



1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:06,710

Music

2
00:00:06,710 --> 00:00:09,460

NARRATOR: Astronauts have been coming to NASA's Kennedy Space Center in

3
00:00:09,460 --> 00:00:15,520

Florida for 30 years to practice launch day aboard a space shuttle. Monday, June 20,

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00:00:15,520 --> 00:00:20,020

saw the arrival of the last crew to take part in the dress rehearsal.

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00:00:20,020 --> 00:00:23,160

Its meaning was not lost on the astronauts.

6
00:00:23,160 --> 00:00:26,310

CHRIS FERGUSON: I think I speak for the whole crew, you know, we're very honored

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00:00:26,310 --> 00:00:28,830

to be in this position, there's many people who could be here. We just happened to,

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00:00:28,830 --> 00:00:32,800

when the dice fell we were, you know, our names were facing up,

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00:00:32,800 --> 00:00:34,840

so we consider ourselves fortunate, lucky.

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00:00:34,840 --> 00:00:39,000

NARRATOR: Chris Ferguson, Doug Hurley, Sandy Magnus and Rex Walheim

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00:00:39,000 --> 00:00:43,720

flew to Kennedy aboard T-38s to begin four days of intense training

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00:00:43,720 --> 00:00:47,330

known as the Terminal Countdown Demonstration Test.

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00:00:47,330 --> 00:00:51,480

Ferguson and Hurley, who will be at the controls of space shuttle Atlantis during

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00:00:51,480 --> 00:00:55,750

launch and landing, practiced touching down at Kennedy's Shuttle Landing Facility,

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00:00:55,750 --> 00:01:04,790

using the Shuttle Training Aircraft to simulate the shuttle's unique characteristics.

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00:01:04,790 --> 00:01:09,820

Day two saw the astronauts take turns driving one of the M113s that will be stationed

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00:01:09,820 --> 00:01:14,940

near the launch complex when they lift off. In the unlikely event of an emergency,

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00:01:14,940 --> 00:01:19,940

the astronauts would climb inside the M113 to drive away from danger.

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00:01:19,940 --> 00:01:24,000

The crew got an up-close look at Atlantis as it stood on Launch Pad 39A

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00:01:24,000 --> 00:01:31,110

on the third day of TCDT. It included a detailed walkdown of the cargo bay

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00:01:31,110 --> 00:01:38,170

where they saw their primary payload, the Raffaello multi-purpose logistics module,

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00:01:38,170 --> 00:01:43,200

or MPLM. Raffaello will be loaded with experiments, equipment and supplies

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00:01:43,200 --> 00:01:49,820

for the International Space Station. Once in orbit, the STS-135 astronauts will work with

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00:01:49,820 --> 00:01:54,680

the station residents to unload the module and fill it up with concluded experiments

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00:01:54,680 --> 00:01:57,670

and other items that are no longer needed on the station.

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00:01:57,670 --> 00:02:02,670

REX WALHEIM: It's a pleasure to be here and right in front of the space shuttle just

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00:02:02,670 --> 00:02:03,960

gives you goose bumps thinking that we're going to get to ride that in about two weeks.

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00:02:03,960 --> 00:02:06,660

NARRATOR: The training is rich in tradition and history and the astronauts

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00:02:06,660 --> 00:02:09,660

do not take its lessons for granted.

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00:02:09,660 --> 00:02:12,980

DOUG HURLEY: It's just a very comprehensive, hands-on,

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00:02:12,980 --> 00:02:16,840

at the place you're going to do it kind of training and it's invaluable.

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00:02:16,840 --> 00:02:20,630

You can do all the simulators in the world, but until you get in that real vehicle,

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00:02:20,630 --> 00:02:24,480

touch the vehicle, see what you can reach, see the different switches,

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00:02:24,480 --> 00:02:27,920

everything's just a little bit different when you're in the real vehicle.

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00:02:27,920 --> 00:02:32,370

It's a great way to get you ready for launch day when it counts.

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00:02:32,370 --> 00:02:35,780

NARRATOR: Their last day opened with a full dress rehearsal for launch day,

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00:02:35,780 --> 00:02:40,200

targeted for July 8. The astronauts pulled on their launch-and-entry suits,

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00:02:40,200 --> 00:02:45,290

took their seats aboard Atlantis' flight deck and ran through a countdown simulation.

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00:02:45,290 --> 00:02:49,570

SANDY MAGNUS: We're just the tip of the iceberg of a huge group of people who plan

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00:02:49,570 --> 00:02:54,510

and get the hardware ready and prepare our procedures and then watch over the vehicle

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00:02:54,510 --> 00:02:59,740

when we're on board and we feel very, very strongly that we have to be prepared as

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00:02:59,740 --> 00:03:04,910

possible to perform the mission to the extent that they're expecting of us and I think when

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00:03:04,910 --> 00:03:07,960

it's all done, we can all celebrate together not only just the mission,

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00:03:07,960 --> 00:03:09,330

but the whole program.

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00:03:09,330 --> 00:03:15,770

CHRIS FERGUSON: I think each of us feels a little perhaps extra burden to make sure

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00:03:15,770 --> 00:03:21,570

we put on the best possible face forward for the last go-around of this and the crew's very

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00:03:21,570 --> 00:03:25,810

prepared, we're going to go out and do a fantastic job and I think when it's all over,

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00:03:25,810 --> 00:03:29,610

at the very end, I think that's when the enormity of it's going to hit us.

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00:03:29,610 --> 00:03:33,950

That last wheelstop call is going to be a little tough.

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00:03:33,950 --> 00:03:37,240

NARRATOR: After lunch and a review of the equipment they will use in space,

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00:03:37,240 --> 00:03:41,800

Ferguson, Hurley, Magnus and Walheim boarded their jets and returned to