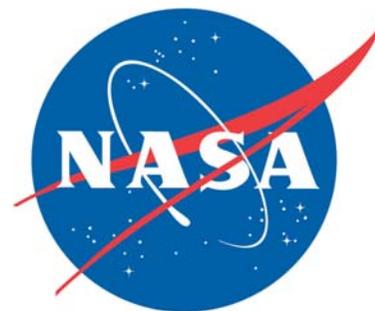


Spaceport News



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http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/snews/spnews_toc.html

Atlantis, STS-117 crew members roar off Launch Pad 39A

NASA's STS-117 mission to deliver major truss assembly, return to KSC June 21

The Space Shuttle Atlantis and its seven-member crew lifted off June 8 from Kennedy Space Center's Launch Pad 39A at 7:38 p.m. to continue construction of the International Space Station.

Shortly before launch, on behalf of the entire crew, Atlantis Commander Rick Sturckow thanked the teams that helped make this launch possible, and then added, "See you in a couple of weeks."

During the 14-day mission, designated STS-117, the crew will add a new structural component to the station, deploy a new set of solar arrays and retract an existing array. Similar construction work was conducted on the previous two shuttle missions.

The mission will deliver and

install the 17.5-ton S3/S4 truss segments. This latest addition to the station's backbone will extend the right side of the truss and includes a new set of solar arrays.

When unfolded, the 240-foot arrays provide additional power to the station in preparation for the arrival of new science modules from the European and Japanese space agencies. The crew also will retract a solar array to allow for the rotation of the new arrays to track the sun.

The station's newest resident also is traveling aboard Atlantis. Astronaut Clayton Anderson will join the Expedition 15 crew. Sunita Williams, who has been aboard the station since December, will return to Earth with the Atlantis crew. At press time,

(See STS-117, Page 4)



THE STS-117 mission crew members pose for a photo at the KSC Shuttle Landing Facility after their arrival. From left are Mission Specialists Clayton Anderson, James Reilly, John "Danny" Olivas, Steven Swanson and Patrick Forrester, Pilot Lee Archambault and Commander Frederick Sturckow. Anderson is on the mission to join the Expedition 15 crew on the International Space Station.



FLAMES FLOW from the solid rocket boosters as Space Shuttle Atlantis speeds through the sky after liftoff from Launch Pad 39A. The orbiter and the mission STS-117 crew members lifted off June 8 at 7:38 p.m.



Director's Update

Shannon Bartell
Safety and Mission Assurance

One of NASA's most important values is safety. NASA and contractor employees work together to adhere to and uphold that value at Kennedy Space Center each day.

A portion of NASA's values statement reads: NASA's constant attention to safety is the cornerstone upon which NASA builds mission success. NASA employees are committed, individually and as a team, to protecting the safety and

health of the public, NASA team members, and the assets that the nation entrusts to the agency.

It was in that spirit of safety and teamwork that NASA KSC welcomed 10 Voluntary Protection Program auditors from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or OSHA, to KSC May 21-25 to review the center's safety and health programs as part of the VPP evaluation process.

The auditors visited various

facilities and conducted informal interviews with workers, as well as formal interviews with 25 NASA employees selected at random. At the end of the week, the OSHA auditors recommended KSC for continued participation at the VPP STAR level.

The auditors noted two areas of excellence. The first was the KSC Fall Protection Working Group comprised of NASA and contractor representatives working together to develop and promote fall protection standards that exceed federal safety requirements.

"During their visit to several facilities, they saw the pride the NASA work force has in safely doing their work."

Second, they were impressed with the work of the Disability Awareness and Action Working Group and its involvement in the

design of new facilities and other disability-friendly improvements.

The OSHA VPP auditors noticed how seriously the center takes safety. During their visit to several facilities, they saw the pride the NASA work force has in safely doing their work.

Though the auditors noted several minor facility safety violations during their visit, NASA and the contractor work force were able to quickly correct them.

OSHA's visit to KSC was very productive and successful and I am happy to report that our VPP STAR

site flag remains at our entrance.

We could not have achieved this recommendation for recertification

without the help of

our NASA and contractor work force. Thanks to everyone for your focus on safety every day.

Environmental group readies Kennedy facility for Constellation

By Jennifer Wolfinger
Staff Writer

For their environmental leadership and helping NASA reach Constellation Program goals, a group of Kennedy Space Center civil servants and Sarasota, Fla., contractors recently earned the NASA Environmental Quality Group Award, one of NASA's Environmental and Energy Blue Marble Awards.

Specifically, the honorees mitigated the removal of cargo integration and test equipment stands from the Operations and Checkout Building and provided historical documentation of the effort.

The team included Mario Busacca, planning and special projects lead, and Barbara Naylor, environmental protection specialist, both KSC Environmental Program Branch employees, and Archaeological Consultants Inc. contractors Joan Deming, Patricia Slovinac, Teresa Norman and subcontractor Penny Bailes.

"It's been a pleasure to work with this excellent team and to be part of the process of preparing KSC for the next leap into space that is the Constellation Program.

In the process, it is nice that NASA recognizes the value of preserving the history that got us to this place and to save it for future generations to appreciate it," said Busacca.

The project, which began in June 2006, was essential for preparing the facility for assembly of the Crew Exploration Vehicle Orion. Not only did the stands need to be removed before anything else could be done, but this also had to be completed before the imminent selection of the contractor for Orion.

To complicate matters, the space shuttle-era stands were housed in the historic, Apollo-era Operations and Checkout Building, so the Environmental Program Branch staff had to submit the project for a historical review to the State Historic Preservation Office.

The process, which can take up to six months, was significantly condensed when NASA employed the experts of Archaeological Consultants Inc., or ACI, to perform required assessments and collect footage using specialized cameras and equipment.

"We have a good working relationship with the State Historic



MARIO BUSACCA and Barbara Naylor, both KSC Environmental Program Branch employees, teamed with Archaeological Consultants Inc. of Sarasota, Fla., to prepare areas of the Operations and Checkout Building for assembly of the Crew Exploration Vehicle Orion. The project also had to be documented so historic items in the building could be reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Office.

Preservation Office and our contractor, ACI. Implementation of the photo-documentation mitigation measures to remove the stands paid off in the end," said Naylor.

It was also important that the team meet the deadlines because the state of Florida offered KSC significant monetary support if the timeline was followed. Because of the group's hard work, the entire

review and removal process was completed in five months.

"This project involved a team of NASA and contractor organizations, served KSC well and serves as a model for future similar projects. Their proactive approach and flexibility were key elements in the success of this project," said Diane Callier, Environmental Program Branch chief.

Astronaut Crew Quarters are part office, part sanctuary

By Steven Siceloff
Staff Writer

The list of guests who have stayed at the Astronaut Crew Quarters inside the Operations and Checkout Building is a who's who of spaceflight.

A few of the notables include Neil Armstrong, Sally Ride, John Young, Robert Crippen and Eileen Collins. John Glenn slept in the Hangar S quarters at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station before his 1962 launch, and stayed in the modern crew quarters before his STS-95 mission in 1998.

The Astronaut Crew Quarters looks like a hotel floor, is serviced by an eager and exacting staff and includes conference rooms like a business center. It has these amenities because the astronauts who stay there are critical to the mission and there are strict requirements to keep them quarantined from potential infections.

"It's a way to recharge before launch," astronaut Randy Bresnik said. "It's like going home for Christmas. Great food, it's fun, then you have to go back to work."

The 23 bedrooms are roughly identical and outfitted with a bed, wardrobe, television and bathroom. The astronauts live there when they travel to Kennedy Space Center from Houston.

Walls covered with mission patches and crew photos enhance the feeling of a fraternity retreat.

There's a large pair of bulletin boards with photos of astronauts' children, some showing off homemade cardboard space shuttles and many infants clutching a mission emblem close.

"That way, they can see their families — you know, make them feel at home," said Lauren Lunde, a flight crew support specialist who manages the site.

Since its beginning during the Gemini days, the crew quarters was meant to be as accommodating for astronauts as possible, with the understanding that engineers, technicians and doctors could not replace immediate family.

A staff of five takes care of the area and its visitors.

Even today, family members are not permitted to stay in the crew quarters and visits are limited to a couple of hours, provided the guest does not have any illness that could keep the astronauts from making their flight.

Eight of the bedrooms are clustered at one end of the floor for the prime crew and the flight surgeon. Along with a couple conference rooms, the prime crew members can be sequestered from the rest of the floor to quarantine them leading up to launch.

The quarters are considerably more spacious than during the early days of the space program. Gemini 3 astronauts Gus Grissom and John Young were the first to use the crew quarters at the O&C Building in 1965.

They stayed there overnight, but drove to a trailer near the Gemini launch pad at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station to suit up for the flight.

The crew quarters was modified or expanded several times. When John Young and Robert Crippen stayed in the facility before the first launch of Space Shuttle Columbia in April 1981, the area had 14 bedrooms for crew members. Bathrooms were also shared by two or three astronauts.

"That didn't work real well



EUROPEAN SPACE Agency astronaut Thomas Reiter (seated), returning from a six-month stay on the International Space Station, talks to colleagues in the crew quarters at Kennedy Space Center.

when we got six- or seven-man crews," Lunde said. The shuttle was also the first American spacecraft to carry women into orbit, which was another incentive to attach a bathroom to each bedroom.

The five people who take care of the facility on regular days switch almost exclusively to cleaning roles when the prime crew moves in for launch. The bathrooms are tiled the full height of

the walls and all the surfaces are made to be sanitized so the cleaning crews can work each day. They also disinfect every surface in the bedrooms, from clock radio to TV to telephone and replace the sheets, all in the interest of warding off germs.

For crew members in quarantine, there is a small gymnasium and one of the conference rooms is stocked with DVD movies and a projection TV. Yes, the library includes "Apollo 13."

Although the aim of the facility is to provide a home away from home and a chance to relax immediately before launch, several areas are uniquely outfitted to ready a crew for space.

Through one set of locked doors is the suit-up room, with its panels of pressure gauges and two rows of brown recliners. On launch day or during the countdown dress rehearsals, a small army of technicians helps the astronauts into orange pressure suits.

This is the same room that hosted the Apollo crews as they dressed to head off to the moon.

It is also one section of the expansive area that has been seen by the public, at least on television. The rest of the section is primarily off limits.



IN THE crew quarters at the Operations and Checkout Building, STS-117 Mission Specialist Patrick Forrester dons his launch suit for a fit check during terminal countdown demonstration test activities earlier this year. The suit-up room features panels of pressure gauges and two rows of recliners.

Atlantis, STS-117 crew members adding Starboard 3 and 4 truss

STS-117 . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

landing is scheduled for June 21 at KSC.

Atlantis' crew is Sturckow, Pilot Lee Archambault and Mission Specialists Patrick Forrester, Steven Swanson, John "Danny" Olivas, Jim Reilly and Anderson. Atlantis lifted off Launch Pad 39A after the facility received a major renovation during the past four years.

After the STS-117 crew members arrived June 10 at the International Space Station, NASA's focus shifted to the mission's first spacewalk. The STS-

117 astronauts quickly jumped into joint operations with the station's Expedition 15 crew.

One of the first major tasks was the station crew rotation. The crews then began installation of the Starboard 3 and 4 (S3/S4) truss segment. They used the shuttle robotic arm to lift the S3/S4 out of Atlantis' payload bay and to hand it off to the station arm.

STS-117 is the 118th space shuttle flight, the 21st flight to the station and the 28th flight for Atlantis.

For the latest information about the STS-117 mission and its crew, visit <http://www.nasa.gov/shuttle>.



FLORIDA GOVERNOR Charlie Crist (left) and NASA Administrator Mike Griffin enter the Operations and Support Building II shortly before launch.



IN THE Launch Control Center, NASA officials observe proceedings before the launch of Space Shuttle Atlantis on mission STS-117. Seated from left is David King, director of the Marshall Space Flight Center; Bill Parsons, director of the Kennedy Space Center; Michael Coats, director of the Johnson Space Center; Wayne Hale, shuttle program manager; William Gerstenmaier, associate administrator for NASA Space Operations; and Rex Geveden, associate administrator for NASA.



A CROWD cheers the launch of Atlantis on mission STS-117 at a viewing area.



VIEWED FROM the top of the Vehicle Assembly Building, Space Shuttle Atlantis launches on mission STS-117.

Using history to design the future

By Elaine Marconi
Staff Writer

Visitors to Kennedy Space Center recently poured into the Saturn V Center and curiously stepped up to a display. They watched as a small group of lab-coated experts surrounded an aluminum box about the size of a file cabinet.

With an eye toward the future, the experts were working on a piece of history. NASA had commissioned the team to inspect an umbilical connection from an Apollo-era spacecraft. The agency is seeking to tap the experience of past engineers as it develops Orion, the new crew exploration vehicle for the Constellation Program.

"We're looking at this device to help improve the design for the Orion vehicle, the next-generation manned space vehicle," said Damon Delap, mechanical engineer of NASA's Glenn Research Center in Cleveland. "We're learning from the past and can see that the former engineers did it very well, so we're looking to see what they did."

NASA engineers wanted to inspect an intact Apollo-era umbilical connection, which is used to provide communication, electrical and life support connections to the astronauts in the crew compartment. They were particularly interested in the umbilical release mechanism.

But finding one was like

looking for a needle in a haystack because, in the Apollo days, the umbilical was severed before the astronauts came back to Earth. A guillotine-like device cut through all the tubes and wires between the command and service modules before the crew headed home.

"The service module had all the communication and life-sustaining equipment the crew needed (in space) and, before they came back through the atmosphere, the umbilical cord had to be detached," said Dan Catalano, Orion service mechanisms and pyrotechnics lead of Glenn Research Center.

A break finally came by chance when Catalano came across a family's vacation photos posted on the Internet. There he saw the happy family standing in front of the Apollo Command Modules at the Saturn V Complex. And behind them was an umbilical housing!

The Apollo spacecraft on display, designated CSM 119, was the backup for the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project but never flew. What makes this artifact so significant to the Constellation Program are the housing components located between the command and service modules.

After finding the umbilical housing — the only one that exists intact in the United States — NASA spent many months coordinating and planning to



KENNEDY SPACE Center Orion Integration Engineer Tracy Gill (left) assists Glenn Research Center engineers as they examine the umbilical connection from the Apollo Command Module at the Saturn V Complex.

prepare for the inspection project. Orion Integration Engineer Tracy Gill of Kennedy Space Center, Delap, Catalano and Lamoreaux gathered at the Saturn V Center to inspect the Apollo-age capsule because of its similarity to the Orion crew compartment.

Catalano and Delap worked with surgical precision to remove the housing, sometimes using only their gloved fingertips for tools. Every action was photographed, videotaped and documented. They went back and forth checking out the reference materials on a table next to the modules to be sure they were on the right track.

The goal for the new Crew

Exploration Vehicle connection is reusability. The newer design for Orion will not have the same number of tubes and wires because of today's technology, but a lot of the information that comes from this inspection will be combined with the old design that worked for the Apollo days. However, the next-generation crew module will be larger and more technologically advanced.

"It was very important to see how they built the Apollo mechanism because...well, it worked many times and instead of reinventing the wheel...it's good to start with something we know worked," said Lamoreaux. "It was a very valuable experience to come down here. I can use (the findings) to improve my design."

At the end of the inspection, the team members dexterously reassembled the housing, leaving it as they found it. They agreed that a lot will be learned from the trials, tribulations, successes and failures of the Apollo engineers, giving the new guys a foundation to build the new Orion vehicle even better.

Although ownership of the Apollo Command and Service Module was transferred by NASA to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington in 1977, it is on permanent display at the Apollo/Saturn V Center at Kennedy.



THE APOLLO Command Module at the Kennedy Space Center Saturn V Complex, designated CSM 119, was the backup for the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project. Engineers studied the module's umbilical system to improve the design of the umbilical system for the Orion space vehicle.

NASA honors Hendriksen, McKinney with Distinguished Service Medal

Hendriksen began NASA career in 1967 after Apollo 1 fire

By Linda Herridge
Staff Writer

With a Kennedy Space Center career spanning more than 40 years, Deputy Chief Counsel Douglas Hendriksen recently received one of NASA's highest employee honors, the NASA Distinguished Service Medal, during a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Hendriksen was recognized "for his extraordinary legal career with the Office of the Chief Counsel" at KSC.

"It was a great honor to receive this award," Hendriksen said. "There is definitely never a dull moment at KSC, working with extremely bright people."

Though Hendriksen interviewed with several law firms, his career with NASA began when he was hired as a procurement attorney in 1967 after the Apollo 1 fire. He has remained with the Office of the Chief Counsel ever since.

His primary responsibilities include government procurement law advice and serving on more than 40 source evaluation and mishap boards.

KSC Chief Counsel Jerald Stubbs said Hendriksen works tirelessly to advance NASA's goals and objectives through proactive legal services.

"His many contributions include numerous source selections to provide NASA with needed launch support and base operating services and projects," Stubbs said. "The success of KSC's Visitor Complex owes much to Hendriksen's development of novel legal arrangements."

Hendriksen's interests outside of KSC include several philanthropic endeavors. He serves as a mentor for youths ages 13 through 18 at the Georgianna United



DOUG HENDRIKSEN receives the NASA Distinguished Service Medal certificate from Charles Scales, NASA associate deputy administrator.

Methodist Church on Merritt Island.

"It's important to be there to show kids you care," Hendriksen said. "Sometimes just being there and listening to them is all that is needed."

He volunteers with Leadership Brevard from time to time on programs to keep young professionals in Brevard. As a member of the R.H. Leonard Foundation in Cocoa, he works to find affordable housing for people in Brevard and for those who have been evicted.

Hendriksen is a Florida history buff and a member and past chairman of the Brevard County Historical Commission. He has a collection of more than 30,000 postcards and nearly 5,000 early Florida "stereo view" pictures, and was the driving force in having a three-volume history of Brevard County published.

Before joining NASA, Hendriksen worked as a law clerk for a federal district judge in Jacksonville. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from the University of Florida in 1961, a Master of Science degree in guidance and counseling from Florida State University in 1963, and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Florida in 1966.

McKinney mentors colleagues to further their careers

By Jennifer Wolfinger
Staff Writer

As the assistant manager of the Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity, Roslyn McKinney spends her days identifying and promoting opportunities for Kennedy Space Center's diverse and talented work force. For her dedication and strong work ethic, she recently earned the Distinguished Service Medal, NASA's highest award.

"I have always felt a sense of duty to mentor and coach students and protégés, to afford them opportunities to excel in their careers and to enjoy their careers with NASA KSC as I have," said McKinney, who received the award in May at NASA Headquarters.

She works with her manager, Tara Gillam, and the office staff to ensure KSC is a diverse workplace that abides by equal opportunity laws, regulations and policy. Equal opportunity specialists are integrated into each KSC organization to provide coaching and counseling, and McKinney represents five of those directorates.

"We do extremely valuable work here at KSC and it's imperative that each and every employee be able to work in an environment that is free from discrimination and harassment," she said. "It's equally important that each employee is valued for the diversity and uniqueness that they bring to KSC."

McKinney joined NASA in 1972 as a co-op student and joined her current office in 1998 after working in other directorates. Since joining the office, she also has been the disability program manager for KSC.

She's particularly knowledgeable



ROSLYN MCKINNEY is awarded the NASA Distinguished Service Medal from Shana Dale, NASA deputy administrator.

able and passionate about this role; her 31-year-old son, Kevin, was born with cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair.

"Not a day of (McKinney's) career has been idly spent. She exemplifies the integrity, character and work ethic that all public servants should strive for," said Gillam, who nominated her.

McKinney enjoys spending time with her husband, Mack, who retired from KSC in January, as well as their children, Kevin and Michelle, and Michelle's son, Kendrick. She also travels, takes piano lessons, leads a women's investment club she founded, and mentors her church's youths.

The award is given to any federal service employee who, by distinguished service, ability or courage, has personally made a contribution representing substantial progress to the NASA mission.

Her other accomplishments include receiving the NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal and the Space Flight Awareness Leadership Recognition Award, which was presented to her by former KSC Director Jim Kennedy aboard a NASA airplane.

McKinney, a Bethune-Cookman University magna cum laude graduate, received the school's Distinguished Alumni Award.

Remembering Our Heritage

30 years ago: GOES-2 launch more of a 'nail-biter' than usual

By Kay Grinter
Reference Librarian

On June 16, 1977, NASA launched the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite-2, or GOES-2, from Complex 17 on Cape Canaveral at 6:51 a.m. EDT aboard the Delta 131 vehicle. All systems performed nominally.

GOES-2 was the second in a series of geosynchronous weather observation satellites of that title but the fourth of its kind. Two Synchronous Meteorological Satellites, built and launched under NASA direction as prototype spacecraft, were virtually identical in design and function.

All four were built by the Western Development Laboratories of Ford Aerospace and Communications Corporation. All of the spacecraft were operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and used daily in weather forecasting, storm tracking and other weather-related work.

However, this launch followed the launch of Delta 130 on April 20, two months earlier.

A premature release of the clamp attaching the third stage to the spin table resulted in an improper spin-up during the launch of the European Space Agency's GEOS-1 satellite, causing the third stage to inject the spacecraft into a lower-than-planned orbit.

The mishap was the first attributed to a McDonnell Douglas

Delta rocket in more than three years.

NASA alumnus John Neilon, former director of Unmanned Launch Operations, observed from his home in Cocoa Beach, "The first launch after a failure is even more of a 'nail-biter' than the usual launch, and they are all nail-biters!"

The GOES-2 launch was delayed from May 28 to June 16 to allow time to perform several modifications on the Delta's spin-up system to ensure an accurate trajectory during the firing of the third stage.

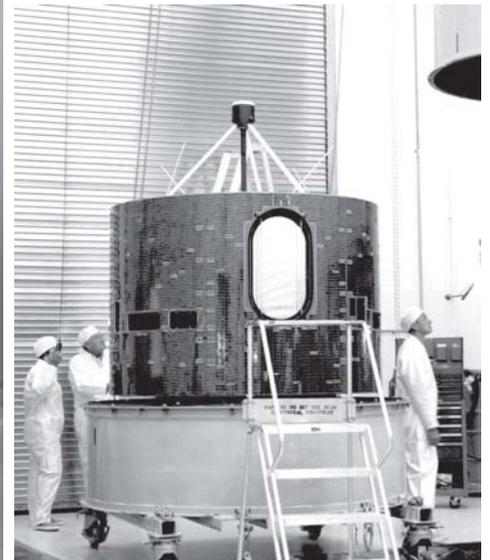
Glen Speer, former launch operations engineer in charge of the Delta third-stage build-up area for McDonnell Douglas, recalled from his home in Cocoa: "During the problem analysis, higher-than-expected bending of the bolts on the clamp band was observed to increase the tensile load to approach the maximum allowable.

"The phenomenon is similar to that created when you bend a pencil. The bending causes tension on one side and compression on the other, and the tension adds to the pencil or bolt preload. We hadn't recognized that the bending moment in the bolt was as high as it was. The fix was simple: to install strain gauges on either side of the bolts and to monitor the total preload during installation."

Once on station over Colombia, South America, all satellite systems checked out, and NASA turned GOES-2 over to NOAA for operational use on July 29.



THE GEOSTATIONARY Environmental Satellite-2, or GOES-2, lifted off on June 16, 1977 (left) from Complex 17 on Cape Canaveral aboard a Delta 131 rocket. Below, employees process the spacecraft used by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for weather-related forecasting.

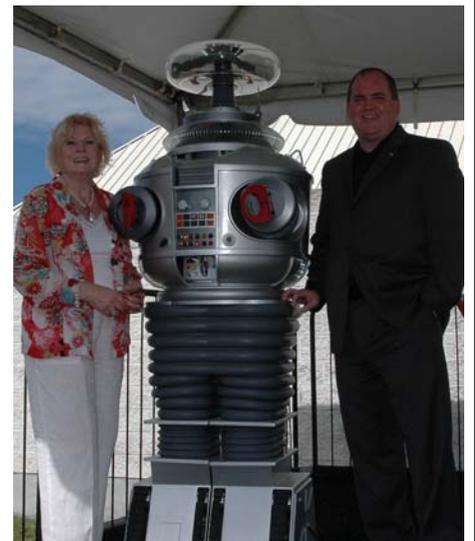


'Lost in Space' robot on display at Visitor Complex

THE WORDS, "Danger, Will Robinson! Danger!" now echo at Kennedy Space Center's Visitor Complex. The B-9 robot, made famous during the television show "Lost in Space," was dedicated at a June 8 ceremony at the Visitor Complex's rocket garden. The robot will remain on permanent display.

On hand were NASA's Deputy Associate Director of Public Affairs Bob Jacobs (pictured); Sheila Allen (left), wife of Irwin Allen who produced "Lost in Space"; and John Jashni and Kevin Burns, executive producers of the spin-off television show, "The Robinsons: Lost in Space."

As the robot scanned the crowd gathered for its unveiling just hours before the launch of Atlantis on mission STS-117, Jacobs said, "'Lost in Space' captured our imagination by showing us a vision of the future and a future of exploration." The robot added, "We are go for launch!"



KSC Honor Awards are June 26 at Visitor Complex

Come and cheer for your favorite co-workers at the upcoming NASA/KSC Honor Awards Ceremony on June 26 at the KSC Visitor Complex IMAX Theatre II beginning at 8:30 a.m. The ceremony will recognize KSC civil service and contractor employees with other prestigious honorary medals given by NASA. Theatre seating is limited and handled on a first-come basis. For information, contact Lori Hicks, NASA awards program manager, at 867-4689.

Summer interns gain inspiration at KSC

By Jason Rhian
Student Intern

The latest group of summer intern students began their immersion into life at Kennedy Space Center during a student orientation June 4 in the Training Auditorium, with topics covering safety, security, equal opportunity and export control.

“The purpose of the internships offered by NASA KSC is to build a pipeline from the various universities and colleges and get those students with interests in aerospace into the aerospace industry,” Gregg Buckingham, chief of the Education Programs University Research Office, told the students.

He went on to add that NASA also strives very hard to reach out to children in grades K-12, teachers, planetariums and museums.

One recurring theme of the speakers was the difficulty in getting an internship at KSC. Students from across the nation apply, but only six programs are available for them.



SUMMER INTERN students for 2007 gather in front of the KSC Headquarters Building on June 4. After a presentation from senior management in the Training Auditorium, the students toured the center.

Many of the presenters invoked famous explorers or exciting missions that have lifted off from the center. Joe Dowdy, special operations manager at KSC and a former Marine, gave an inspirational speech.

“You should pinch yourself,” Dowdy said. “You are lucky to be at this special place in this special time.”

The students sat up a little

straighter in their seats and paid close attention to Dowdy as he attempted to instill a sense of pride about the mission of KSC.

“This is a good, noble place to be... All of mankind focuses their attention here and you are now part of it,” he said.

The interns were then given a tour of the International Space Station Processing Facility and Launch Complex 39B. Finally,

they had the opportunity to experience spaceflight for themselves at the KSC Visitor Complex’s Shuttle Launch Experience.

The sleepy students that entered the auditorium early that morning were gone; in their place were motivated individuals, excited about the summer that awaited them.

Center recognizes National Employee Health and Fitness Day

The Kennedy Space Center Fitness Centers hosted the annual National Employee Health and Fitness Day in the Operations and Checkout Building’s Mission Briefing Room on May 30.

The event educates spaceport employees in the areas of physical

fitness, disease management and prevention, rehabilitation, longevity, personal hygiene, adapted physical activity, stress management, athletics and nutrition.

Nearly 600 spaceport employees attended the event, which hosted 21 health-related vendors.



EMPLOYEES WERE eligible to enter multiple prize drawings during the National Health and Fitness Day held May 30. Twenty-one vendors displayed health-related goods and services.



KENNEDY EMPLOYEES enjoy presentations during the National Health and Fitness Day held May 30 in the Operations and Checkout Building.



John F. Kennedy Space Center

Spaceport News

Spaceport News is an official publication of the Kennedy Space Center and is published on alternate Fridays by External Relations in the interest of KSC civil service and contractor employees.

Contributions are welcome and should be submitted two weeks before publication to the Media Services Branch, IDI-011. E-mail submissions can be sent to Jeffery.Stuckey-1@ksc.nasa.gov.

Managing editor..... Amber Philman
 Editor..... Jeff Stuckey
 Copy editor..... Corey Schubert

Editorial support provided by InDyne, Inc. Writers Group.
 NASA at KSC is located on the Internet at <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy>
 USGPO: 733-049/600135