

Michoud messenger

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Michoud Employees Lauded at Marshall

On Aug. 16, at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., a number of awards were presented to Michoud employees whose exceptional contributions helped further NASA's science, engineering and spaceflight endeavors – forging a new era of exploration and discovery for the nation's space program.

Robin Henderson, acting director of the Marshall Center, welcomed award recipients and their guests. She thanked all those honored for "Embracing the Challenge, Fulfilling the Promise," the theme of the day's events.

"When I look at all that we have accomplished, I am exceedingly proud of our team's continued commitment, work ethic and high level of achievement," she said.

Robert Lightfoot, acting associate administrator at NASA Headquarters in Washington, delivered

the keynote address. Lightfoot, who was director of Marshall from 2009-2012, also joined Marshall Center leaders in presenting the awards.

Michoud received two prestigious NASA Group Achievement Awards. This award is presented to any combination of government and/or non-government individuals for an outstanding group accomplishment that has contributed substantially to NASA's mission.

Michoud employee Rob Gravolet accepted a NASA Group Achievement Award on behalf of the Deep Water Horizon Investigation Support Team, and Cynthia Spraul accepted the award on behalf of the New Orleans Fire Department Transition Team. Congratulations go to all the members of these teams for their excellent performance and service to such high-profile and critical missions.

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On the left, Cynthia Spraul receives a NASA Group Achievement Award on behalf of the New Orleans Fire Department Transition Team and on the right, Rob Gravolet accepts the NASA Group Achievement Award on behalf of the Deepwater Horizon Investigation Support Team. In both photos, NASA Acting Associate Administrator Robert Lightfoot and Marshall Center Acting Director Robin Henderson present the award. Congratulations to all participating team members.

NCAM Partnership Expands at Michoud

NASA and Louisiana leaders on Aug. 2 committed to a five-year extension of their partnership in the National Center for Advanced Manufacturing (NCAM). NCAM is a principal NASA resource at Michoud that supports aerospace manufacturing research, development and innovation critical to the goals of the nation's space program.

NCAM was formed in 1999 and includes NASA, the state of Louisiana and the University of New Orleans. This new agreement will expand the NCAM partnership to include Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, which has engineering and research capabilities that can assist NCAM in fulfilling the nation's aerospace technology needs.

The goal of NCAM is to improve U.S. competitiveness in aerospace and commercial markets, and enable transfer of technology to industry partners and educational institutions within the partnership and across the nation. NCAM also has a strong education role, sponsoring a consortium of Louisiana research universities developing advanced materials and manufacturing technologies key to the production of aerospace hardware and structures.

Since 2004, NASA and the state of Louisiana have enhanced the NCAM partnership with a joint investment of more than \$62 million to date. Their key goals are to promote growth of Louisiana's trained aerospace workforce and sustain world-class manufac-

turing capabilities, such as those at Michoud, where work is under way on elements of NASA's Space Launch System, the heavy-lift vehicle that will usher in a new era of exploration and discovery beyond Earth orbit.

"This renewed agreement reflects and amplifies NASA's long commitment to sustaining a strong, technologically trained work force in New Orleans and across Louisiana," said Marshall Center Associate Director Robin Henderson. "The National Center for Advanced Manufacturing has proven itself vital to NASA's work at Michoud and to the agency's overall mission of exploration and discovery."

Under the newly restructured NCAM agreement, NASA and its academic and industry partners will continue to work jointly on research, development and test activities to meet future space systems needs. New goals for NCAM are intensive new education outreach across the greater New Orleans region through a partnership with the University of New Orleans and expansion of NCAM research and development activities on a national scale.

National Center for Advanced Manufacturing members gathered in Baton Rouge to sign the new cooperative agreement. Pictured, left to right: Division of Administration Deputy Commissioner Ray Stockstill and LED Secretary Stephen Moret for the State of Louisiana; Interim President William Jenkins of the Louisiana State University System; Interim Provost Louis Paradise of the University of New Orleans; and Robert Champion, Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer of NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility.



Letters from Leadership

I'd like to thank the Michoud team for working together in the face of Hurricane Isaac. Current indications show that our workforce has been able to avoid any loss of life and major injuries associated with the storm. As always, the protection of life and health of every team member is our top priority.

I appreciate your response to the NASA Emergency Notification System or "robo-calls" that went out during the storm. While it may seem a bit cold, it is nonetheless the most efficient way to reach out to so many individuals and allows the NASA personnel behind the system to focus on those employees who have a direct need. Please work with your supervisor to make sure your contact information is up to date.

Once again, ironically, on the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, we were able to demonstrate to NASA the remarkable resiliency of the Michoud

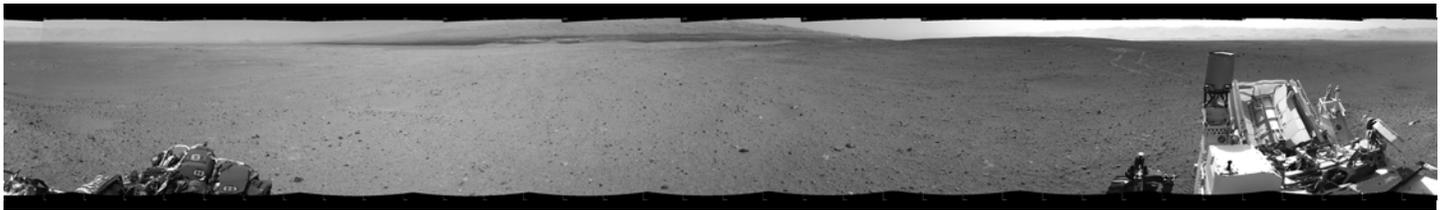
team. All the planning and preparation performed by our employees contributed greatly to the continued protection of our employees and workplace.

I would especially like to thank our teammates on the Michoud Ride Out Crew for "protecting the house" during the storm, and our team on the Recovery Crew, who came in after the storm passed and made the repairs that allowed the facility to return to our normal operating conditions quickly.

As we continue to recover from Hurricane Isaac's aftermath, both in our personal lives and here at work, let's continue to look out for each other's safety and well-being. Please remember - hurricane season is not over, so we cannot drop our guard and need to remain vigilant!

- Roy Malone, Director of Michoud Assembly Facility

Red Planet Off-Roading



After a successful landing and instrumentation check-out, NASA's Mars rover Curiosity drove about 70 feet on the mission's 21st Martian day, or sol and then used its Navigation Camera to take the images combined into this scene, which includes the fresh tracks. This 360-degree panoramic view is centered toward the south, with north at both ends.

MSFC Awards

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A number of Michoud employees were bestowed with a Marshall Space Flight Center Director's Commendation Honor Award. This is the highest award given at Marshall and is awarded to an individual whose job performance and/or special accomplishments merit recognition where other avenues of recognition are not sufficient.

Congratulations go to Michoud employees and MSFC Director's Commendation Honor awardees Rhonda Smitherman-Hickman, Phan Nguyen, Don Pollitz, and Doug Thom.



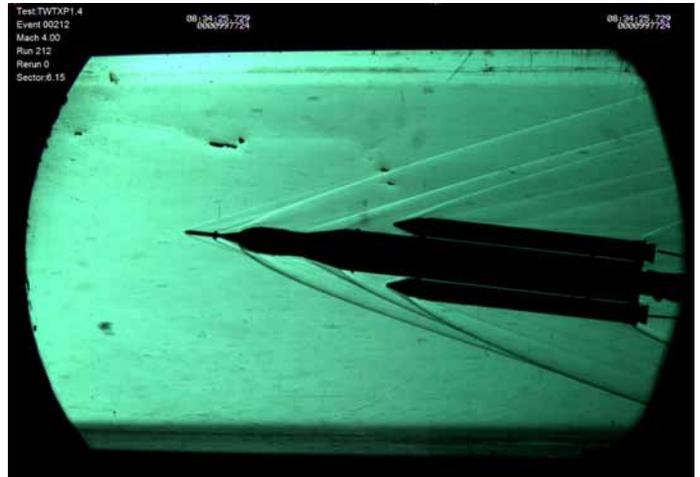
Clockwise from top left: Rhonda Smitherman-Hickman, Phan Nguyen, Don Pollitz and Doug Thom each receive their Marshall Center Director's Commendation Honor Award from NASA Acting Associate Administrator Robert Lightfoot and Marshall Acting Director Robin Henderson.

Examining ET-94



Examiners from the Office of Management and Budget's Science and Space Programs Branch visited Michoud on Aug. 2. The group paused the tour in order to take a photo with ET-94, the Space Shuttle's only remaining External Tank.

SLS Wind Tunnel Test



The 70-metric-ton configuration of the SLS rocket, designed to carry the Orion spacecraft, is tested in the Trisonic Wind Tunnel at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center. This view uses special cameras and a deflection of light directed through the windows in the tunnel to show the shadows of airflow as it changes angles at high speeds, helping researchers visualize the various intense pressures of atmosphere on the model.

Safety Moment

With all the damage and debris from Hurricane Isaac, many people will find themselves doing things out of the ordinary, like lifting or moving heavy objects. Please take a moment before you start working and think about how you can be safe as you perform these tasks. Take advantage of the personal protective equipment available at the Jacobs Tool Crib on the south mezzanine of Building 103. Remember, there is always an accident-free/injury-free way to perform any job!

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

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