the 26th flight to the ISS and carries the heaviest payload to the space station complex. The shuttle will also deliver a new crew member to the ISS and bring back another one after a three-month station stay.

THE STS-124 CREW – A veteran of two spaceflights, Mark E. Kelly will command shuttle Discovery on Mission STS-124. He has logged almost 25 days in space since his selection to the astronaut corps in 1996. First-time space flier Kenneth T. Ham, selected to the astronaut program in 1998, will be Discovery's pilot. The STS-124 mission specialists are: First-time shuttle flier Karen L. Nyberg, an astronaut since 2000, along with fellow astronaut classmate Ronald J. Garan, part of the crew's spacewalk team; A veteran of a previous shuttle flight, Michael E. Fossum, is the lead STS-124 spacewalker. An astronaut since 1998, he has logged more than 306 hours in space with 21 EVA hours; Another first-time shuttle flier, Japan's Akihiko Hoshide, was selected by JAXA in 1999 as one of three Japanese astronauts for the ISS; Gregory E. Chamitoff, an astronaut since 1998, will remain on the orbiting station. He will serve as the ISS flight engineer and science officer on Expedition 17 and spend six months living and working aboard the station. He will be replacing Garrett E. Reisman, who will return home from the space station with the crew of STS-124 aboard Discovery.

THE STS-124 CREW INSIGNIA – The STS-124 crew patch depicts the shuttle docked with the space station. The significance of the mission and the Japanese contribution to the ISS is recognized by the Japanese flag depicted on the pressurized module and the word Kibo written in Japanese at the bottom of the emblem. The view of the sun shining down upon the Earth represents the increased "hope" that the entire world will benefit from the laboratory's scientific discoveries in space medicine, biology, Earth observations, material production, biotechnology and communications research.