



# *A New Chapter*

**ASTRONAUT**

**chris cassidy**

1  
00:00:13,430 --> 00:00:11,350

[Music]

2  
00:00:15,270 --> 00:00:13,440

so you've flown on shuttle soyuz

3  
00:00:18,230 --> 00:00:15,280

obviously spent two long duration

4  
00:00:19,029 --> 00:00:18,240

missions on iss um and then you get to

5  
00:00:20,470 --> 00:00:19,039

see

6  
00:00:22,470 --> 00:00:20,480

bob and doug come up on a commercial

7  
00:00:25,029 --> 00:00:22,480

crew vehicle can you just talk a little

8  
00:00:26,470 --> 00:00:25,039

bit about the significance of that and

9  
00:00:28,630 --> 00:00:26,480

kind of where we are in the space

10  
00:00:31,029 --> 00:00:28,640

program well what's cool for me on a

11  
00:00:32,630 --> 00:00:31,039

personal level as i i flew with doug

12  
00:00:33,590 --> 00:00:32,640

on my shuttle it was both of our first

13  
00:00:36,229 --> 00:00:33,600

missions

14

00:00:39,030 --> 00:00:36,239

i flew with karen you know doug's better

15

00:00:40,790 --> 00:00:39,040

half on my second mission expedition 35

16

00:00:42,630 --> 00:00:40,800

and six and then it was really nice to

17

00:00:44,630 --> 00:00:42,640

have doug be there

18

00:00:46,310 --> 00:00:44,640

again for the third mission i used to

19

00:00:48,150 --> 00:00:46,320

only fly with tom marshburn but he

20

00:00:49,750 --> 00:00:48,160

bailed out on me on this one so now i

21

00:00:51,430 --> 00:00:49,760

only fly with a member of the hurley

22

00:00:54,069 --> 00:00:51,440

nyberg family

23

00:00:55,990 --> 00:00:54,079

but just in general it was so awesome to

24

00:00:58,389 --> 00:00:56,000

be part of

25

00:01:00,630 --> 00:00:58,399

that part of our nation's

26  
00:01:03,910 --> 00:01:00,640  
manned space flight history you know at

27  
00:01:06,149 --> 00:01:03,920  
first i was looking at it as a view of

28  
00:01:08,630 --> 00:01:06,159  
oh this is cool that this is

29  
00:01:10,070 --> 00:01:08,640  
uh that i'm seeing bob and doug and good

30  
00:01:11,670 --> 00:01:10,080  
friends and they're coming in my

31  
00:01:12,870 --> 00:01:11,680  
expedition and i took a step back and

32  
00:01:15,510 --> 00:01:12,880  
realized

33  
00:01:17,510 --> 00:01:15,520  
this is a pretty significant part in

34  
00:01:19,429 --> 00:01:17,520  
space history right like you flip

35  
00:01:20,469 --> 00:01:19,439  
through chapter books on space history

36  
00:01:22,710 --> 00:01:20,479  
and you've got

37  
00:01:25,590 --> 00:01:22,720  
different programs and first flights of

38  
00:01:28,310 --> 00:01:25,600

all those programs are major milestones

39

00:01:30,550 --> 00:01:28,320

yeah and this is no different and and uh

40

00:01:32,310 --> 00:01:30,560

it's kicking off a whole new kind of

41

00:01:34,390 --> 00:01:32,320

method to get to the space station

42

00:01:36,469 --> 00:01:34,400

exciting to launch from florida again

43

00:01:38,630 --> 00:01:36,479

and i remember thinking that on launch

44

00:01:41,190 --> 00:01:38,640

day their launch we passed directly over

45

00:01:42,630 --> 00:01:41,200

the launch pad two minutes before launch

46

00:01:44,149 --> 00:01:42,640

so in that two minutes it sounds really

47

00:01:46,389 --> 00:01:44,159

close but two minutes we were already

48

00:01:47,990 --> 00:01:46,399

like up by south carolina or something

49

00:01:50,069 --> 00:01:48,000

so we couldn't just

50

00:01:51,590 --> 00:01:50,079

see out the window that their liftoff

51

00:01:53,510 --> 00:01:51,600

and it was daytime so

52

00:01:57,109 --> 00:01:53,520

difficult to see the contrast

53

00:01:59,109 --> 00:01:57,119

of the rocket but i got a great view of

54

00:02:02,069 --> 00:01:59,119

the launch pad took a nice photo of it

55

00:02:04,310 --> 00:02:02,079

moments before liftoff and then nasa tv

56

00:02:06,709 --> 00:02:04,320

was being piped up to us

57

00:02:09,510 --> 00:02:06,719

and we were we were watching

58

00:02:12,070 --> 00:02:09,520

live and yvonne and i had this whole

59

00:02:14,630 --> 00:02:12,080

scheme of which windows we had cameras

60

00:02:16,710 --> 00:02:14,640

on going and we we had it all we kind of

61

00:02:18,309 --> 00:02:16,720

did a little rehearsal on how to

62

00:02:20,630 --> 00:02:18,319

manipulate all the cameras kind of like

63

00:02:23,830 --> 00:02:20,640

these guys setting up the set

64

00:02:25,510 --> 00:02:23,840

making right before liftoff and and uh

65

00:02:27,430 --> 00:02:25,520

and then shortly after liftoff i just

66

00:02:29,670 --> 00:02:27,440

focused on nasa tv and was glued to that

67

00:02:31,670 --> 00:02:29,680

thing just i remember being so excited

68

00:02:34,229 --> 00:02:31,680

my heart when i'm watching a rocket

69

00:02:36,070 --> 00:02:34,239

launch on nasa tv my heart is racing you

70

00:02:37,750 --> 00:02:36,080

know i'm nervous well it's different

71

00:02:39,750 --> 00:02:37,760

when you're you're friends right yeah

72

00:02:41,509 --> 00:02:39,760

now that you're an astronaut you know

73

00:02:42,710 --> 00:02:41,519

those people they're you they're your

74

00:02:44,390 --> 00:02:42,720

colleagues they're your friends you know

75

00:02:45,830 --> 00:02:44,400

their families and it's entirely

76

00:02:48,229 --> 00:02:45,840

different than when you're

77

00:02:50,309 --> 00:02:48,239

just witty at mit and interested in

78

00:02:52,390 --> 00:02:50,319

space but not have personally invested

79

00:02:55,270 --> 00:02:52,400

in them right and same thing for me i'm

80

00:02:57,190 --> 00:02:55,280

on the space station first man rocket

81

00:03:00,710 --> 00:02:57,200

launch of that type and

82

00:03:01,589 --> 00:03:00,720

like go go go you know you're so excited

83

00:03:04,229 --> 00:03:01,599

and then

84

00:03:06,710 --> 00:03:04,239

the engine's cut off and it's all good

85

00:03:09,589 --> 00:03:06,720

yeah but yeah same thing i knew before i

86

00:03:11,670 --> 00:03:09,599

got to nasa that launch and landing are

87

00:03:13,589 --> 00:03:11,680

two really dynamic phases of flight and

88

00:03:15,509 --> 00:03:13,599

they're scary i mean they're we're

89

00:03:17,190 --> 00:03:15,519

taking some risks in that and i think

90

00:03:19,509 --> 00:03:17,200

something i didn't fully appreciate

91

00:03:20,869 --> 00:03:19,519

until i got here is you know talking to

92

00:03:23,589 --> 00:03:20,879

some veterans and talking to people that

93

00:03:26,550 --> 00:03:23,599

really know eva is maybe a third one

94

00:03:28,149 --> 00:03:26,560

where we're doing some risky stuff

95

00:03:30,550 --> 00:03:28,159

obviously we're doing it as safely as we

96

00:03:32,390 --> 00:03:30,560

can but i'm curious you know do you

97

00:03:35,190 --> 00:03:32,400

think of it that way similar to launch

98

00:03:36,949 --> 00:03:35,200

and landing and are you are you nervous

99

00:03:39,430 --> 00:03:36,959

going out the door like you might be

100

00:03:41,190 --> 00:03:39,440

anticipating a launch i think everyone

101  
00:03:42,869 --> 00:03:41,200  
is a little kind of

102  
00:03:45,589 --> 00:03:42,879  
your nerves are on edge on your first

103  
00:03:47,509 --> 00:03:45,599  
one as you do a few more you get a

104  
00:03:49,830 --> 00:03:47,519  
little more comfortable with the whole

105  
00:03:51,830 --> 00:03:49,840  
situation but what surprised me on this

106  
00:03:53,910 --> 00:03:51,840  
one the first of the four that bob and i

107  
00:03:55,990 --> 00:03:53,920  
did which was the first one for me for

108  
00:03:57,910 --> 00:03:56,000  
seven years and last one since

109  
00:04:00,550 --> 00:03:57,920  
luca and i went out and now that water

110  
00:04:02,309 --> 00:04:00,560  
and the helmet problem happened is it

111  
00:04:04,309 --> 00:04:02,319  
was just another morning

112  
00:04:06,309 --> 00:04:04,319  
as i was going through the morning and

113  
00:04:08,070 --> 00:04:06,319

we got into the deep press and the hatch

114

00:04:10,070 --> 00:04:08,080

is closed and we start moving air out of

115

00:04:13,190 --> 00:04:10,080

the crew lock

116

00:04:15,350 --> 00:04:13,200

and it got to the low pressures where i

117

00:04:17,590 --> 00:04:15,360

knew my next actions were open the hatch

118

00:04:18,949 --> 00:04:17,600

and i felt my heart race a little bit

119

00:04:21,189 --> 00:04:18,959

and i was thinking to myself what are

120

00:04:22,230 --> 00:04:21,199

you what are you doing man settle down

121

00:04:24,710 --> 00:04:22,240

and uh

122

00:04:26,310 --> 00:04:24,720

i opened the hatch and out i went and i

123

00:04:29,670 --> 00:04:26,320

remember feeling

124

00:04:31,430 --> 00:04:29,680

a little like i wanted to go fast and

125

00:04:32,629 --> 00:04:31,440

and i and i even thought to myself

126

00:04:34,310 --> 00:04:32,639

they're going to call on the radio and

127

00:04:35,510 --> 00:04:34,320

say they'll slow down because they're

128

00:04:37,189 --> 00:04:35,520

watching because they're watching all

129

00:04:39,670 --> 00:04:37,199

your heart rate data and everything and

130

00:04:41,510 --> 00:04:39,680

they did do that but it it only lasted a

131

00:04:44,310 --> 00:04:41,520

minute or two but it surprised me that i

132

00:04:46,550 --> 00:04:44,320

had that kind of first time feeling a

133

00:04:48,070 --> 00:04:46,560

little bit on this one and then it was

134

00:04:50,550 --> 00:04:48,080

just so awesome to be out there with bob

135

00:04:52,310 --> 00:04:50,560

somebody who was so capable and talented

136

00:04:55,110 --> 00:04:52,320

and i think we fell into a rhythm pretty

137

00:04:57,510 --> 00:04:55,120

pretty fast and that was very settling

138

00:04:59,430 --> 00:04:57,520

bob and i have never done even an nbl

139

00:05:02,310 --> 00:04:59,440

run together the first time we've ever

140

00:05:04,790 --> 00:05:02,320

done any spacewalk activity was on a

141

00:05:06,710 --> 00:05:04,800

real eba but it didn't feel like that it

142

00:05:09,430 --> 00:05:06,720

just kind of clicked your questions

143

00:05:11,670 --> 00:05:09,440

about the risk of it you definitely you

144

00:05:14,390 --> 00:05:11,680

get a sense for it when you're outside

145

00:05:16,310 --> 00:05:14,400

and what i think most is now we're at a

146

00:05:18,550 --> 00:05:16,320

phase where

147

00:05:21,350 --> 00:05:18,560

i can only help bob and bob can only

148

00:05:23,350 --> 00:05:21,360

help me you as capcom can't flight

149

00:05:25,510 --> 00:05:23,360

director can't they can provide good

150

00:05:27,990 --> 00:05:25,520

ideas and direction but at the end of

151

00:05:30,230 --> 00:05:28,000

the day the two people out there

152

00:05:31,350 --> 00:05:30,240

are for each other you're a busy man and

153

00:05:33,590 --> 00:05:31,360

i don't want to take too much of your

154

00:05:36,230 --> 00:05:33,600

time so it's a true honor to get to talk

155

00:05:38,230 --> 00:05:36,240

to you so uh soon after you landed yeah

156

00:05:40,070 --> 00:05:38,240

this is awesome really fun to see you i

157

00:05:42,070 --> 00:05:40,080

can't wait till i'm sitting there

158

00:05:43,749 --> 00:05:42,080

talking to you about your

159

00:05:46,520 --> 00:05:43,759

space flight that'll be super cool

160

00:05:57,830 --> 00:05:46,530

thanks chris yeah awesome