

Astronaut Family Support Office

Aerospace Medicine Association
85th Annual Scientific Meeting
May 13, 2014

Kelly Curtis

Gary Beven

Al Holland

Walter Sipes

Steve Vander Ark

Disclosure Information
85th Annual Scientific Meeting
Dr. Gary Beven

I have no financial relationships to disclose.

I will not discuss off-label use and/or
investigational use in my presentation

Family Services Coordinator



□ The Astronaut Family Support Office (FSO)

Established *August 2000 with funding from ISS Program Office*

- » *Purpose: provide assistance and support to astronauts, astronaut candidates and their families.*
- » *First Family Services Coordinator: Laura Steinmann (January 2001 – January 2009)*

A collaborative effort between BHP/Space and Clinical Ops and Astronaut Office

Primary Goal: Assure no loss of mission goals due to deterioration in family functioning

Current FSC: Kelly Curtis

- » *Worked at JSC for 25+ years*
- » *Experience with Shuttle, NASA-Mir & ISS Programs
as well as spaceflight analog projects*



Astronaut Spouses Group

- *The Astronaut Spouses Group (ASG) is a volunteer-run organization*
- *Offers support for NASA and International Partner astronaut families*
- *The ASG serves critical functions:*

Advocacy & Liaison

Communication

Interprets NASA/CB policy changes & the impact on families

Mutual support and crisis assistance & management

Social interaction



//////////////////////////////////// *Apollo 12 Spouses* *////////////////////////////////////* *November 1969*

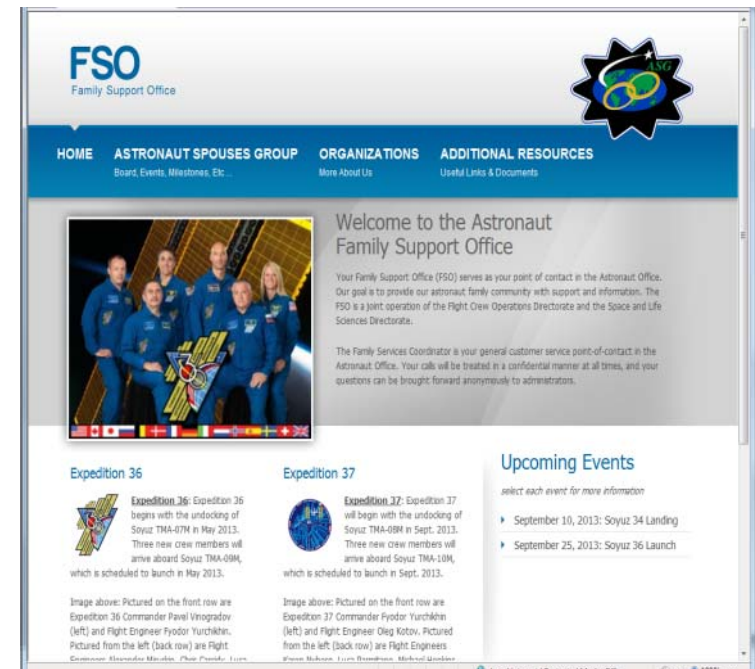


//////////////////////////////////// *ISS Expedition 9 Spouse* *////////////////////////////////////* *October 2004*



How FSO Facilitates ASG Functions

- *Liaison between FSO, ASG, the Astronaut Office, Flight Medicine, and others within BHP Group.*
- *Communication*
 - » *Weekly Family Support Office Notices*
 - » *Daily Human Spaceflight News*
 - » *Contingency notification and support*
 - » *Family Support Office Website*
 - » *ASG Newsletter "CONTACT"*
- *Maintains ASG Rosters & E-mail distribution lists*
- *Maintains a centralized clearinghouse of information helpful for families*
- *Coordinates & sponsors educational events to inform astronaut families of issues related to long-duration missions.*





How FSO Interfaces with the Astronaut Office

- *Assist families with crewmembers on travel*
 - Communication (e.g., Skype, Polycom)*
 - Home security – JSC Security or Constable patrols*
- *Prepare Contingency Action Plans for each ISS Crewmember (launch & landing) and Expeditionary Training participant (SEA TEST/NOLS/CAVES).*
- *Contingency support*
 - Hub of communication between Astronaut Office, BHP, & ASG*
- *Provide services for International Partner crewmembers and their families deployed to the US*
 - Assist navigating NASA bureaucracy*
 - Spouse & dependent badging*
 - Connect with local services*





International Space Station Launch Support

- *Provide **Practical Planning for Long Duration Missions** training class to crewmember and immediate family upon assignment to ISS mission*
- *Provide Soyuz launch briefings for the crewmember and immediate family*
- *Develop and maintain Family Support Plans*
- *Manage individual Contingency Action Plans*
- *Provide CAP information to Crew Support Astronauts and CACOs (Casualty Assistance and Comm Officers)*
- *Serve as a POC and provide training briefs to Immediate/Extended Family Escorts supporting Soyuz launches*
- *Coordination with International Partner Family/Crew Support Reps (CSA, ESA, JAXA)*





International Space Station

Launch Family Escort Responsibilities

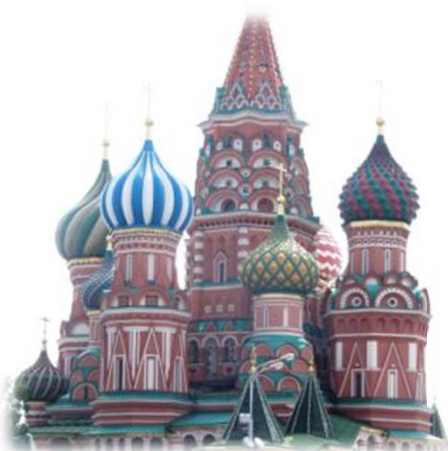
- *Soyuz launches in Kazakhstan (Baikonur Cosmodrome).*
 - » *US crewmembers are allowed to invite 15 family/guests*
 - » *Launch attendees travel to Moscow ~ 1 week before launch, then to Baikonur ~4 days prior to launch*

- *In Russia & Kazakhstan the family/guest escorts are responsible for...*
 - » *Being familiar with launch support documents*
 - » *Coordinating events/transportation schedule with launch support personnel*
 - » *Coordinating & communicating meeting times, schedule of events, etc. to family/guests*
 - » *Being attentive to the general safety and well-being of the family/guests*
 - » *Providing escort to all events (tours, dinners, pre-launch & launch events, airport) – No one's been left behind to date!!*
 - » *Being accessible 24/7 to assist or answer questions, as needed.*





ISS: Launch Events in Moscow/Kazakhstan



|||||
Tours in Moscow



|||||
*Accommodations in Baikonur
(Sputnik Hotel)*



|||||
Soyuz Roll-Out



|||||
Crew Walk-Out



ISS: Landing Support



365 Landing March
10, 2014
NASA returning
crewmember Mike
Hopkins pictured
below (right)

- Soyuz landings occur in the steppes of Kazakhstan
- Following a brief medical check at the landing site, the crewmembers are loaded onto a Russian helicopter for ~90-minute ride to Karaganda or Kustanai
- Brief “welcome home” ceremony at the airport
- US [and IP] crewmember(s) are flown back to Houston on G-III aircraft (NASA 992)
- Cosmonauts fly back to Star City, Russia
- The US [and IP] crewmember(s) arrive at Ellington Field in Houston
- <24hrs after landing, reunited with family and begin their post-flight medical tests





ISS: Direct Return to Houston



////////////////////////////////////
Left: Mike Hopkins view
////////////////////////////////////
from Russian helicopter

The Family Services Coordinator landing/direct return responsibilities include:

- *Provide Soyuz landing and direct return information briefings for the immediate family.*
- *Develop landing/direct return Family Support Plans*
- *Implement NASA 992 logistics including requests from the crew for food inputs and personal items.*
- *Implement Astronaut Crew Quarter (ACQ) logistics, including family access to this Control Access Area and coordination with JSC Food Lab.*
- *Provide NASA 992 ETA updates to family & landing support personnel.*
- *Coordinate with JSC Center Ops for transportation of crewmember & immediate family from Ellington to ACQ*
- *Coordinate with International Partner Family/Crew Support Representatives (CSA, ESA, JAXA)*



////////////////////////////////////
Below: NASA G-III
////////////////////////////////////
Aircraft





////////////////////////////////////
Family Support Office
////////////////////////////////////
NASA/Johnson Space Center
////////////////////////////////////
281-244-9056
////////////////////////////////////
kelly.d.curtis@nasa.gov

