



Steve Swanson
Expedition 39 Flight Engineer

1
00:00:06,070 --> 00:00:03,429
shortly before the soyuz crew members

2
00:00:07,829 --> 00:00:06,080
left star city for launch and for the

3
00:00:09,270 --> 00:00:07,839
launch site in kazakhstan earlier this

4
00:00:11,589 --> 00:00:09,280
month i had a chance to spend a few

5
00:00:13,749 --> 00:00:11,599
minutes talking with steve swanson

6
00:00:15,749 --> 00:00:13,759
we talked about his plans for this first

7
00:00:17,590 --> 00:00:15,759
long-duration mission of his career and

8
00:00:19,590 --> 00:00:17,600
the work that he and his crewmates have

9
00:00:20,950 --> 00:00:19,600
done to get ready for the flight why

10
00:00:23,349 --> 00:00:20,960
don't we start a little bit by talking

11
00:00:24,950 --> 00:00:23,359
about your your training i know that

12
00:00:26,150 --> 00:00:24,960
you've trained in the past for shuttle

13
00:00:27,509 --> 00:00:26,160

missions how is that different than

14

00:00:29,109 --> 00:00:27,519

you're training for a space station

15

00:00:30,710 --> 00:00:29,119

expedition

16

00:00:33,190 --> 00:00:30,720

well first of all the

17

00:00:35,430 --> 00:00:33,200

flow for this kind of expedition is much

18

00:00:37,110 --> 00:00:35,440

longer it's two and a half years long

19

00:00:39,110 --> 00:00:37,120

and you also aren't really training for

20

00:00:40,389 --> 00:00:39,120

many specific events like in a shuttle

21

00:00:42,549 --> 00:00:40,399

shuttle we knew what we were going to do

22

00:00:44,950 --> 00:00:42,559

every day and we would train for those

23

00:00:46,150 --> 00:00:44,960

specific tasks in a space station you

24

00:00:47,510 --> 00:00:46,160

don't know really what's going to break

25

00:00:48,549 --> 00:00:47,520

you don't know exactly what science

26
00:00:50,630 --> 00:00:48,559
you're going to do when you start the

27
00:00:52,950 --> 00:00:50,640
training flow so you have to be able to

28
00:00:54,869 --> 00:00:52,960
more be a jack of all trades and and get

29
00:00:56,549 --> 00:00:54,879
more skill-based training than you would

30
00:00:58,150 --> 00:00:56,559
on a shuttle mission so you've been

31
00:01:00,389 --> 00:00:58,160
training for for a good long time for

32
00:01:02,229 --> 00:01:00,399
this that is a true statement and i'm

33
00:01:04,390 --> 00:01:02,239
definitely glad to be almost over with

34
00:01:07,030 --> 00:01:04,400
the training part and head on to the

35
00:01:08,310 --> 00:01:07,040
actual doing a flight itself

36
00:01:09,670 --> 00:01:08,320
i don't know if it's considered part of

37
00:01:12,230 --> 00:01:09,680
your training for your expedition but i

38
00:01:15,429 --> 00:01:12,240

know you spent some time here in the

39

00:01:17,109 --> 00:01:15,439

flight control room as a capcom is that

40

00:01:18,390 --> 00:01:17,119

does that help you prepare how does it

41

00:01:19,510 --> 00:01:18,400

you know how does it build your

42

00:01:21,030 --> 00:01:19,520

relationship with the team here on the

43

00:01:22,550 --> 00:01:21,040

ground anything like that

44

00:01:24,070 --> 00:01:22,560

well i do think that's very important

45

00:01:25,670 --> 00:01:24,080

actually because i think it helps to

46

00:01:27,510 --> 00:01:25,680

really know what's going on in mission

47

00:01:30,230 --> 00:01:27,520

control when you come down with a

48

00:01:32,390 --> 00:01:30,240

question or a comment or any other kind

49

00:01:34,149 --> 00:01:32,400

of a communication with the ground if

50

00:01:36,789 --> 00:01:34,159

you've been a capcom you know what that

51
00:01:40,069 --> 00:01:36,799
means and how it processes through all

52
00:01:41,670 --> 00:01:40,079
of the mcc and so having that idea it

53
00:01:43,350 --> 00:01:41,680
can your expectations are i think

54
00:01:45,030 --> 00:01:43,360
realistic and you can really help the

55
00:01:46,789 --> 00:01:45,040
communication be much better if you have

56
00:01:48,069 --> 00:01:46,799
that knowledge do you have a lot of good

57
00:01:49,749 --> 00:01:48,079
relationships with the folks here on the

58
00:01:51,670 --> 00:01:49,759
ground who will be supporting you

59
00:01:52,870 --> 00:01:51,680
i believe i do i need to ask them to

60
00:01:55,190 --> 00:01:52,880
make sure it works on both sides but i

61
00:01:56,709 --> 00:01:55,200
believe i do all right well tell us a

62
00:01:58,709 --> 00:01:56,719
little bit about what launch day is

63
00:02:00,310 --> 00:01:58,719

going to be like for you

64

00:02:02,389 --> 00:02:00,320

well last day it's going to be actually

65

00:02:04,069 --> 00:02:02,399

quite a bit of a long day um we're going

66

00:02:06,709 --> 00:02:04,079

to launch three in the morning

67

00:02:08,710 --> 00:02:06,719

baikonur time and so we're getting up

68

00:02:10,469 --> 00:02:08,720

only around nine o'clock we're gonna

69

00:02:12,470 --> 00:02:10,479

have breakfast i'll probably get a

70

00:02:15,270 --> 00:02:12,480

workout in i know they wanted us to take

71

00:02:17,110 --> 00:02:15,280

a nap around maybe like one or two get

72

00:02:18,150 --> 00:02:17,120

up again around six or so and that's

73

00:02:20,229 --> 00:02:18,160

we're gonna start getting ready for the

74

00:02:22,390 --> 00:02:20,239

launch at that time and we're gonna

75

00:02:23,910 --> 00:02:22,400

start off by uh

76

00:02:25,190 --> 00:02:23,920

getting all cleaned up that's one thing

77

00:02:26,070 --> 00:02:25,200

they want to do here make sure you take

78

00:02:28,470 --> 00:02:26,080

a shower

79

00:02:29,830 --> 00:02:28,480

you're clean to go and then

80

00:02:33,190 --> 00:02:29,840

we head on out

81

00:02:35,270 --> 00:02:33,200

and do a few formal events

82

00:02:38,150 --> 00:02:35,280

with writing our names on the wall of

83

00:02:39,750 --> 00:02:38,160

the the rooms we stay in stuff like that

84

00:02:42,390 --> 00:02:39,760

a couple ceremonial deals and then we

85

00:02:44,790 --> 00:02:42,400

head on out to building 254 where we

86

00:02:46,070 --> 00:02:44,800

suit up and our circle suits do a

87

00:02:47,350 --> 00:02:46,080

pressure check to make sure the suits

88

00:02:48,949 --> 00:02:47,360

are working well

89

00:02:51,350 --> 00:02:48,959

at that point we head from there out to

90

00:02:52,949 --> 00:02:51,360

the launch pad uh climb on into the

91

00:02:54,150 --> 00:02:52,959

vehicle about two and a half hours prior

92

00:02:55,990 --> 00:02:54,160

to launch

93

00:02:58,149 --> 00:02:56,000

and then start doing all our checks with

94

00:02:59,990 --> 00:02:58,159

that again we do a vehicle uh

95

00:03:01,750 --> 00:03:00,000

seal or leak check on the vehicle we do

96

00:03:02,790 --> 00:03:01,760

one of our suits also again make sure

97

00:03:04,869 --> 00:03:02,800

everything is working fine the

98

00:03:06,149 --> 00:03:04,879

communication is good on the vehicle and

99

00:03:08,149 --> 00:03:06,159

on the ground and if everything's all

100

00:03:10,149 --> 00:03:08,159

ready to go and we get to launch

101
00:03:11,589 --> 00:03:10,159
does sound like a long day but uh a good

102
00:03:13,750 --> 00:03:11,599
one i think

103
00:03:15,430 --> 00:03:13,760
yes it is a good day just a long uh

104
00:03:17,030 --> 00:03:15,440
again then after lunch your day's not

105
00:03:18,550 --> 00:03:17,040
over of course you have

106
00:03:20,390 --> 00:03:18,560
in six hours you're going to be docking

107
00:03:21,910 --> 00:03:20,400
the station and you have to go through

108
00:03:23,990 --> 00:03:21,920
the uh

109
00:03:25,750 --> 00:03:24,000
leak checks uh board the station to make

110
00:03:28,470 --> 00:03:25,760
sure you've got a good leak

111
00:03:29,910 --> 00:03:28,480
or no leaks between the soyuz and the

112
00:03:32,390 --> 00:03:29,920
station itself and then you can go and

113
00:03:33,990 --> 00:03:32,400

open the hatch and and we'll have a

114

00:03:35,430 --> 00:03:34,000

little press conference for that time

115

00:03:36,949 --> 00:03:35,440

and so it's going to be a long day but

116

00:03:39,110 --> 00:03:36,959

i'm looking forward to it

117

00:03:40,869 --> 00:03:39,120

um we talk a whole lot about all the

118

00:03:43,110 --> 00:03:40,879

science that y'all do on board the

119

00:03:44,630 --> 00:03:43,120

station here um for space station live

120

00:03:45,670 --> 00:03:44,640

so can you tell us a little bit about

121

00:03:47,670 --> 00:03:45,680

anything that you're particularly

122

00:03:49,270 --> 00:03:47,680

looking forward to or anything that that

123

00:03:51,670 --> 00:03:49,280

we should be looking forward to anything

124

00:03:54,070 --> 00:03:51,680

that you think is really interesting

125

00:03:55,270 --> 00:03:54,080

uh there's many interesting parts our

126

00:03:57,270 --> 00:03:55,280

experience science experience i think

127

00:03:58,710 --> 00:03:57,280

we're doing but uh one thing like for me

128

00:03:59,910 --> 00:03:58,720

i'm definitely interested in is the

129

00:04:01,589 --> 00:03:59,920

eyesight issue we're having with

130

00:04:05,110 --> 00:04:01,599

astronauts and we're going to do a whole

131

00:04:07,990 --> 00:04:05,120

bunch of tests from ultrasounds to octs

132

00:04:10,149 --> 00:04:08,000

to fundoscopes to all sorts of things

133

00:04:12,390 --> 00:04:10,159

and really try to figure out why the

134

00:04:14,070 --> 00:04:12,400

eyesight is changing for astronauts and

135

00:04:16,069 --> 00:04:14,080

i think it's kind of important for as we

136

00:04:17,990 --> 00:04:16,079

continue on in our space exploration we

137

00:04:20,150 --> 00:04:18,000

need to figure this out so we don't have

138

00:04:21,749 --> 00:04:20,160

any issues later on uh for other

139

00:04:24,150 --> 00:04:21,759

astronauts coming who follow on behind

140

00:04:26,390 --> 00:04:24,160

us i should say uh so i think that's

141

00:04:28,390 --> 00:04:26,400

important so what will your part be in

142

00:04:30,550 --> 00:04:28,400

the eye experiments

143

00:04:32,710 --> 00:04:30,560

well i'll both be the guinea pig and

144

00:04:33,990 --> 00:04:32,720

also the test conductor so other

145

00:04:35,510 --> 00:04:34,000

astronauts up there will do the

146

00:04:36,870 --> 00:04:35,520

experiments on me and i'll turn around

147

00:04:39,270 --> 00:04:36,880

and do the experiments on them so we

148

00:04:40,230 --> 00:04:39,280

both get to do both ends of the deal

149

00:04:41,430 --> 00:04:40,240

all right well that does sound

150

00:04:42,790 --> 00:04:41,440

interesting thank you so much for

151

00:04:45,189 --> 00:04:42,800

talking with us we'll be watching from