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Spaceport News

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http://www-pao.ksc.nasa.gov/kscpao/snews/snewstoc.htm John F. Kennedy Space Center

Steidle: "This is certainly the operations center of the future."

By Matt Cavagnaro
Staff Writer

CRAIG STEIDLE (center), NASA's associate administrator for the Office of Exploration Systems, tours the Orbiter Processing Facility during his May 13 visit to KSC. At right (hands up) is Conrad Nagel, chief of the Shuttle Project Office. They are standing under the orbiter Discovery. The office establishes priorities and directs the identification, development and validation of exploration systems to support the future space vision for America.

If you're going back to the Moon, you ought to visit the place that made it happen the first time.

That was the idea when Craig Steidle, NASA's associate administrator for Exploration Systems, visited the Kennedy Space Center May 13. His reason for the trip was simple: find out what KSC had to offer, and match that to the requirements of America's new space vision.

"This is certainly the operations center of the future," noted Steidle. "It also is the Center around which we will develop those technologies for life-cycle support of our systems and our infrastructures in the future."

Steidle, who retired from the Navy in 2000, was selected by NASA in January of this year to run the Office of Exploration Systems. That makes him responsible for figuring out the best way to get America back to the Moon and eventually beyond.

"This is the greatest job I've ever had, or could possibly have," said Steidle, adding that he knew that NASA's workforce shared his excitement about their own positions. "They are really happy to be a part of everything that's going on."

Steidle's visit to KSC included a tour of the Orbiter Processing Facility, the Space Station Processing Facility and meetings with KSC's leadership, including Center Director Jim Kennedy.

"This is an opportunity for KSC to share with Admiral Steidle what we've done in the past, to support programs at the Kennedy Space Center, and show the capabilities we think we have to contribute to this beautiful vision of exploration that our nation now has," said Kennedy.

Visit **http://www.nasa.gov/missions/solarsystem/explore_main.html** for more information about the new office.

Coast Guard reservist serves country and KSC

By Linda Herridge
Staff Writer

Janice Everett, an affirmative procurement representative for the Environmental Program Branch of Spaceport Services, views her service with the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve as an opportunity to help others.

Everett was called upon in February 2003 and reported to her assignment the following month. She served as a Command Yeoman and performed administrative assistant duties for the group commander at Jacksonville Coast Guard Station Group Mayport, located in Jacksonville.

Her responsibilities included coordinating appointments, training schedules and meetings, and communicating with families of soldiers stationed overseas. She also handled human resource concerns, issued identification cards and helped with logistics.

"I felt good about being there and serving my country," Everett said. "Leaving the comfort of my home and job in Brevard County was difficult, but I adjusted to it after about a week on the base."

She credits some of that adjustment to the words of encouragement she received through e-mails from Kennedy Space Center Director Jim Kennedy during her assignment.

According to Everett, another motivational opportunity came when she met U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge and U.S. Coast Guard Commandant Thomas Collins as they toured the base.

Following her duty in Jacksonville, Everett was assigned to the Port Canaveral Coast Guard Station, where she worked for the newly assigned Chief Warrant Officer Mary Ward

(See EVERETT, Page 4)

JANICE EVERETT is a procurement representative for the Environmental Program Branch of Spaceport Services.

The Kennedy Update

Jim Kennedy
Center Director

Hello, friends! It's been another fabulous two weeks at the Center highlighted by the visit of retired U.S. Navy Adm. Craig E. Steidle, our Associate Administrator, Office of Exploration Systems, or what we at NASA refer to as Code T.

It is his job to put the teeth into the future Vision for Space Exploration Program by developing the technologies needed for NASA to return humans to the Moon, then Mars and beyond.

Hosted by our own Shannon Bartell and our KSC team, Steidle's first visit to KSC May 13 gave us the opportunity to inform him of the capabilities and facilities KSC can offer in the years to come. Make no mistake about it, the admiral and his division chiefs left quite impressed with our capabilities and facilities, but most importantly, OUR WORKFORCE!

This motivated him to say during a press conference that "KSC is the operations center of NASA's future for space exploration." What a powerful statement and testimonial to the strength of our total workforce.

Steidle's team and OURS are working together to outline the specifics regarding the Vision for Space Exploration. The bottom line is KSC's future is bright and we're already being factored in as part of the future vision equation.

Steidle and I both know we won't have a future without quality workers like you to carry out the vision.

I hope his words are reassuring for those wondering about the future and where they may fit in. But let's not get too far ahead of ourselves; the task at hand is returning the Shuttles safely to flight.

That is step one on NASA's path to the future.

Now to the next generation of explorers… Today there are thousands of excited students around Brevard County for a very simple reason: School is out for the summer.

No matter how motivated a student is or how much they love their studies, most kids love to see the first day of summer vacation. Today is that day, as Brevard County public schools ended their 2003-04 school year yesterday.

This leads to a very important safety reminder for us adults. For the next three months, there will be hundreds of kids riding bikes, crossing roads, playing ball, etc., and we must watch out for our children. I know most of us are good drivers, but now's the time to be extra vigilant when behind the wheel.

The last thing any of us wants is for a beautiful summer's day to end in tragedy with a child's critical injury or even death. So let's be extra cautious for the sake of the kids of Brevard County.

On a happier note, the end of school also triggers another very important time for many of us: summer vacations. I know many people will be hitting the roads to visit extended family, sightsee or go to their favorite resort.

We work hard every day to accomplish our great mission for NASA and our nation, and you certainly deserve some time off. Statistically speaking, however, the summer is the time of year for the most accidents, whether traveling away or at home. People are either rushing to their destination or doing work around the house they couldn't get done during the winter.

All I ask is no matter the task, allow yourself the appropriate amount of time to get to where you need to go. And if you're staying around beautiful Brevard, just make sure you're doing those "at home" tasks as safely as possible.

We have a very important job returning our Space Shuttles safely to flight (to mention only our number one priority), and we need every member of the team at 100 percent. So let's be safe this summer, ensuring you get the most out of it with family and friends.

Finally, before I write this column again, Memorial Day will have come and gone. I hope you take time May 31 to remember the thousands of Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice to secure our freedoms - I know I will.

God bless our veterans and the United States of America!

> "The bottom line is KSCís future is bright and weíre already being factored in as part of the future vision equation."

KSC team provides insight to students at biomedical symposium

By Gisele Altman
Equal Opportunity Office

Approximately 1,200 students attended the 18th Annual Symposium in Opportunities in Biomedical Sciences" last month in Atlanta. Many students said the event was insightful and worthy of reconsidering their career goals in order to study in this field. That was the intent of Kennedy Space Center's Dr. Irene Long and her support staff as they manned a NASA biomedical educational booth at the symposium, which was hosted by the Minority Health Professions Foundation.

"Most college students have already decided on a curriculum by the time they are doing undergraduate work," Long said. "That's why we try to reach them while they are still in high school. The younger we can get to them, the better, while they are still in the decision-making mode."

Guest speakers included Dr. Ben Carson and Jesse L. Jackson Jr., Democratic Representative for the 2nd District of Illinois.

DR. IRENE LONG (left), Gisele Altman, Dr. Luis Moreno, Cathy DiBiase, Prescilla Moore and Debbie Houston shared NASA's mission and biomedical information at the 18th Annual Symposium in Opportunities in Biomedical Sciences held in Atlanta last month.

Bartell focuses on KSC's role in new vision

By Linda Herridge
Staff Writer

Opportunity is the word Shannon Bartell, director of Kennedy Space Center's new Exploration Office, uses to describe the Vision for Space Exploration and the importance of KSC's role in it.

"It's an opportunity to inspire the nation with this vision," Bartell said. "It is an opportunity for KSC, and we need to ready the workforce for this new and exciting venture."

KSC's Exploration Office was recently created as part of the Return to Flight reorganization.

Bartell's office will lead Center efforts to ensure it supports the requirements of the Vision for Space Exploration. Her new responsibilities also include serving as the interface between KSC and the NASA Headquarters Office of Exploration Systems.

During Bartell's career of more than 20 years, she has touched practically every program at KSC. Formerly, she was the director of KSC's Safety, Health and Independent Assessment Directorate; deputy director of Space Station and Shuttle Payloads; and director of flight systems in the Payloads Directorate.

Bartell worked with Shuttle and Expendable Launch Vehicle Payloads as a lead engineer and a launch site support manager. She recently was the assistant program manager for the Orbital Space Plane program.

Among the many interesting highlights of Bartell's space career, two occasions stand out.

When she first went to the Payloads Directorate in 1985, she worked the planetary missions - Galileo, Ulysses and Magellan - from planning operations and support, working with design Centers and test and checkout, to seeing them launch and watching their progress.

The second was the opportunity to work with the NASA Vision Team that included representatives from each Center.

"It gave me the opportunity to view NASA life from their perspectives, understand how they saw (themselves) fitting in the NASA mission, and how a group's view of themselves can influence their decisions."

The knowledge she gained has since helped her in management roles at each job.

When Bartell is not concentrating on the future of space exploration, she keeps her feet firmly on the ground by hiking or finding a quiet place to read science fiction novels. Her favorite hiking spot in Florida is along the coast from New Smyrna Beach to Playalinda Beach.

SHANNON BARTELL, director of Kennedy Space Center's new Exploration Office, will lead Center efforts to ensure it supports the requirements of the Vision for Space Exploration. Her new responsibilities also include serving as the interface between KSC and the NASA Headquarters Office of Exploration Systems.

She likes to travel and has been to Scotland several times. "I like to experience new places and new cultures," Bartell said. She's close to achieving her goal of traveling to (or living in) every state.

Bartell summed up the nation's Vision for Space Exploration and KSC's role: "NASA has the unique opportunity to plan and frame the capability to expand human presence to the stars, and to discover things that could change our everyday lives.

"If we do this right, there are no boundaries to what we will learn and do with the knowledge we'll gain from this experience."

Talone receives presidential award for leadership

Kennedy Space Center's John "Tip" Talone Jr. was awarded the prestigious rank of Distinguished Executive in a May 5 ceremony on the grounds of the White House.

The award is presented each year to a small group of career senior executives within the federal government who have demonstrated outstanding leadership accomplishments and a personal commitment to public service in some of our nation's most critical postions.

Talone serves as director of the International Space Station (ISS) and Payloads Processing Directorate at KSC. He is responsible for the management and integration of ISS assembly elements pre-flight support ground processing, the testing and verification of elements prior to launch, and on-orbit assembly. He also manages ISS research/science testing and serves as the KSC primary interface for ISS international partners and Shuttle payload scientists.

JOHN "TIP" Talone Jr., pictured at the Debus Award banquet, was awarded the prestigious rank of Distinguished Executive in a ceremony at the White House. The award is presented to federal government employees who have demonstrated outstanding leadership.

"KSC is so proud of Tip and his many accomplishments," said KSC Director Jim Kennedy. "Tip's excellent leadership skills, extensive knowledge and commitment to the Space Program demonstrate that he is truly a distinguished executive."

Talone resides in Indialantic with his wife, Cindy, and step-daughters Audra and Sarah Tamblyn. His stepson, Spc. Phillip Tamblyn, is with the 82nd Airborne in Fort Bragg, N.C.

Launch pad sound suppression test greeted with cheers

By Jeff Stuckey
Editor

The 350,000 gallons of water that rushed across Launch Pad 39A during a sound suppression test on May 7 did more than confirm the six new main system valves performed correctly.

Judging from the loud cheers, it also brought even more energy to the launch and landing division of Shuttle processing.

"It's very exciting for us to do this type of exercise," said NASA test director Steve Payne. "We had a lot of our folks out here to witness this and it was a good opportunity to get some training out of it. It was very motivational for us to come out here and do this type of work."

The water system is designed to protect the Shuttle and its payloads from any damage that may occur from acoustical energy reflected from the Mobile Launcher Platform (MLP) during launch. The water is released seconds before ignition of the orbiter's three main engines and twin Solid Rocket Boosters (SRB), then flows through parallel 7-foot-diameter pipes to the Pad.

The system includes a 290-foot-high water tank filled with 300,000 gallons of water, and it empties in 41 seconds during a launch. Water pours from 16 nozzles on top of the flame deflectors and from outlets in the Shuttle main engine exhaust hole in the MLP at main engine ignition, which occurs approximately 7 seconds before liftoff.

"We needed to do this test after some modifications to our system," Payne said. "The employees replaced a 48-inch valve that had reached the end of its service life and ran through a systems test to make sure everything was in proper working order. Everything seems to have gone just right."

The system was first installed at the Pad when reflective energy from the top of the Mobile Launch Platform was causing minor damage to thermal curtains on the SRBs and other areas.

Center Director Jim Kennedy witnessed the test, performed for only the fourth time in Shuttle history when an orbiter was not on the Pad, and was pleased with the results.

"We can't fly without the proper water flow that provides the suppression needed," Kennedy said. "This is one of many important steps to get back to flight."

WATER IS RELEASED onto the Mobile Launcher Platform (MLP) on Launch Pad 39A at the start of a water sound suppression test. Workers and the media were on hand to witness the rare event. This test is being conducted following the replacement of the six main system valves, which had been in place since the beginning of the Shuttle Program and had reached the end of their service life.

EVERETT . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

through September 2003. She returned to KSC in early October. She continues to report for reservist duty one weekend each month at the U.S. Coast Guard Station at Ponce DeLeon Inlet in New Smyrna Beach.

Now back on the job, Everett is plunging back into her work. Current projects include supporting the government-mandated Greening the Government through Waste Prevention, Recycling and Federal Acquisition program.

Everett also leads the Center's Affirmative Procurement Working Group. The group encourages NASA and contractor organizations to buy recyclable and biodegradable products and materials for use at KSC. "We work with the Procurement Office in the purchasing of recyclable and reclaimed materials," Everett said.

Serving her country and helping to keep KSC environmentally friendly are among Everett's top priorities. While some KSC reservists have returned home, many are currently serving their country at home or overseas. Look for updates in *Spaceport News*.

Lightning warning system protects launches

By Jennifer Wolfinger
Staff Writer

Ever wonder where those omniscient weather warnings originate or how NASA determines if a launch vehicle is in a risky weather situation?

Well, one can find the backbone of this system about four miles southwest of the Vehicle Assembly Building. This is the home of the largest photovoltaic array supporting a facility at the Center: the power hub for Field Mill Site 18.

The array provides power continuously for up to 10 days to the mill site, a process that serves as the core of NASA's Weather Office Launch Pad Lightning Warning System (LPLWS).

The LPLWS comprises 31 electric field mills throughout Kennedy Space Center and Cape Canaveral. The rotating, four-bladed shield is similar to that of a windmill. By alternately exposing and covering metal sensing-plates in proportion to the atmospheric electric field, the mills help detect electrical charges that are part of a storm system.

"The LPLWS gives forecasters information on trends in electric field potential and the locations of highly charged clouds capable of supporting natural or triggered lightning," explained John Broughton of Space Gateway Support's (SGS) Energy Management Office.

JOHN BROUGHTON (left) of Space Gateway Supportís Energy Management Office explains how the Launch Pad Lightning Warning System (LPLWS) is powered. The LPLWS gives forecasters information on trends in electric field potential and the locations of highly charged clouds capable of supporting lightning.
Below, SGS mechanical engineer Kevin Riley explains how the system is crucial because it protects all aspects of launches, including the vehicle, from potentially damaging lightning strikes.

According to SGS mechanical engineer Kevin Riley, the system is crucial because it protects all aspects of launches, including the vehicle, from potentially damaging lightning strikes. The data is also used to determine weather-related threats to the workforce, which are then communicated to employees through loudspeaker announcements.

To temporarily work around damaged utility lines in 2001, a diesel generator was used to provide power. In December 2003, SGS constructed the photovoltaic array and the generators were removed from the site. Now Field Mill Site 18 is powered entirely by the Sun. To ensure uninterrupted power, the solar array is oversized to accommodate batteries that provide power in the absence of sunlight.

The upgrade eliminated the risks of oil leaks, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and helps NASA meet its federal goals of "Greening the Government." If feasible, other sites may implement this system in the future.

Indian movie based on upcoming NASA mission

By Matthew Cavagnaro
Staff Writer

The movie set may seem suited for Hollywood, but it's actually at the Kennedy Space Center. The film is an Indian blockbuster called "Swades," and the premiere is only three months away. It's important these final scenes at KSC are finished on time.

Dozens of people with headsets run around making sure everything's just right and that Shahrukh Khan, the film's lead actor and one of India's hottest stars, has plenty of water and shade as the Florida summer kicks in.

An Academy Award nomination in 2002 helped director Ashutosh Gowariker garner a great reputation in India and a big budget for "Swades."

"This is about a man who rediscovers his roots," Gowariker said. "He realizes to solve a problem, he has to make an attempt first."

The main character in the story works on a rainfall monitoring satellite known as the Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM). GPM is an actual NASA mission, currently scheduled to launch in 2007.

CREW MEMBERS for the Indian-produced movie "Swades" film a segment at the KSC Press Site. The main character in the film works on the Global Precipitation Measurement satellite, an actual upcoming NASA mission.

Center hosts NASA Explorer Schools announcement

By Jeff Stuckey
Editor

Kennedy Space Center was host for NASA's announcement of the new 2004 Explorer Schools on May 12 at the Double Tree Hotel in Cocoa Beach. NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe, Associate Administrator for Education Dr. Adena Loston, astronauts, students and teachers participated in the ceremony.

Each spring, the program gives students in grades four through nine the chance to establish a three-year partnership between NASA and the 50 Explorer Schools teams

The program sends science and mathematics teachers "back to school" at NASA centers during the summer to acquire new teaching resources. Teachers use NASA's unique content and experts to make learning science, mathematics and technology more appealing to students.

"I'm particularly delighted to be here on the Space Coast in Florida, where America's Space Program dreams take flight," O'Keefe said. "This is the place where it all happens and has happened for so many years, so it is a fitting location to announce the next group of Explorer Schools for the coming year.

"As we pursue the president's vision, students from across the country will be able to prepare for fantastic future space exploration adventures," he said. "Our imagination is the only limit to what we can do."

Chante Allen, a sixth grade student at Carol City Elementary School in Miami, will never forget what she learned during the NASA Explorer Schools Program at her school.

ANNOUNCING THE NEW 2004 NASA Explorer Schools in a ceremony held May 12 at the Double Tree Hotel in Cocoa Beach were (from left): Dr. Adena Loston, NASA Associate Administrator for Education; NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe; Dr. Bernice Alston, division director for elementary and secondary education at NASA Headquarters; and NASA Astronauts Frank Caldeiro and Scott Altman. Below, NASA Associate Administrator for Space Flight Bill Readdy, discusses some of the Agency's challenges with two young women in the Explorer Schools Program.

"When Mr. Kennedy visited us and spoke, he made you stop and think about what NASA does for the nation," said Allen. "Everything around us just stopped and we all focused on him. What he had to say was very powerful."

Now, hundreds of students can look forward to sharing her excitement about the Space Program. NASA has announced that 50 more schools across the nation have been chosen to take part in the program, which is sponsored by NASA's Education Enterprise and the National Science Teachers Association. Fifty current Explorer Schools completed their first year of the new program.

The announcement completed a week of activities that included workshops and tours of KSC for students and educators attending the 2004 Leadership Institute/ 2003 Explorer Schools Student Symposium.

Loston explained how the program will challenge the new Explorer Schools on a different level.

"Without question, the Explorer Schools Program is living up to its promise," Loston said. "This program is offering students an opportunity learn science, technology and math in a completely new light. Through the program, schools are receiving thousands of dollars to purchase technology that will support their science and mathematics curriculum."

The 2004 Explorer Schools in the KSC region include: Howard A. Doolin Middle School in Miami; District School Board of Collier County, including Immokalee Middle School and Pine Ridge Middle School; Ronald E. McNair High School and University Community Academy in Atlanta; and Gainesville Elementary School in Gainesville, Ga. Visit **http://explorerschools.nasa.gov** for information.

'Thank You' Child Development Center teachers

Kennedy Space Center always strives to inspire the next generation of explorers. At the Child Development Center (CDC), 24 teachers mold future pioneers early in their lives.

These caregivers of children ages 6 weeks to 5 years were honored May 7 as part of Teacher Appreciation Week.

For their dedication to the children and families of KSC, each teacher received a certificate of appreciation, a CDC logo pin and a gift card for the retail store Target.

"Nothing is more important than taking care of these little children, as it puts the parents' minds at ease," said KSC Associate Director Jim Hattaway, who presented the certificates.

DICKSY HANSEN, NASA Human Resources (left), and Jim Hattaway, KSC associate director, present CDC Administrator Noelle Bee an appreciation certificate.

Remembering Our Heritage

Apollo 10 christened Pad 39B

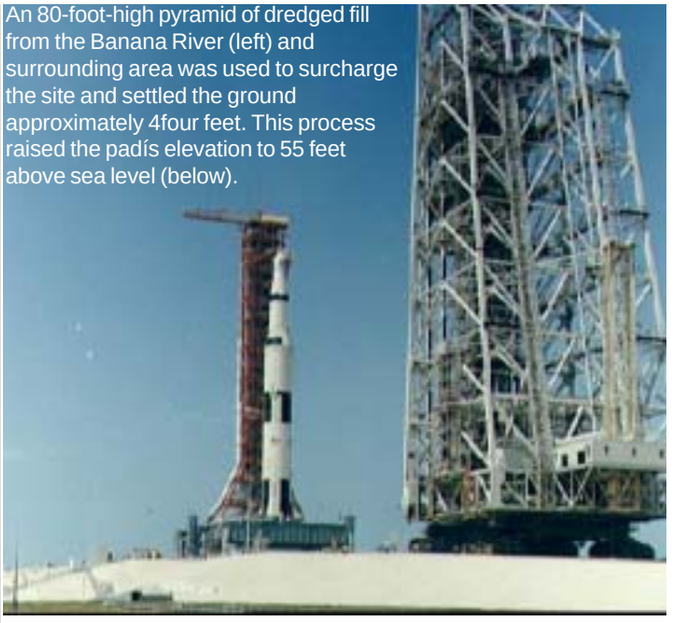
By Kay Grinter
Staff Writer

The 35th anniversary of the Apollo 10 launch on May 18 also marks the first launch from Launch Complex 39B and the first real use of the pad's water deluge system, used to cool the flame deflector after rocket ignition.

It was the first and only time Pad B was used to launch a Saturn V rocket.

No stranger to water, the site was originally marshland. An 80-foot-high pyramid of dredged fill from the Banana River and surrounding area - more than 500,000 cubic yards, weighing in excess of 1.5 billion pounds - was used to surcharge the site and settled the ground approximately 4 feet. This process raised the pad's elevation to 55 feet above sea level.

Construction began in December 1964 under the supervision of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. When the work concluded in April 1967, construction costs totaled $20.3 million.



An 80-foot-high pyramid of dredged fill from the Banana River (left) and surrounding area was used to surcharge the site and settled the ground approximately 4four feet. This process raised the padís elevation to 55 feet above sea level (below).

Apollo 10, the fourth manned launch in the program, was the first demonstration that the lunar module (LM) and command module (CM) could rendezvous in lunar orbit, one of the last assurances needed before an actual moon landing.

Once in lunar orbit, Commander Thomas Stafford and LM Pilot Eugene Cernan separated the LM, Snoopy, from the CM, Charlie Brown, piloted by John Young. For the next eight hours, they conducted a series of tests designed to evaluate the performance of the LM in the lunar environment and in the area between the Earth and Moon.

Stafford, now co-chairman of the Return to Flight Task Group, demonstrated his hands-on, take-charge abilities. An anomaly in Snoopy's automatic abort guidance system caused its ascent stage to undergo extreme gyrations.

By taking over manual control, Stafford was able to reestablish the proper attitude. Snoopy then coasted for one hour in the equivalent of a standard LM insertion orbit of a lunar landing mission. All the astronauts were able to scout the Moon's surface with their own eyes, which helped determine Apollo 11's landing site.

All primary Apollo 10 mission and detailed test objectives were achieved. The crew remained in excellent health and evident good spirits throughout the mission.

Before modifications to Pad 39B began in 1979 for the Shuttle program, the pad supported four Saturn IV launches: three with Skylab crews aboard and one carrying the American team in the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project.

NASA culture change begins at management level

THE PANEL members participating in the Culture Change Process All Hands Meeting entertain questions and comments from an audience assembled May 10 in the Training Auditorium. Pictured above (from left) are Jim Kennedy, KSC director; Jim Jennings, deputy associate administrator for Institutions and Asset Management; Lynn Cline, deputy associate administrator for Space Flight; Bob Sieck, former director of Space Shuttle Processing at KSC; and Jim Wetherbee, astronaut and technical assistant to the director of Safety and Mission Assurance at Johnson Space Center.

New technology improves LCC conference room

By Jennifer Wolfinger
Staff Writer

The gadgets sound like the latest items on display in an electronics store: two high-definition TV screens, four suspended plasma displays, and professional DVD and VHS players.

But they're actually among the high-tech equipment in the new Processing Support Conference Center (PSCC), located in Room LCC 4P10 of the Launch Control Center. Its doors officially opened May 10 after seven months of construction.

"It was designed and built to support Mission Management Team meetings before, during and after a Shuttle launch," said Joe Madden, the project manager who helped develop detailed design, construction, installation and activation requirements for the conference center.

"We received some additional input from the Shuttle test director's office, which suggested this room would also be perfect to support the daily Integrated Operations and Planning meetings," he said.

"The room furniture can be easily reconfigured to support conferences, lectures, training and formal receptions. This makes the PSCC a true multi-function, multimedia, state-of-the-art conference center."

Madden said the new room, which accommodates approximately 150 people, is a reality because of the vision of Conrad Nagel, acting deputy director of Shuttle Processing, and the work of many civil servants and contractors.

The PSCC replaces the original room, which had a small-scale voice teleconferencing system and a few small TVs. The small, first-floor room only accommodated about 75 people, and allowed for 29 to sit at the table.

Additionally, the new conference room has a PC located in the forward podium, 11 pop-up laptop connections, a high resolution document camera, advanced audio components with a 32-position voice teleconferencing system with six overhead speakers, a "rafter rocking" Dolby digital 7.1 surround sound system, a monitoring station, and a loudspeaker system.

A state-of-the-art audio and video control system, which allows conference room operators to automatically control device functions from one dedicated touch panel, also accessorizes the room.

If that wasn't enough, the PSCC is still evolving. "Future upgrades include the addition of an automated Video Teleconferencing System, a 60" diagonal plasma HDTV, HDTV video processing capabilities, an electronic drawing board and a control system upgrade for inter-center meeting collaboration and data exchange," said Madden.

Future control system upgrades will also regulate access to the room, create automated meeting attendance lists, and perform automated room configuration and system setup using digital information collected from employee badges when they sign into the room.

THE NEW Processing Support Conference Center (PSCC), located in Room LCC 4P10 of the Launch Control Center.

Sea turtles get new lease on life

THREE GREEN sea turtles are released into the Mosquito Lagoon at KSC. The turtles were rescued at KSC in January 2003 after being stunned by cold temperatures experienced in Central Florida, and rehabilitated at the Clearwater Aquarium. They were fitted with tracking devices.

Symposium discusses partnerships at Spaceport

Patricia Grace Smith, associate administrator for commercial space transportation with the Federal Aviation Administration, will be the keynote speaker at the Eighth Annual Cape Canaveral Spaceport Symposium next month.

The symposium, sponsored by the Air Force 45th Space Wing, NASA Kennedy Space Center and the Florida Space Authority, will be held June 15-16 at the Radisson Resort in Cape Canaveral.

The event will feature presentations from KSC Director Jim Kennedy; Brig. Gen. J. Gregory Pavlovich, commander of the 45th Space Wing and director of the Eastern Range; and Winston Scott, executive director of the Florida Space Authority. Other speakers include key government and industry executives serving on the following panels: Global Aerospace Operations, Future Military Space Operations, Future Space Transportation, Exploration Frontiers, and Space Recreation and Tourism.

Topics of the symposium will include emerging space markets, spaceport and range technologies, utilization of military space assets and space policy initiatives. Visit **www.capecanaveralspaceport.org** for information and to register for the event.

John F. Kennedy Space Center

Spaceport News

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