Astronaut Family Support Office
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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
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
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

- 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

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)