good afternoon everyone this is our post landing news conference with the sts-132 astronauts and here with us is Ken Ham

the commander from the mission he will make a few comments and then very shortly thereafter we will take questions from the media present so Ken thanks sir

in a very short sentence we're thrilled and we're thrilled because we accomplished the mission that was put in front of us and a long time ago when we were first assigned as a crew one of our goals as we laid them out for the year
in front of us was to have fun and to include everyone on the ground team in our fun and hopefully bleed some of the enthusiasm we have for Space Flight into the rest of the world and since we've been back we've been hearing stories about how folks have been having fun and enjoyed watching us have fun and that's really important to us so from that perspective we're thrilled on the real serious side we we brought a Russian module up did something that has never been done before by berthing that module with a Russian docking system on
a robotic arm to the International Space Station and these great guys next to me that might be the only time I call you that did some great space walking and Tony did some great IV and peers down there did some incredible arm operations supporting all three epa's and it's kind of interesting because Pierce was the guy on this flight that had more Evi experience than anybody and now he's a robotic and he's dead and he still does it that's true in it he still has more EBA experience than anyone else on the crew
and now he's an accomplished robotics
arm specialist which I think is pretty
darn cool hold man
and speaking of Pierce sir I think you
have a moment of your own with the
microphone for the record and in front
of everybody I'd like to thank my family
and my wife in particular for putting up
with months and months of absences and
grumpiness well we got ready for this
meeting and also for a fantastic
selection of wake-up music which I
unfortunately missed by being in the
wrong module at the wrong time but my
commander felt that I owed that to the
00:03:12,120 --> 00:03:38,430
world and my wife James Dean Florida

00:03:34,799 --> 00:03:40,109
today if not for the commander and pilot

00:03:38,430 --> 00:03:42,780
who might have been otherwise occupied

00:03:40,109 --> 00:03:44,939
did any of you have a chance to think

00:03:42,780 --> 00:03:47,098
about Atlantis as a history and career

00:03:44,939 --> 00:03:53,699
as you were coming in for landing this

00:03:47,098 --> 00:03:55,259
morning whether or not I didn't have

00:03:53,699 --> 00:03:57,358
much time to think about it today to be

00:03:55,259 --> 00:03:59,929
honest with you we were pretty busy

00:03:57,359 --> 00:04:02,280
getting her ready to come home and then

00:03:59,930 --> 00:04:05,250
putting the orange suits on and strap it

00:04:02,280 --> 00:04:07,289
in and bringing her back from Mach 25 we

00:04:05,250 --> 00:04:09,659
just inched up over Mach 25 before we

00:04:07,289 --> 00:04:13,138
started slowing down again after the
burn but we did have time on orbit to think about it and reflect about it.

and talk about it a little bit obviously.

we've all flown on Atlantis now some of us.

a couple times and it's a great ship and there's a real honor to be on the last flight if this turns out to be the last plane and we're happy to bring her back home to here to Florida.

asked us for you personally says if you've flown both your missions on Atlantis how it will loom in in your career and your spectacles a third
flight so how are you going to remember Atlantis in terms of it being the vehicle for all your shuttle flights assuming we don't get an extension beyond I guess I can't scratch out one more here although I'd love to and I'm available but Atlantis treated us very well I mean she was just an incredible ship she just worked perfectly we were saying in the on the deorbit burn on the way home I mean the engines had it trimmed out to within 0.01 of I mean of what the burn was supposed to be and it was just
amazing she just performed flawlessly

and then let us do our jobs and our

tasks that we were assigned to do to

take things up and and get them done

Associated Press probably at least for

the two pilots 120 million miles is a

lot of miles how did Atlantis look with

all that mileage on her she looks great

I don't know if you had a chance to get

out to the runway when she was still on

the runway but just absolutely fabulous

for I don't know how old your car is I

ended up with a new one this summer when

the government wanted wanted my old

truck real bad so I couldn't couldn't
turn down the offer but just an

incredible spaceship she like bueno was

saying she really performed well on this

flight and reflecting on it not so much

while we're flying because I was still

worried about Hawks landing but um had a

chance to grab a sandwich before we came

over to here to talk to y'all and saw

him taxiing Atlantis off

runway and even had to grab hawk and go

hey there taxiing or off the runway and

I hope it's not the last time they do

that but but it it might be and it

it's a shame she is from the condition
we brought her back in and the condition

that the great folks at the Kennedy

Space Center are gonna turn her around

she is so ready to get stacked and back

out to launchpad you can tell that's

where she wants to be hi Clara Moskowitz

with space comm I know a lot of you

actually are making made a return trip

to the International Space Station and I

wonder if anybody wanted to share

thoughts about how it had changed since

you had seen it last and especially how

it looks now when you guys left it

almost fully assembled yeah she it felt
like home you know when I got back there

I spent a bunch of time up on the space

some definite changes this crew has got

the station really shipshape I mean she is neat and tidy and they've got it very well organized so it was a very comfortable place even with twice the number of crew members on board than were there when I was there and the biggest addition is the cupola and it's fantastic to look out at the Earth from the cupola and you can see from Horizon to horizon to get a real idea of the
whole span of the earth rather than just a small view that you know we get we got previously out of one window at a time and and more importantly perhaps is the fact that operationally as far as using the robot arm and as far as observing spacewalks the cupola is an unbelievably fantastic tool because we've got we've got used to training ourselves to fly that robotic arm by using all these different cameras each of which gives you a little tiny piece of the big picture and sometimes you can fool yourself and sometimes it's very confusing and it's very slow every time
you have to change a camera it takes
time and there are times that we train
to do the operations using those cameras
because we didn't know if the Kupa was
going to be available to us but when we
actually
find the arm I said you could put all
those cameras away I just look at the
window I mean it's fantastic so that was
a huge change hi Robert Perlman with
collec space.com sort of the flipside of
that question for Michael good since
you're the only crew member to have not
flown your second flight to the where
your first flight to the station can you

compare the types of missions that

not going to the Space Station and then

going to a satellite like the Hubble

Space Telescope what are the pros and

cons of the two types I thought I

was off the hook on that last question

and then I got it look down here at my

commander and see if I'm allowed to say

that word I think since he already drew

blood it's okay now as it's definitely a

lot bigger inside than Hubble was we

went out to Hubble and open up its doors

and crawled inside of her and worked on
it a little bit but definitely a totally different experience going out the airlock over there on the International Space Station and just the amount of room that's inside all the labs just incredible capability and a lot of room to actually fly around I mean I about floating in space after my last mission but now I can say that I was able to fly in space because there's so much room up there just to go but you know straight down the labs and through the different modules and it's just like you're flying so it's a it was a great experience and
really an incredible facility and for
the commander since you since you did
such a great job of sharing the fun we
definitely saw that here on the ground
I wonder what fun we didn't see were
there any inside jokes amongst the crew
that you can share or funny experiences
you saw there's nothing left good
question though hi Evan Braun from Fox
News radio with two more missions on the
on the books and and maybe a possible
135 as everyone keeps talking about
how many of you are looking at your next
career moves or how many of you are
hoping for 135 and trying to get your
name on a list I'll speak for myself

theodore no way in the world they're
gonna let I'll speak for all of us

there's no way in the world they're
gonna let any of us be on that mission

Justin Rey with Space Flight now calm I
guess for anyone that wants to take it

after 12 days up there what are

something lasting memories that you're
gonna keep from this flight I guess I

Mike was kind of a

should answer one Mike was kind of a
good question no there were two points

that I really thought were quite amazing

we went all the way out to the p6 truss
to work on the batteries and what on the backside of the truss and so I was back there all alone it's just you're so far away at that point from the living portion of the space station it's quite amazing to look back and see the just the size you know from the outside you can't take it all in from out there you have to turn your head it's so huge my previous flight the only addition since that was another crust and but it's it just feels bigger it feels more complete and the other time was I was sitting on top of the boom after we had installed
the antenna waiting for some direction

as to what to do next

so I had about 20-30 minutes sitting there basically laying on my back

watching the world go by

past the Russian segment and I was just thinking how in the world that I end up here this is just unbelievable

it just seems totally surreal and a lot of fun at the same time it's only going to stick with me

in additional questions out here for the commander could you just talk a little bit about injury and landing today how
how it went and yeah well it was smooth

272 00:13:22,778 --> 00:13:26,980
as silk and I don't I'm not talking

273 00:13:24,549 --> 00:13:29,139
about my landing I'm talking about the

274 00:13:26,980 --> 00:13:31,930
whole entry profile it was a nice day to

275 00:13:29,139 --> 00:13:34,778
come home but what was absolutely

276 00:13:31,929 --> 00:13:37,149
remarkable was we were going through the

277 00:13:34,778 --> 00:13:39,519
high Mach numbers that's the the low 20s

278 00:13:37,149 --> 00:13:41,500
or so in what we call the plasma region

279 00:13:39,519 --> 00:13:45,009
where you are quite literally on the

280 00:13:41,500 --> 00:13:46,750
inside of a fireball and on my last

281 00:13:45,009 --> 00:13:49,269
mission that happened in the daylight

282 00:13:46,750 --> 00:13:52,539
and you could sort of see a faint pink

283 00:13:49,269 --> 00:13:55,750
glow over the nose this time it happened

284 00:13:52,539 --> 00:13:57,730
at night and we were clearly riding on

285 00:13:55,750 --> 00:14:00,399
the inside of a fireball and it was
absolutely spectacular the windows all of them were bright brilliant orange out the overhead windows we could see I don't know if they were vortices or bursts of plasma kind of shedding off the top of the orbiter but one of the neatest things was we flew right into sunrise in this high Mach number region and sunrise from space is absolutely spectacular every one of them is it always starts with this beautiful blue colored arc on the limb of the earth and what was neat in this case was we could see that blue color kind of burning
through the orange Tony saw it first cuz

we were rolled a certain way and he said

holy cow you can see the sunrise through

the fireball like well you know I

couldn't see over to his side and then

the orbiter rolled and sure enough I

could see it on myself but holy cow you

can see that sunrise through the

fireball

so it was visually overwhelming it was

just amazing ok we'll take one more

question and that's going to wrap it up

when Robert problem with Clarke space

comm again when I we spoke pre-flight
when we spoke pre-flight you said

that landing might be bittersweet

because it marked the end of the fun so

sort of is it is at the end of the fun

and was there a tinge of regret that the

rain didn't keep you in space an extra
day

I'm not sure an extra day would have

made that much of a difference to be

honest the fun is really these five guys

next to me and we're gonna be around

together for quite a while longer and

we're going to continue to have fun but

it it certainly did strike me walking
around the orbiter today that I probably

just did the coolest thing I'll ever do

and it's over it's behind me it's great

it's a great memory and it's nothing

that I feel bad about it was just one of

those moments kind of walking around

looking at the at the spectacular

airplane knowing that it's over it's

human nature it's okay alright that's

going to conclude our briefing and our

sts-132 mission coverage thank you very

much