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Astronauts, space experts discuss Expedition 13

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April 5, 2006

Media Advisory

Astronauts, Space Experts Discuss Expedition 13

Friday, Apr. 7

11 a.m.

Astronauts Dan Bursch and James Newman, veterans of a combined eight space flights, and Dr. Rudy Panholzer, chairman of the Naval Postgraduate School's space systems program, will hold a media availability Friday, Apr. 7 to offer perspective and answer reporters' questions about NASA's Expedition 13.

The Expedition 13 crew with two NPS graduates aboard, Army Col. Jeffrey Williams and Brazilian Air Force Lt. Col. Marcos Pontes, launched last week from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan and docked with the International Space Station on Mar. 31. The Russian Soyuz space capsule is scheduled to return Saturday. Williams will remain aboard the ISS while Pontes, the first Brazilian astronaut in space, will return in the Soyuz spacecraft, which will land in the steppes of Kazakhstan.

Capt. Dan Bursch, who retired from the Navy and astronaut program last year, is the co-holder of the U.S. space endurance record, established during a 6 ½ month stay aboard the ISS as a crew member of Expedition 4. During that stay, Bursch logged 11 hours and 48 minutes of EVA time in two separate space walks. Bursch is currently a chair professor in the NPS space systems program. His astronaut bio is available at <http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/Bios/htmlbios/bursch.html>.

Dr. James Newman is a NASA visiting professor and active astronaut who has logged over 43 days in space and 43 hours and 13 minutes in six space walks. He came to NPS in March after serving as the ISS program manager's lead representative to the Russian Federal Space Agency. Newman's NASA responsibilities included oversight of the U.S. human space flight program in Russia as well as NASA's operations, logistics and technical functions in Moscow, mission control operations in Korolev, and crew training at the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center in Star City. His astronaut bio is available at <http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/Bios/htmlbios/newman.html>.

Prof. Rudy Panholzer has served as chairman of the NPS space systems academic group since 1986 and has been recognized by both the Navy and NASA for pioneering work in space programs.

Media will also have an opportunity to tour the NPS space labs and get an update on the school's satellite project, NPSAT1, which will launch later this year aboard a Delta V rocket. The satellite is a student-focused project designed to give hands-on experience in spacecraft design and development.

Media requests for credentials must be received no later than 2:00 p.m., Thursday, Apr. 6. Press should contact either John Sanders or Chief Journalist Michael Martin for directions and other details.

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