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Cover: U.S. Navy divers are training in the Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston. Navy divers, Air Force pararescuemen and Coast Guard rescue swimmers practice Orion underway recovery techniques using a test version of the Orion spacecraft. Training will help the team prepare for Underway Recovery Test 5 for Exploration Mission 1 aboard the USS San Diego in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of California in October. The Ground Systems Development and Operations Program, along with the U.S. Navy are preparing the recovery team, hardware and operations to support EM-1 recovery. Photo credit: NASA/James Blair

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NASA'S LAUNCH SCHEDULE

Date: Nov. 15, 4:05 p.m. EDT
Mission: Expedition 50 Launch
Description: NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson, cosmonaut Oleg Novitskiy of the Russian space agency Roscosmos and European Space Agency astronaut Thomas Pesquet will launch to the space station aboard the Soyuz MS-02 spacecraft from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

Target Date: Nov. 16
Mission: Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite-R Series (GOES-R)
Description: The advanced spacecraft and instrument technology used on the GOES-R series will result in more timely and accurate forecasts and warnings.
<http://go.nasa.gov/1YubP2g>

Date: Dec. 1
Mission: Progress 65 Launch
Description: The Russian Progress 65 cargo craft will launch to the International Space Station from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on a two-day trip to the International Space Station, delivering food, fuel and supplies.
<http://go.nasa.gov/2eSngvM>

Date: Dec. 9, 8:26 a.m. EST
Mission: HTV-6 Cargo Craft
Description: Launch of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) H-II Transfer Vehicle (HTV) unmanned cargo transfer spacecraft from Tanegashima, Japan. HTV-6 "KOUNOTORI6" will deliver supplies to the International Space Station.
<http://go.nasa.gov/2eSn3P>

Date: Dec. 12
Mission: Cyclone Global Navigation Satellite System (CYGNSS)
Description: Launching from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida, on a Pegasus XL rocket, the CYGNSS mission will probe the inner core of hurricanes to learn about their rapid intensification.
<http://www.nasa.gov/cygnss>

Want to see a launch?
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KENNEDY SPACE CENTER

DAVID RAMSEY

I am the chief of Flight Operations for NASA's Kennedy Space Center. As such, I am the senior line manager over flight activities operated or controlled at Kennedy and directly responsible to Center Director Bob Cabana for the safe and effective conduct of those activities.

I am also an aircraft commander of Kennedy's Bell Huey II helicopters which have the primary responsibilities of providing program support to security, environmental research, contingency operations, launch security, and numerous other center-supporting roles.

Additionally, my office oversees the use of small Unmanned Aircraft Systems at Kennedy. These systems are taking an ever-increasing role in providing data during emergency or contingency operations, during natural disaster events, and in the surveying of the infrastructure required to perform our mission here at Kennedy.

I am a recently retired, 21-year Army veteran who relocated from Washington, D.C., to Central Florida for the opportunity to work at NASA. Leaving the comradery of the military was a difficult decision, but after six months here at Kennedy, I can now say that it was a great decision. The teamwork and enthusiasm for the work being accomplished here is reminiscent of my military days and I'm proud to be a part of the team! Go Army, beat Navy . . . (if you say it often enough, perhaps it will happen . . . someday)

