

2009

Crew of STS Mission 129/ISS Logistics Mission ULF-3 (International)

The crew of STS 129:

Charles O. Hobbaugh, Commander, NASA Astronaut

Barry E. Wilmore, Pilot, NASA Astronaut

Randolph J. Bresnik, Mission Specialist, NASA Astronaut

Michael J. Foreman, Mission Specialist, NASA Astronaut

Leland D. Melvin, Mission Specialist, NASA Astronaut

Robert L. Satcher, Jr., Mission Specialist, NASA Astronaut

Nicole P. Stott, Mission Specialist and ISS Flight Engineer and NASA Astronaut

International Space Station (ISS) Utilization and Logistics Flight ULF-3 along with Expedition 21:

Frank De Winne, Commander, ESA Cosmonaut

Roman Romanenko, RSA Cosmonaut

Robert B. Thirsk, CSA Astronaut

Jeffery N. Williams, NASA Astronaut

Maxim Suraev, RSA Astronaut

Justification: The significance of the STS-129 / ISS Utilization and Logistics Flight ULF-3 was that it delivered 14 tons of critical spare parts for its electrical, plumbing, air conditioning, communications, and robotics systems.

The STS-129 mission began with a successful launch on November 16, 2009 from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, USA. While en-route to the International Space Station, the crew of Space Shuttle Discovery executed multiple techniques to inspect the vehicle's thermal protection system for any damage.

Following docking with the ISS, the crews of STS-129 and Expedition 21 worked together, performing a total of three complex spacewalks to execute the objectives of the ULF-3 assembly mission. The extraordinary skill of these astronauts to perform complex robotic arm operations from Shuttle, in coordination with three very demanding spacewalks will benefit the space station for many years to come.

Finally, NASA Astronaut Nicole Stott returned home with the crew of STS-129 after

three months working on the Space Station. The STS-129/ULF-3 crew left the ISS with vast improvements to its store of spare parts for critical electrical, plumbing, air conditioning, communications, and robotics systems that will extend the capabilities of the ISS well past the Shuttle Program's end.

The STS-129 mission was completed with a nominal landing at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida on November 27, 2009. This outstanding mission is highly deserving of the Komarov Diploma.