



United States 

NASA 

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00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,343

George Diller/Shuttle Ground Operations Commentator: And the commander is now

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00:00:04,378 --> 00:00:08,053

leaving the crew transport vehicle along with our other astronauts,

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00:00:08,088 --> 00:00:18,701

being greeted by our NASA administrator and our Center Director Bob Cabana.

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00:00:18,736 --> 00:00:29,706

We see Sandy Magnus, Doug Hurley, Rex Walheim and Chris Ferguson.

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00:00:29,741 --> 00:00:36,851

There's the Atlantis banner that was actually on the hatch of Atlantis

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00:00:36,886 --> 00:00:38,369

when the hatch was closed.

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00:00:38,404 --> 00:00:42,299

And now we're underneath Atlantis.

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00:00:42,334 --> 00:00:49,644

Going to be going over to the landing gear and looking at the tiles with the remainder of

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00:00:49,679 --> 00:00:51,161

the crew.

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00:00:51,196 --> 00:00:56,351

There's our administrator, Charlie Bolden again, Pilot Doug Hurley, Sandy Magnus.

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00:00:56,386 --> 00:01:01,571

Bob Cabana is talking with our commander, Chris Ferguson.

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00:01:01,606 --> 00:01:06,871

Bob Cabana also has served as an astronaut on the space shuttle.

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00:01:06,906 --> 00:01:12,576

Rex Walheim, and we see our purge equipment in the background that hooks up to the aft

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00:01:12,611 --> 00:01:17,489

of Atlantis, providing all the cooling right now. Atlantis' onboard cooling systems are off.

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00:01:17,524 --> 00:01:20,615

NASA Administrator Charles Bolden: They have come to be known as the

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00:01:20,650 --> 00:01:24,377

'Final Four' and they did an absolutely incredible job.

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00:01:24,412 --> 00:01:27,156

If you had an opportunity to watch anytime during the mission,

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00:01:27,191 --> 00:01:30,729

they were like racehorses the whole time. So they made us very proud.

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00:01:30,764 --> 00:01:35,613

You know, we've been exploring since early in our country's history.

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00:01:35,648 --> 00:01:40,969

And what Fergie and his crew did this time was kind of close out this era of our

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00:01:41,004 --> 00:01:46,865

exploration. But I want everybody who was involved in this to feel incredibly proud of

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00:01:46,900 --> 00:01:49,237

what you did, and what your role was.

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00:01:49,272 --> 00:01:54,785

Like me, they got an opportunity to do the flying, but we owe an incredible debt of

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00:01:54,820 --> 00:01:59,489

gratitude to the thousands -- literally tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands -- of

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00:01:59,524 --> 00:02:04,282

folks around the country who made all this possible. I had a chance to talk to some of you

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00:02:04,317 --> 00:02:06,905

this morning and, you know, we were lining up the convoy.

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00:02:06,940 --> 00:02:09,294

I thank you again for everything that you've done.

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00:02:09,329 --> 00:02:13,135

The things that we've done have set us up for exploration of the future,

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00:02:13,170 --> 00:02:16,252

but I don't want to talk about that right now. I just want to salute this crew,

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00:02:16,287 --> 00:02:20,509

welcome them home, let them know how proud we are of them. And Fergie,

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00:02:20,544 --> 00:02:23,964

I ask you to come on up and talk for your crew here.

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00:02:23,999 --> 00:02:29,681

(Applause)

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00:02:29,716 --> 00:02:32,678

STS-135 Commander Chris Ferguson: Thank you Charlie, we really appreciate those

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00:02:32,713 --> 00:02:38,921

remarks. I'll tell you what, you know, flying in space is a real dream.

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00:02:38,956 --> 00:02:45,331

But flying in space has a lot more to do with who you do it with than what you do.

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00:02:45,366 --> 00:02:51,306

And these three folks -- Rex and Sandy and Doug -- I'll tell you, a commander couldn't

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00:02:51,341 --> 00:02:58,273

ask for three better people to go and perform an aggressive and, to a certain extent,

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00:02:58,308 --> 00:03:04,805

historic mission. I mean, there's no doubt that there was a lot of attention paid to this

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00:03:04,840 --> 00:03:09,221

mission because it does bring to a final close the 30 years of space shuttle history.

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00:03:09,256 --> 00:03:15,742

I'm going to speak on behalf of them and just say that we're all, the three of us,

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00:03:15,777 --> 00:03:22,034

or four of us, were honored to be a part of this. But ultimately, it's everyone who has

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00:03:22,069 --> 00:03:27,573

worked on the shuttle program. Although we got to take the ride, we sure hope that

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00:03:27,608 --> 00:03:34,034

everybody who has ever worked, or touched, or looked at, or envied, or admired a space

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00:03:34,069 --> 00:03:38,016

shuttle was able to take just a little part of the journey with us.

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00:03:38,051 --> 00:03:42,700

We're going to put Atlantis in a museum now, along with the other three orbiters,

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00:03:42,735 --> 00:03:46,601

for generations that will come after us to admire and appreciate.

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00:03:46,636 --> 00:03:52,704

And hopefully, I want that picture of a young, six-year-old boy looking up at a space

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00:03:52,739 --> 00:03:58,711

shuttle in a museum and say, Daddy, I want to do something like that when I grow up.

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00:03:58,746 --> 00:04:03,555

Or, I want our country to do fantastic things like this for the continued future.

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00:04:03,590 --> 00:04:10,005

And if we set those steps right now, and they continue with that next generation of space

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00:04:10,040 --> 00:04:14,908

explorers, then I consider our job here complete. So again, on behalf of the crew,

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00:04:14,943 --> 00:04:19,336

thank you so much for the time and the attention. And for the folks at KSC,

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00:04:19,371 --> 00:04:23,694

thank you for this fantastic vehicle. It performed absolutely wonderfully.

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00:04:23,729 --> 00:04:30,364

Not a glitch. And it's just as pristine as it was, I hope, on the day that we took it –

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00:04:30,399 --> 00:04:35,823

barring, maybe, a door to the WCS, which opened up a little bit on entry. (Laughing)