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*"Rummaging in the government's attic"*

Description of document: Two (2) National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) documents: Soyuz 52S (MS-06) Launch, Space Operations Center (SOC) Support & Contingency Familiarization and Astana, Kazakhstan Medical Assessment, 2017

Requested date: 06-September-2017

Release date: 08-February-2018

Posted date: 31-December-2018

Source of document: FOIA Request  
NASA Headquarters  
300 E Street, SW  
Room 5Q16  
Washington, DC 20546  
Fax: (202) 358-4332  
Email: [hq-foia@nasa.gov](mailto:hq-foia@nasa.gov)

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National Aeronautics and Space Administration

**Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center**  
2101 NASA Parkway  
Houston, Texas 77058-3696



February 8, 2018

Reply to attn. of: AD911/JSC FOIA Office

**REF: 18-JSC-F-00059**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated September 6, 2017, and received at the NASA Headquarters FOIA Office on September 7, 2017. Your request was transferred to our office on October 20, 2017, and received on October 24, 2017. In the acknowledgement letter dated November 9, 2017, you were informed that the FOIA Case Number was 18-JSC-F-00028; however, the correct FOIA Case Number is **18-JSC-F-00059**. You requested the following:

A copy of memos and summaries produced by the NASA Office of the Chief Health and Medical Officer that describe the current critical issues relating to crew health and medical operations support to Soyuz landing. Please limit this request to documents originated during FY2017.

Our office conducted a search for records and located two documents as responsive to your request. We are withholding five pages in part pursuant to FOIA Exemption 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(5), inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency.

We are also withholding eight pages in part pursuant FOIA Exemption 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(7)(E), which protects the safety of any individual. The NASA living quarter's location while in Russia and the Cosmonaut Hotel location, support office numbers and email address are being withheld. NASA maintains this information is highly sensitive and affects the Agency's ability to provide a safe and secure environment for persons and property. In accordance with this exemption, which authorizes the withholding of information necessary to protect the physical safety of a wide range of individuals, NASA has determined that releasing NASA and Russian residential locations could compromise security at those facilities and the safety of persons at these facilities.

In addition, releasing direct numbers to the Space Operations Center and the email address for that office could also compromise the security of the NASA IT Critical Infrastructure. This information sheds no light on agency operations and is being exempt from release.

You have the right under 14 CFR §1206.700 to appeal this determination within 90 days from the date of this letter. Your appeal must be in writing and should be addressed to:

Administrator  
NASA Headquarters  
Executive Secretariat  
MS 9R17  
Washington, DC 20546  
ATTN: FOIA Appeals

The appeal should be marked "Appeal under the Freedom of Information Act" both on the envelope and the face of the letter. A copy of your initial request must be enclosed along with a copy of the adverse determination and any other correspondence with the FOIA office. In order to expedite the appellate process and ensure full consideration of your appeal, your appeal should contain a brief statement of the reasons you believe this initial decision to be in error.

For your information, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001 or [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov).

Fees for processing this request are less than \$50.00 and are not being charged in accordance with 14 CFR §1206.504(f). In accordance with § 1206.804 (c), after consultation with our office of legal counsel, I am the official responsible for the denial of your request. If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at [Jessica.A.Cordero@nasa.gov](mailto:Jessica.A.Cordero@nasa.gov) or 281-483-8252. As an alternative, you may also contact Ms. Nikki Gramian, Principal Agency FOIA Officer and Chief Public Liaison at (202) 358-0625.

Sincerely,

  
Jessica Cordero  
JSC FOIA Officer

Enclosures



# Soyuz 52S (MS-06) Launch

## Space Operations Center (SOC) Support & Contingency Familiarization

September 2017





# Crew and Events

**Launch: Sept 12, 2017**

on Soyuz 52S (MS-06/734)



NASA's Acaba  
Roscosmos / Alexander Mishurkin

	Washington, DC (EDT)	Moscow (DMT)	Baikonur
Launch	Sept 12, 5:17pm	Sept 13, 12:17am	Sept 13, 3:17am
Docking	Sept 12, 10:57pm	Sept 13, 5:57am	N/A

\* Times subject to change, please utilize

<https://www.nasa.gov/launchschedule/> for most current launch date/time.



(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

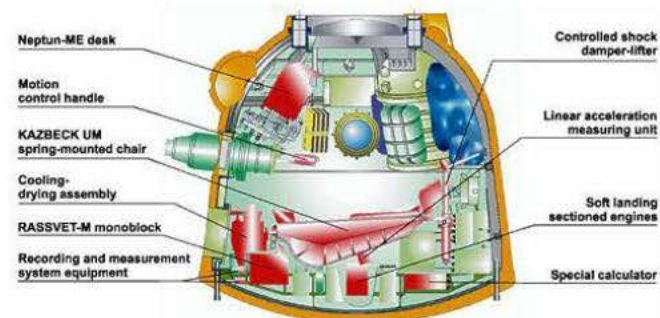
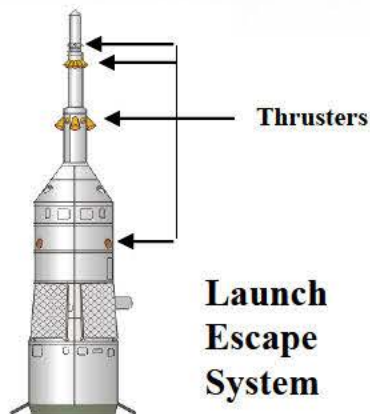
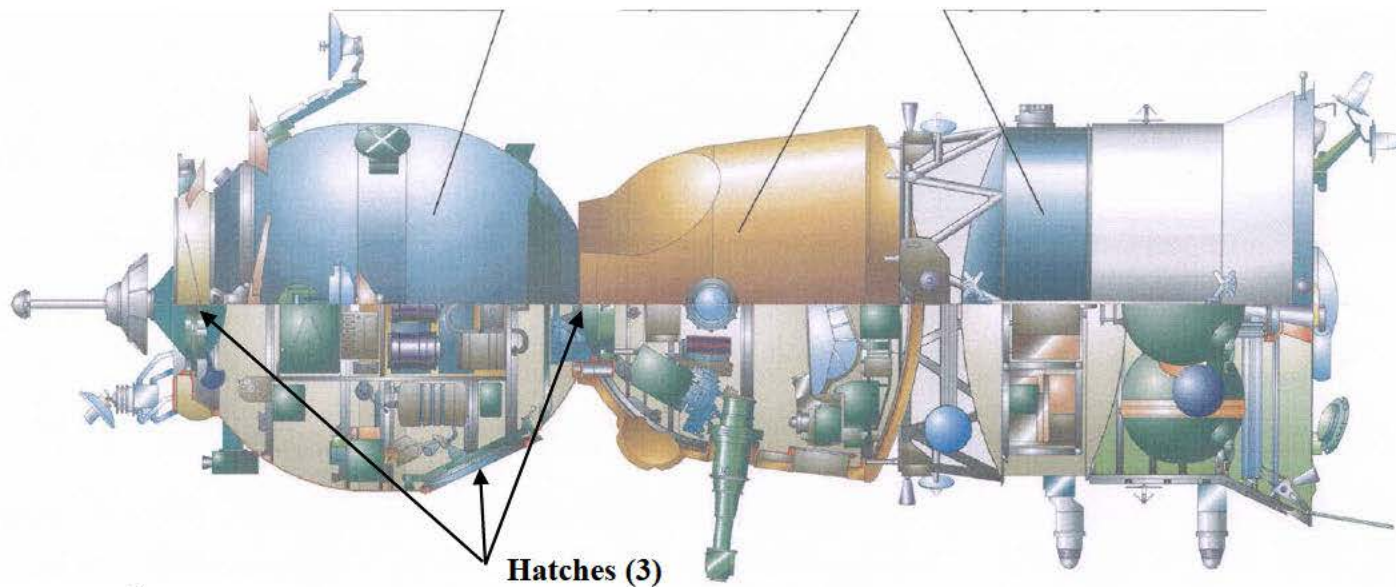


# Soyuz Overview

**Orbital Compartment (БО)**

**Descent Module (CA)**

**Instrumentation & Propulsion Module (ИАО)**

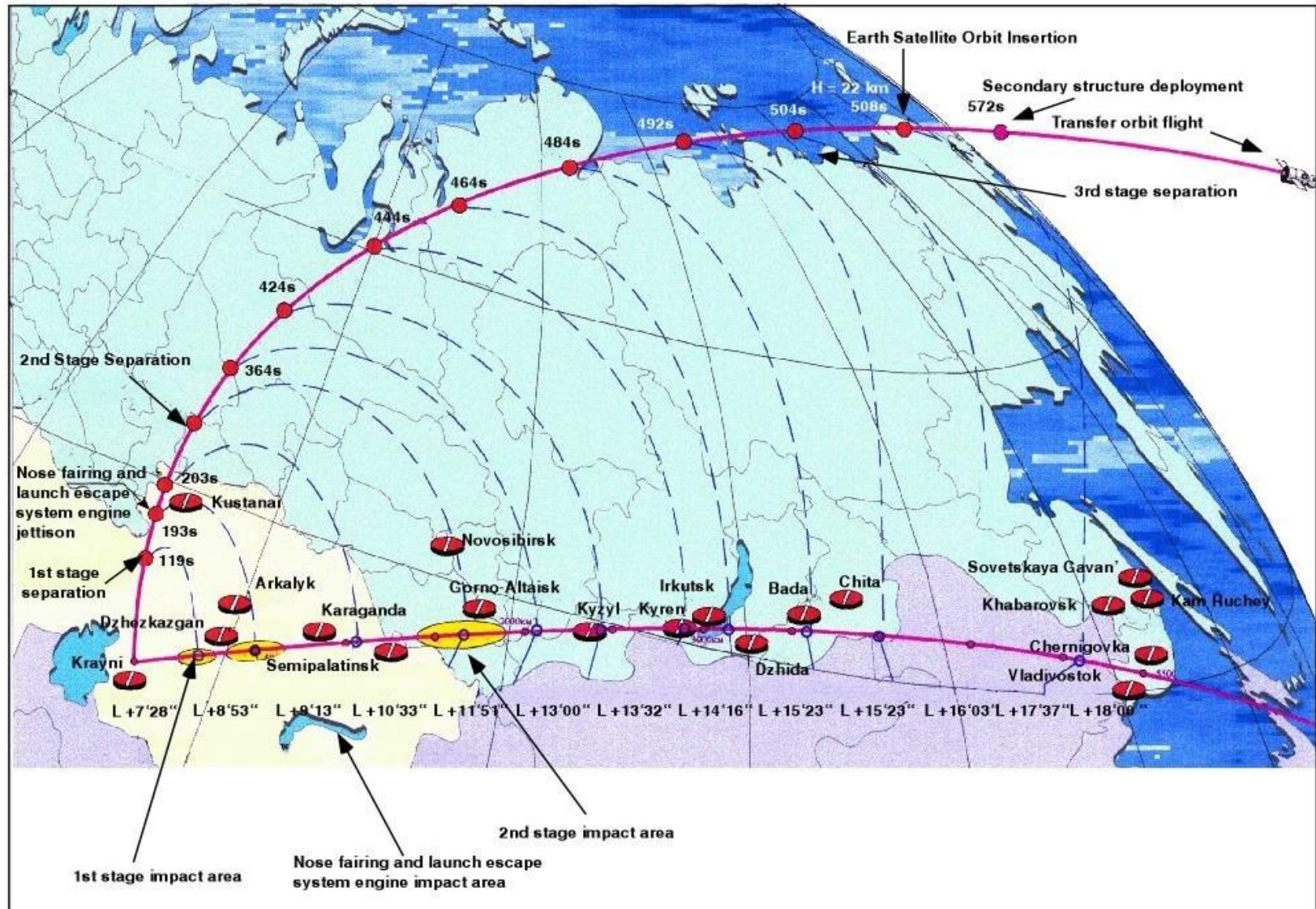


**Crew Location During  
Ascent, Docking and Entry**





# Soyuz Launch Process







# NASA Offices in Russia

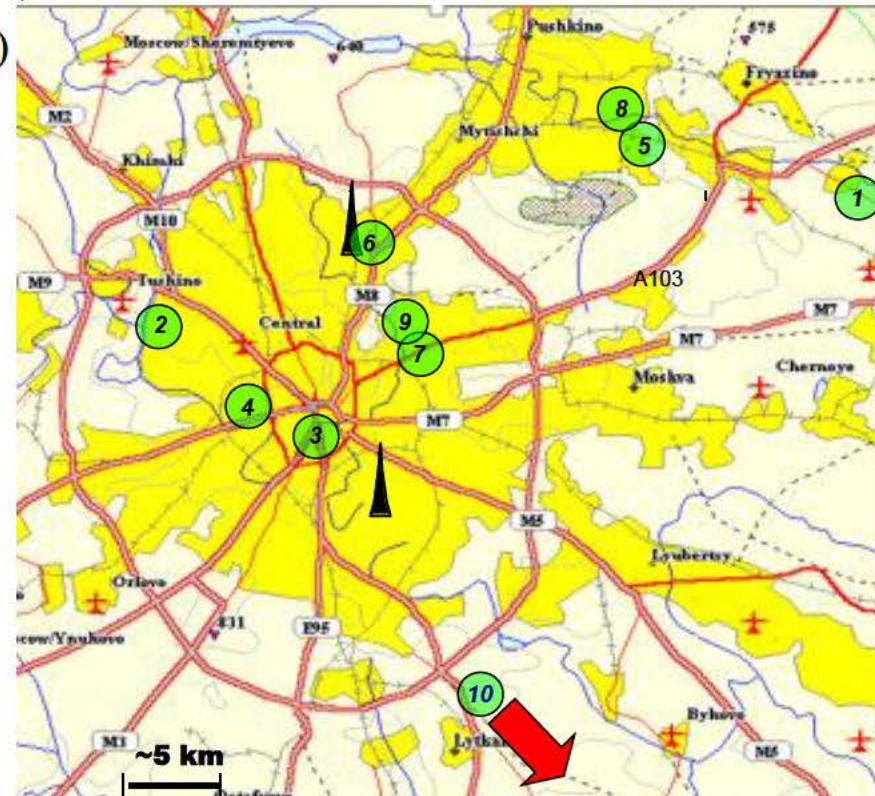
- NASA Moscow Liaison Office (NMLO)
- Human Space Flight Programs – Russia (HSFP-R)

(b) (7)(E)

- Moscow Technical Liaison Office (MTLO)
- Director of Operations at Star City (DOR)
- Houston Support Group (HSG)

Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center – Star City 1  
Institute of Biomedical Problems 2  
NASA Liaison Office, US Embassy 3  
Khrunichev Space Center 4  
MCC-Moscow (TsUP) 5  
NASA Hub, Telcom Center 6  
(b) (7)(E) 7  
Rocket Space Corp – Energia RSC-E – Korolyov 8  
State Space Corporation Roscosmos 9

10



Baikonur, Kazakhstan  
2,100 km Southeast of Moscow





# Area of Operations





# SOC Staffing

- The SOC is staffed during these events, monitoring IMC Contingency website, email reports and mission voice loops (contingency support as required)
  - **Launch:** Launch-1 hour until Soyuz stable orbit (nominally 1.5 hours)
  - **Docking:** Dock-1 hour until hard dock confirmed (nominally 1.5 hours)
  - **Landing:** Undock-1 hour until crew confirmed safe on ground (nominally 5 hours)
- SOC contacts – (b) (7)(E)
  - Kevin Metrocavage 202.358.1078, (b) (7)(E), [kevin.m.metrocavage@nasa.gov](mailto:kevin.m.metrocavage@nasa.gov)
- Reference info - [http://www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/station/structure/elements/soyuz/index.html](http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/structure/elements/soyuz/index.html)

## Contingency Responsibilities

- Under the ISS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) –Vehicles outside the “operational control zone” of the ISS are the responsibility of the provider.
- Russia is responsible for coordinating Search and Rescue (SAR) and contingency operations of Soyuz for landings in Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and NASA will assist as required. The U.S. is responsible for coordinating Search and Rescue (SAR) and contingency operations of Soyuz landings outside Russia and the CIS.



# Public Affairs Contingency Plan

- If a contingency occurs during the Soyuz crew launch or on-orbit activities, appropriate Roscosmos and NASA officials will brief the news media at pertinent sites where the news media may be present, as soon as possible, but not later than two hours after the contingency.
- The Russian side will inform NASA and other Partners of a launch contingency situation and agree on the amount of information to provide to the media through press conferences and news releases.
- This announcement should include what is known at the time and when additional information is expected to be available.
- A formal press conference should be scheduled as soon as practical and would be televised live on NASA Television and streamed online at [www.nasa.gov/ntv](http://www.nasa.gov/ntv)
- If there are injuries or deaths associated with a contingency that occurs during the launch or on-orbit phase, the release of the names of those injured or deceased will be made only after an official confirmation that the next-of-kin have been notified. This notification shall be done through the appropriate channels --- the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center via the Roscosmos and NASA's Flight Operations Directorate or other NASA organizations.
- Roscosmos Public Affairs and NASA Public Affairs representatives will continue to issue written information and schedule press conferences as appropriate.
- If the contingency occurs on-orbit, a technical press conference would be held as soon as practical from the MCC-M or JSC involving Russian and/or NASA flight directors and/or managers and will provide as much technical information as possible.
- Prior to the Soyuz crew launch, Roscosmos and NASA Public Affairs will identify the name(s) of its management officials who will participate in a contingency press conference at pertinent sites.
- Information will be provided to the International Partner designated representatives for their use as appropriate.



## 2017 Astana Medical Assessment

On 10 and 11 July 2017, Dr. JD Polk (NASA-HQ/QA), Dr. Terrance Taddeo (NASA-JSC/SA), Dr. Olga Filina (Contracted Medical Interpreter), and Mr. Kevin Mellett (NASA-JSC/HSFP-R) performed NASA's annual assessment of medical facilities in Astana, Kazakhstan. The goal was to determine which facilities could best provide medical care to NASA managed Crew or Ground Support Personnel in the case of injury sustained during Soyuz landing operations.

The Assessment Team also met with several NASA interfaces at the US Embassy in Astana to verify processes and expectations.

The Assessment Team received outstanding support from the US Embassy in the form of transportation, lodging arrangements, and administrative assistance.

Below are summary notes, comments, and recommendations to the ISS Program:

### Medical Facility Visits

#### National Scientific Medical Research Center

Ablay Kahn Ave 42, Astana  
20-30 km/30-35 minutes from the Astana airport  
51.149500N, 71.495381E

(b) (5)

#### Comments:

- Formerly known, and referred to in ISS Program Documents as the Astana National Research Medical Center (ANRMC)
- Met with Yenglik Kadyrova, First Deputy Chairman of the Board

- In recognition of their long-standing relationship with the ISS Program, the Assessment Team presented ANRMC with the following ISS Mission montages: EXPEDITION 22, EXPEDITION 28, EXPEDITION 31, EXPEDITION 32/33, EXPEDITION 34, and EXPEDITION 35.

Scientific Research Institute of Traumatology and Orthopedics

Ablay Kahn Ave 9/1, Astana  
20-30 km/30-35 Minutes from the airport  
51.159591N, 71.477455E

(b) (5)

Comments:

- Spoke with Dr. Nurlan Batrenow

SOS Clinic

62A Kosmanavtov Street, 5th Floor, Astana  
16-18 km/28-30 minutes from the Astana Airport  
51.147217N, 71.424356E

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

Comments:

- Spoke with Drs. Froukelien Schiebaan-Van der Mooren and Seid-Akhmet Minbayev

City Hospital #1

66 Koshkarbayev Prospect  
20-30 km/35-40 minutes from the Astana Airport  
51.144428N, 71.528602E

(b) (5)

Comments:

- Spoke with Dr. Marat Karsibekovich Abdyov

National Research Cardiac Surgery Center

38 Turan Avenue  
13-15 km/18-20 minutes from the Astana Airport



51.118789N, 71.402485E

(b) (5)

Other Meetings

Embassy Consular Section:

- Repatriation of deceased Personnel
  - Special considerations for Crew
  - Work with Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Embassy Air Attache:

- Clarify process and Responsibilities for clearing US DoD Aircraft for airspace intrusion and landing
- (b) (5)

Embassy Financial Management Office:

- New Financial Management Officer to arrive in mid-Aug 2017

(b) (5)

Deputy Chief of Mission:

- Courtesy Call/Meet and Greet
- Appreciation for great support

Outreach Events:

- At the request of the US Embassy in Astana, we did two NASA outreach events
  - The "American Corner," which is an Embassy associated Club that is interested in English language and American culture
  - At the Embassy for family members of Embassy Employees

Recommendations

Astana has grown as a city over the past several years since NASA's decision to use the National Scientific Medical Research Center (formerly known, and will be referred to in this document, as ANRMC) as a single provider for contingency medical care for Flight or Ground Crews in case of injury during Soyuz landing operations. As the city grew, there were also changes in its medical infrastructure.

(b) (5)