the STS-131 assesses Kennedy Space Center in Florida for a week of launch training for their upcoming mission. It's called the terminal countdown demonstration test or TC DT and every space shuttle crew goes through it before liftoff led by Commander George Zemke. The six astronauts arrived in T-38 training aircraft. Touching down at Kennedy's Shuttle Landing Facility on January 18, it's a beautiful evening and this is a very special trip for us it marks the transition for us from flight preparation and training to the
operational stage of our flight we're looking forward to flying this flight here in just a few weeks all the crew members practice driving the tank like m113 armored personnel carrier they also learned how to evacuate from the space shuttle and ride to safety in suspended slide wire baskets zankan pilot terry virts spent time flying the shuttle training aircraft modified to mimic the handling qualities of a landing orbiter and the astronauts were able to go into space shuttle endeavour's payload bay to see the tranquility connecting node and
the seven window cupola ready to fly to
the International Space Station the
week's activities wrapped up with a full
count down dress rehearsal the
astronauts suited up rode out to the
launch pad and strapped inside endeavour
just like they will on launch day this
is a beautiful vehicle we have great
view here it's just amazing to see the
space shuttle I think what stands out to
me is how big it is when you walk up to
it's just such a large vehicle the
external tank the solid rocket boosters
it's amazing to think of that vehicle
weighing of you know almost 4 million

pounds it's just impressive with their

practice countdown behind them the crew

returned to NASA's Johnson Space Center

in Houston they'll fly back to Kennedy

Space Center when liftoff is just a few

days away

you