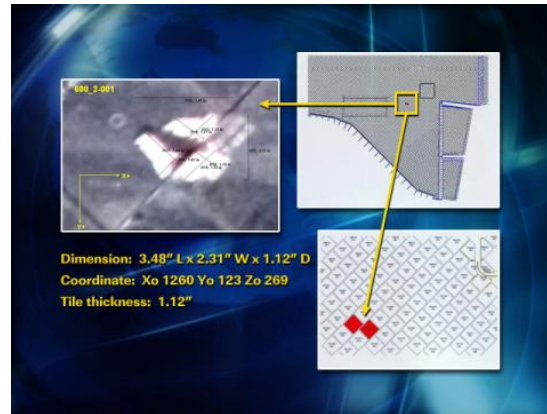




This NASA image—Mission Status Briefing Graphics—depicts an event from *STS-118*, a shuttle mission flown by *Endeavour*, and its seven-member crew, in 2007. It reflects non-catastrophic damage on the orbiter's underside.

Who were the astronauts aboard Endeavour during that mission to the International Space Station (ISS)?

- U.S. Navy Commander Scott J. Kelly commanded the seven-person crew of STS-118.
- U.S. Marine Corps Colonel Charles O. Hobaugh was *Endeavour's* pilot.
- Veteran astronauts Richard A. Mastracchio and Dr. Dafydd (Dave) Williams of the Canadian Space Agency returned to space for their second missions.
- Barbara R. Morgan, Tracy E. Caldwell, Ph. D. and Benjamin Alvin Drew rounded out the crew as mission specialists.

Lifting off the launch pad—on August 8, 2007—this flight was significant for a very special reason. Aboard was Barbara Morgan—Christa McAuliffe's backup for NASA's "Teacher in Space Project."

Christa died, unexpectedly, when Space Shuttle *Challenger* catastrophically exploded soon after liftoff (in January of 1986). It took more than two decades before NASA's leaders were comfortable-enough to permit the next "educator in space" to fly aboard an orbiter.

The purpose of STS-118, among other things, was to deliver a third starboard truss segment to the International Space Station. It was the 22nd time a Space Shuttle visited the station.

What does this graphic tell us, specifically, about Mission STS-118?

There was an incident, during this mission, when a piece of external-tank-foam insulation broke loose during the launch sequence. Fortunately, it did not cause the type of damage which led to the loss of *Columbia* on February 1, 2003.

The foam-break, during *Endeavour's* launch, gouged a three-inch-square gash into heat-resistant tiles on the orbiter's undercarriage (as depicted in this NASA-produced graphic). As the image also shows, the damaged tiles were near the starboard landing-gear door.

Click on the image for a better view.

Credits:

Image, described above, online via NASA. Public Domain.

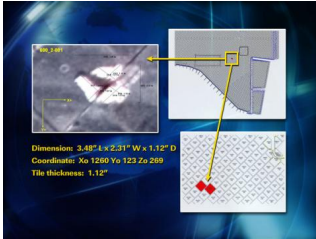
See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Teacher-in-Space-Endeavour-STS-118-and-Heat-Tile-Damage>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Teacher-in-Space-Endeavour-STS-118-and-Heat-Tile-Damage>

Media Stream



Teacher in Space - Endeavour, STS-118 and Heat Tile Damage

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