



1

00:00:05,780 --> 00:00:08,940

Nicole Stott, STS-133 Astronaut: I'm not going to lie to you, I'm feeling a little sad because

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00:00:08,940 --> 00:00:11,600

I think it's a little bit like watching somebody leave home.

3

00:00:11,600 --> 00:00:15,000

NARRATOR: Space shuttle Discovery began a new mission as it left

4

00:00:15,000 --> 00:00:18,830

NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida destined for the Smithsonian's

5

00:00:18,830 --> 00:00:24,750

National Air & Space Museum's Udvar-Hazy Center outside Washington, D.C.

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00:00:24,750 --> 00:00:29,530

Discovery's flyout from Kennedy on Tuesday, April 17, 2012,

7

00:00:29,530 --> 00:00:33,180

began several days earlier when the shuttle, equipped with an

8

00:00:33,180 --> 00:00:36,260

aerodynamic tail cone over its three main engines,

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00:00:36,260 --> 00:00:41,520

was rolled out of the cavernous Vehicle Assembly Building for the last time.

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00:00:41,520 --> 00:00:44,650

It was towed about two miles to the Shuttle Landing Facility where

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00:00:44,650 --> 00:00:50,340

NASA's Shuttle Carrier Aircraft, a modified 747, was already waiting.

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00:00:50,340 --> 00:00:54,620

Technicians who had prepped shuttles many times before for cross-country

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00:00:54,620 --> 00:00:59,630

ferry flights once again took their stations inside the mate-demate device at

14

00:00:59,630 --> 00:01:07,400

Kennedy to carefully hoist the 83-ton Discovery and place it gingerly on the 747.

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00:01:07,400 --> 00:01:10,830

The combination was pushed away from the steel stacking structure and

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00:01:10,830 --> 00:01:14,440

spent the day as the center of appreciation for employees and

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00:01:14,440 --> 00:01:21,360

NASA officials who came out to see the spacecraft one last time in its operational environment.

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00:01:21,360 --> 00:01:23,990

Some of the astronauts of Discovery's last mission,

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00:01:23,990 --> 00:01:29,590

STS-133, came back to Kennedy to see the shuttle's departure.

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00:01:29,590 --> 00:01:31,970

STOTT: I think this has been Discovery's home for a long time,

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00:01:31,970 --> 00:01:36,660

but I think the Smithsonian's going to take beautiful care of her as well,

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00:01:36,660 --> 00:01:43,800

so I look forward to taking my family up there sometime and seeing her on display.

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00:01:43,800 --> 00:01:47,390

NARRATOR: Space shuttles routinely impressed people with their performances,

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00:01:47,390 --> 00:01:55,640

and even flying through the air on a 747 inspires a certain "gee-whiz" notion even among astronauts.

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00:01:55,640 --> 00:01:58,980

Steve Bowen, STS-133 Astronaut: Once you get over the shock of it going away for the last time,

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00:01:58,980 --> 00:02:07,340

you can't not look at that combination and go, "Wow! How does that fly?"

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00:02:07,340 --> 00:02:11,570

NARRATOR: The 747 and its precious shuttle cargo are going to give many more the

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00:02:11,570 --> 00:02:16,290

chance to see the orbiter as it flies up the east coast to the nation's capital.

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00:02:16,290 --> 00:02:19,300

Jeff Moultrie, SCA Commander/Pilot: We're doing a series of flyovers starting here at Kennedy and

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00:02:19,300 --> 00:02:24,210

we're doing one at Washington, D.C. and we want to do the best job that

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00:02:24,210 --> 00:02:28,910

we can with a lot of eyes watching us on this delivery.

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00:02:28,910 --> 00:02:32,230

NARRATOR: Retired after more than 25 years of space flight,

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00:02:32,230 --> 00:02:39,210

Discovery will take a centerpiece position in the Smithsonian's preeminent museum of aerospace accomplishm