



KSC Countdown

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Director Jim Kennedy holds All-Hands Meeting today

◆ All-Hands

Meeting: Please join Center Director Jim Kennedy at **9 a.m. today** in the Training Auditorium for an "All Hands Meeting."



Topics being discussed include the new Engineering Directorate and past, present and future events at KSC. A brief question-and-answer segment will follow. Seating allotments have been distributed through directorates and contractor offices. The event also will be broadcast live on NASA TV, channel 7, and can be viewed on the internal home page at <http://internal.ksc.nasa.gov>.

Employees unable to attend in the Training Auditorium can call in their questions during the Q&A period at 867-0111.

◆ Anniversary of Historic Mission:

Ten years ago today, the Space Shuttle Atlantis completed a mission during which it docked with the Russian space station Mir, and returned to Earth with a U.S. astronaut who had been stationed there. The passenger being taken home was a 53-year-old biochemist named Shannon Lucid (above), who was returning to Earth after 188 days in space – the longest stay in space ever achieved by a



woman. The previous record of 169 days had belonged to the Russian cosmonaut Yelena Kondakova.

Lucid's accomplishment was significant in that it gave scientists important data on human ability to withstand long space flights, which would be crucial to know in order to stage missions to other planets.

■ **Environmental Impact Statement** — Kennedy Space Center and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station employees are invited to an hour-long briefing on NASA's Mars Science Laboratory draft environmental impact statement at **2 p.m. today** in the Training Auditorium.

The spacecraft is currently planned to be launched aboard an Atlas V rocket from Launch Complex 41 in September 2009. The power sources the rover may use to conduct science on the surface of Mars include a multi-mission radioisotope thermoelectric generator or solar energy. The briefing will cover the proposed mission and the power source options with the associated safety.

■ **NASA News** — NASA is honoring two of its long-term family members with Ambassador of Exploration awards: astronaut James McDivitt and Christopher Kraft Jr. McDivitt was named for his involvement in the Gemini and Apollo space programs. He was the command pilot for Gemini 4 in 1965. Four years later, he was commander of Apollo 9, a 10-day Earth orbital mission that

Today marks 10th anniversary of longest time in space for women

launched March 3, 1969. This was the first flight of the complete set of Apollo hardware and the lunar module. In August 1969, he became manager of the Apollo Spacecraft Program. He was program manager for Apollo 12 through 16.

Kraft was named for his key involvement in America's space programs. In 1958, he joined the newly created NASA as one of the original members of the Space Task Group organized to design and manage Project Mercury. He was America's first manned space mission flight director, managing all of the Mercury and several Gemini missions. Kraft served as director of NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston from January 1972 to August 1982.

■ **Traffic Alert** — The Indian River Bridge will be reduced to one lane of traffic from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. **today**.

■ **KSC Fitness Centers' 2006 Intercenter Walk/Run** — The KSC Fitness Centers are sponsoring the Intercenter Walk/Run on Oct. 3 at the Shuttle Landing Facility. The 2-mile walk/run; 5K run and 10K run are FREE for all spaceport employees. Stop by either fitness center by Sept. 29 to pre-register. If you are interested in being a volunteer, please call 867-7829 or send an e-mail to orrindl@kscems.ksc.nasa.gov.

■ **Did You Know?** Today is Make A Difference Day.

KSC Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday. Deadlines are 10 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays.

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