astronauts have been coming to NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida for 30 years to practice launch day aboard a space shuttle Monday June 20th saw the arrival of the last crew to take part in the dress rehearsal its meaning was not lost on the astronauts you know I think I speak for the whole crew you know we're very honored to be in this position there's many people who could be here we just happened to win the dice fell we were you know our names were fortunate lucky Chris Ferguson Doug
Hurley Sandy Magnus and Rex Walheim flew to Kennedy aboard T-38 to begin four days of intense training known as the terminal countdown demonstration test. Ferguson and Hurley who will be at the controls of space shuttle Atlantis during launch and landing practice. Day two saw the astronauts take turns driving one of the M113 that will be stationed near the launch complex when they touch down at Kennedy's Shuttle Landing Facility using the shuttle training aircraft to simulate the shuttles unique characteristics.
they lift off in the unlikely event of
an emergency the astronauts would climb
inside the m113 to drive away from
danger the crew got an up-close look at
atlantis as it stood on launch pad 39a
on the third day of tcdt blue turd it
detailed walked down with a cargo bay
where they saw their primary payload
they Raffaello multi-purpose Logistics
Module or mplm Raffaello will be loaded
with experiments equipment and supplies
for the International Space Station once
in orbit the sts-135 astronauts will
work with the station residents to
unload the module and fill it up with

concluded experiments and other items

that are no longer needed on the station

there's a pleasure to be here and

especially right in front of the Space Shuttle just gives you goosebumps

thinking that we're gonna get to ride

that in about two weeks the training is

rich in tradition and history and the astronauts do not take its lessons for

granted it's just a very comprehensive hands-on at the place you're going to do

it kind of training and it's invaluable

I mean you can do all the simulators in

the world but - until you get in that
real vehicle touch the vehicle see what

you can reach see the difference which

is you know everything's just a little

bit different when you're in the real

vehicle so it's it's a great way to get

you ready for the launch day when it

counts their last day open with a full

dress rehearsal for launch day targeted

for joy eight the astronauts pulled on

their launch and entry suits took their

seats aboard Atlantis flight deck and

ran through a countdown simulation now

we're just the tip of the iceberg of a

huge group of people who plan and get
the hardware ready and prepare our procedures and then watch over the vehicle while we're on board and we feel very very strongly that we have to be prepared as possible to perform the mission to the extent that they're expecting of us and I think when it's all done we can all celebrate together not only just the mission but the whole program you know we I and we haven't talked about this I think each of us feels a little perhaps extra burden to make sure that we put on the best possible face forward for the last
for the last go-around of this and the

cruise very prepared we're going to go

out and do a fantastic job and that like

I said when it's all over at the very

end I think that's when it's good the

enormity of it is is going to hit us you

know that last wheel stop is call is

going to be a little tough after lunch

and review of the equipment they will

use in space Ferguson

Hurley Magnus and Walheim boarded their

jets and returned to NASA's Johnson

Space Center in Houston there to return

July 4th for the final flight of the
shuttles 30-year history