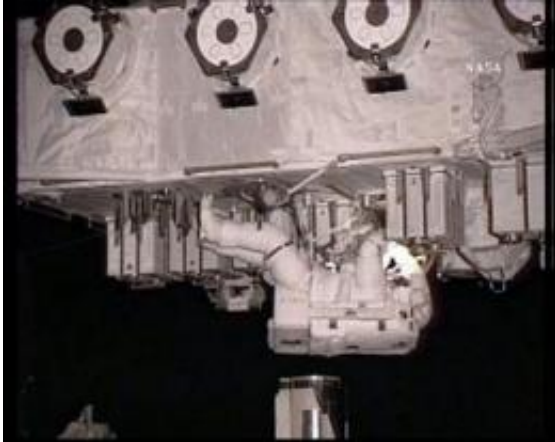


It's a day of farewells for 2 space crews

July 28 2009, By MARCIA DUNN , AP Aerospace Writer



In this image from NASA TV Astronaut Tom Marshburn is seen during a spacewalk on the international space station, Monday, July 27, 2009. (AP Photo/NASA TV)

(AP) -- They've spent the past one-and-a-half weeks together in space, and now it's time for two teams of astronauts to say goodbye.

The hatches between the linked [shuttle Endeavour](#) and [international space station](#) will be sealed late Tuesday morning. Then early in the afternoon, Endeavour will pull away and its seven astronauts will begin preparing for a landing on Friday.

Among those headed home is Japanese spaceman Koichi Wakata, who's been in orbit since March. [NASA](#) astronaut Timothy Kopra replaced him aboard the space station.

The Endeavour crew is leaving after delivering and installing a new porch and experiments for Japan's lab, and giving the space station some fresh batteries. The orbiting outpost is now 83 percent complete.

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