
GEORGE ZAMKA
STS-130 COMMANDER

1
00:00:07,629 --> 00:00:12,209
This Week at NASA!

2
00:00:12,209 --> 00:00:17,490
With skies overcast skies, the next space
shuttle crew set down their T-38s at the Kennedy

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00:00:17,490 --> 00:00:23,560
Space Center, eager to begin their launch
dress rehearsal, or Terminal Countdown Demonstration

4
00:00:23,560 --> 00:00:24,560
test.

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00:00:24,560 --> 00:00:27,819
It’s great to be back. It feels like I’m
coming home.

6
00:00:27,819 --> 00:00:33,050
During a question and answer session with
the media, STS-130 Commander George Zamka,

7
00:00:33,050 --> 00:00:38,309
pilot and first time flyer Terry Virts, and
Mission Specialists Bob Behnken, Nicholas

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00:00:38,309 --> 00:00:44,860
Patrick, Kathryn Hire and Steve Robinson expressed
excitement about their upcoming mission.

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00:00:44,860 --> 00:00:51,320
This is a very special trip for us. It marks
the transition for us from flight preparation

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00:00:51,320 --> 00:00:56,360
and training to the operation stage of our
flight. We’re looking forward to flying

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00:00:56,360 --> 00:00:57,850

this flight, here, in just a few weeks.

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00:00:57,850 --> 00:01:04,970
The rehearsal simulates the countdown to a launch. The crew and ground teams can familiarize

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00:01:04,970 --> 00:01:15,189
themselves with their equipment and practice procedures in the event of an emergency.

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00:01:15,189 --> 00:01:19,899
The crew will fly aboard space shuttle Endeavour bringing the Tranquility node and its cupola

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00:01:19,899 --> 00:01:24,899
for installation on the International Space Station. The STS-130 mission is scheduled

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00:01:24,899 --> 00:01:30,560
to liftoff from the Kennedy Space Center on Sunday, February 7, at 4:39 a.m. Eastern.

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00:01:30,560 --> 00:01:38,929
The scheduled launch of NASA's new Solar Dynamics Observatory, or SDO, is drawing near.

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00:01:38,929 --> 00:01:46,039
SDO is the solar variability mission; it is going to revolutionize our view of the sun.

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00:01:46,039 --> 00:01:50,149
Its prelaunch briefing, conducted at NASA headquarters in Washington and the Kennedy

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00:01:50,149 --> 00:01:56,090
Space Center, gave media a look at SDO's unprecedented mission to study the sun and

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00:01:56,090 --> 00:02:01,950
its dynamic behavior. SDO is designed to help

us understand the Sun's influence on Earth

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00:02:01,950 --> 00:02:08,310
and near-Earth space by studying the solar atmosphere on small scales of space and time

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00:02:08,310 --> 00:02:11,240
and in many wavelengths simultaneously.

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00:02:11,240 --> 00:02:18,280
We know how much SOHO and other spacecraft have revolutionized solar physics. SDO has

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00:02:18,280 --> 00:02:23,390
been designed to take advantage of what we have learned from those missions, and I see

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00:02:23,390 --> 00:02:29,620
this as a revolutionary mission and the data that SDO produces, in five to ten years we

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00:02:29,620 --> 00:02:32,380
are going to be looking back and be amazed at what we learned from it.

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00:02:32,380 --> 00:02:33,380
The Solar Dynamics Observatory is scheduled to launch aboard an Atlas V rocket from Cape

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00:02:33,380 --> 00:02:34,380
Canaveral Air Force Station on February 9, between 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. eastern. SDO

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00:02:34,380 --> 00:02:35,380
is the first Space Weather Research Network mission in NASA’s Living With A Star program.

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00:02:35,380 --> 00:02:39,070
The next International Space Station crew briefed reporters on their upcoming mission.

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00:02:39,070 --> 00:02:45,320
NASA astronaut Tracy Caldwell Dyson was joined
by Russian cosmonauts Alexander Skyorsov and

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00:02:45,320 --> 00:02:49,930
Mikhail Kornlenko to discuss their upcoming
Expedition 23 mission.

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00:02:49,930 --> 00:02:56,350
We have highlights of our mission mainly focusing
around vehicle traffic. During our mission,

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00:02:56,350 --> 00:03:03,170
we'll see Progress, shuttles, and Soyuz.
We will have both a U.S. stage EVA as well

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00:03:03,170 --> 00:03:09,290
as a Russian stage EVA and a whole host of
science experiments and ISS maintenance to

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00:03:09,290 --> 00:03:10,310
perform.

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00:03:10,310 --> 00:03:14,510
The trio of space travelers are scheduled
to launch aboard a Soyuz spacecraft April

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00:03:14,510 --> 00:03:18,030
2, then dock with the International Space
Station two days later.

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00:03:18,030 --> 00:03:22,230
I'd like to thank everyone for joining us
this afternoon.

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00:03:22,230 --> 00:03:28,350
Members of the STS-129 crew continued their
whirlwind tour of NASA centers. Five members

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00:03:28,350 --> 00:03:32,400
of the space shuttle Atlantis crew thanked employees at the Stennis Space Center for

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00:03:32,400 --> 00:03:37,990
their part in a safe STS-129 mission to the International Space Station in November.

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00:03:37,990 --> 00:03:44,040
STS-129 was the last scheduled space shuttle crew rotation mission to or from the space

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00:03:44,040 --> 00:03:50,620
station, returning ISS crew member Nicole Stott to Earth on Nov. 27. The 11-day mission

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00:03:50,620 --> 00:03:56,170
also delivered supplies and spare parts to the complex.

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00:03:56,170 --> 00:04:02,060
The Mars Exploration Rover Opportunity this week celebrates six years of exploration and

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00:04:02,060 --> 00:04:07,370
research on the surface of the red planet.

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00:04:07,370 --> 00:04:13,670
Opportunity landed on Mars on January 24, 2004 nearly a month after its twin Spirit

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00:04:13,670 --> 00:04:18,760
landed on the other side of the planet. Spirit is currently stuck in a sand trap and its

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00:04:18,760 --> 00:04:24,340
prognosis for getting out is not good, although it will, in any event, continue providing

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00:04:24,340 --> 00:04:30,660
observation data to scientists back on Earth.
Opportunity, however, still chugs along, currently

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00:04:30,660 --> 00:04:37,530
on a seven-mile trek from Mars' Victoria crater
to the Endeavour crater to continue its research.

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00:04:37,530 --> 00:04:42,710
Both rovers have well exceeded expectations,
surviving more than five-and-a-half years

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00:04:42,710 --> 00:04:46,210
longer than their original 90 day missions.

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00:04:46,210 --> 00:04:54,590
The most powerful camera aboard the NASA spacecraft
orbiting Mars will soon be taking photo suggestions

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00:04:54,590 --> 00:04:55,590
from the public.

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00:04:55,590 --> 00:05:00,380
And what we'd like to do is have lots of
eyes looking at lower resolution pictures

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00:05:00,380 --> 00:05:04,780
figuring out what might be very interesting
and the public can help us point to things

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00:05:04,780 --> 00:05:10,090
that maybe somebody else has not noticed.
So we can bring everybody along. We can pick

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00:05:10,090 --> 00:05:14,940
places to get high resolution images. The
public gets to play, and we get some cool

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00:05:14,940 --> 00:05:15,940
pictures.

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00:05:15,940 --> 00:05:21,440
Since arriving at red planet in 2006, the
High Resolution Imaging Science Experiment,

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00:05:21,440 --> 00:05:28,460
or HiRISE, camera on the Mars Reconnaissance
Orbiter has recorded nearly 13,000 observations

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00:05:28,460 --> 00:05:35,540
of the Martian terrain. Now, students, researchers
and others can view Mars maps using a new

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00:05:35,540 --> 00:05:41,070
online tool to see where images have been
taken and suggest locations for new ones.

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00:05:41,070 --> 00:05:48,400
To check out how you can nominate your Martian
photo op, visit: www.nasa.gov/mro.