



1  
00:00:03,760 --> 00:00:08,990

\h The seven astronauts who will fly space shuttle Discovery on the STS-131 mission to the

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00:00:08,990 --> 00:00:15,070

\h International Space Station recently completed a full launch dress rehearsal.

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00:00:15,070 --> 00:00:23,600

\h Flying in their T-38 jets, the astronauts arrived at Kennedy's Shuttle Landing Facility to begin four days of

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00:00:23,600 --> 00:00:28,240

\h It's known as the Terminal Countdown  
Demonstration Test, or TCDT --

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00:00:28,240 --> 00:00:32,160

\h a fundamental milestone for every space shuttle mission.

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00:00:32,160 --> 00:00:38,240

\h STS-131 Commander Alan Poindexter and  
Pilot Jim Dutton were joined by Mission

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00:00:38,240 --> 00:00:41,890

\h Specialists Rick Mastracchio, Stephanie Wilson,

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00:00:41,890 --> 00:00:51,200

\h Dottie Metcalf-Lindenburger, Clay Anderson and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency astronaut Naoko

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00:00:51,200 --> 00:00:55,620

\h The crew spoke to the media expressing their excitement to be back at Kennedy.

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00:00:55,620 --> 00:01:02,060

\h Alan Poindexter/STS-131 Commander: We're really looking forward to our dress rehearsal for launch, o

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00:01:02,060 --> 00:01:06,370

\h We've been training real hard and we're just real proud of the folks down here at all the

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00:01:06,370 --> 00:01:10,770

\h hard work they did getting OV-103 ready for flight.

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00:01:10,770 --> 00:01:16,700

\h The training included instruction and driving practice in M-113 armored personnel carriers,

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00:01:16,700 --> 00:01:22,910

\h which can swiftly take them away from the launch pad in the unlikely event of an emergency.

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00:01:22,910 --> 00:01:31,340

\h There also was emergency escape training at the 195-foot level of Launch Pad 39A. The astronauts jumped into

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00:01:31,340 --> 00:01:39,970

\h a series of baskets suspended from slidewires that could safely whisk them to a nearby bunker on the g

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00:01:39,970 --> 00:01:44,880

\h Poindexter and Dutton practiced landings in the Shuttle Training Aircraft -- a specially

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00:01:44,880 --> 00:01:48,920

\h designed jet that handles much like a space shuttle.

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00:01:48,920 --> 00:01:56,160

\h The highlight of TCDT took place on the final day. Crew members put on their custom-fitted orange flight

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00:01:56,160 --> 00:02:03,530

\h the same ones they will wear on launch day -- and climbed aboard NASA's silver Astrovan for the short

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00:02:03,530 --> 00:02:08,910

\h Waiting in the pad's White Room was the Closeout Crew. They checked the astronauts' flight gear

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00:02:08,910 --> 00:02:12,350

\h and helped them into their assigned seats aboard Discovery.

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00:02:12,350 --> 00:02:19,620

\h Once seated inside the shuttle, crew members checked out all the dials, switches and buttons they'll use

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00:02:19,620 --> 00:02:24,700

\h NASA's launch director in the Launch Control Center then led the ground crew and launch

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00:02:24,700 --> 00:02:28,750

\h team through a realistic launch countdown simulation.