National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, CA
January 2005

Astrogram

Communication for the Information Technology Age

Hubbard speaks to employees about budget challenges

Faced with a "significant decline" in Ames' budget and a challenging financial forecast for the future, NASA Ames Center Director G. Scott Hubbard recently called upon employees to pull together to help Ames overcome serious fiscal challenges.

During an all-hands meeting of center employees on Jan. 7, Hubbard pointed out that Ames' budget of nearly $800 million in Fiscal Year 2004 dropped by about $100 million this year, excluding reimbursable funds that may flow in. He said budget forecasts for future years indicate additional revenue declines.

Hubbard warned employees that the center is, indeed, facing a difficult financial future.

"This is serious," said Hubbard. "In a sense, you could say our 'dot.com' bubble burst."

Hubbard said "workforce reshaping and realignment" are needed to help the center maintain financially healthy programs with acknowledged impact, stable overhead rates and a competitive posture for additional funding.

"More and more of the funding of this agency is going to be competitive," he said, adding that while Ames has done well in previous competitions, it will be more difficult in the future as competition increases. In addition, budgets for mission directorates where work has declined will be less than in previous years.

Ames' budgets for aeronautics and for Intelligent Systems, for example, have seen dramatic cuts. According to Hubbard, the prospects for this changing in the future do not look too good. He also warned that Ames' budget likely will be even further affected -- by 'unfunded earmarks' for projects that legislators have directed be paid for from NASA's budget.

Hubbard said that parts of the agency's technology budget that had previously been dedicated to Ames have been put out for competition among all the field centers and other entities. While Ames has done well in the competition, the net result is that there is less funding available for Ames.

In addition, Hubbard said that the Center's needs for internal manufactur-

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Nanotechnology kick off held at Ames

NASA photo by Dominic Hart

Left to right: California State Controller, Steve Westly; NASA Ames Center Director G. Scott Hubbard; and 15th Congressional District of California/U.S. House of Representatives Mike Honda at the Dec. 17, 2004, Blue Ribbon Task Force Nanotechnology kick-off meeting held at NASA Ames. Members of the task force include high-ranking representatives from government, industry and academia.

65 years of innovation celebrated

NASA photo by Dominic Hart

NASA Ames Research Center celebrated its 65th birthday in December. On Dec. 20, the NASA Exploration Center hosted a public open house celebrating Ames' past, present and future. There were several guest speakers, dazzling visual shows in the immersive theater and new exhibits on display. The adjoining Building 943 (Public Affairs building) also housed a special 65th anniversary exhibit hall, and a panel discussion about space exploration, including astronaut Janice Voss, was featured in the lecture hall. There were also fun activities for the kids.

Additional 65th Anniversary photos can be found on pages 2 and 3

Celebrating 65 years of innovation at NASA Ames

NASA photo by Tom Trower

Ames employees check out the special displays depicting NASA Ames' 65 years of innovation set up in Building 943 in December 2004.

NASA photo by Dominic Hart

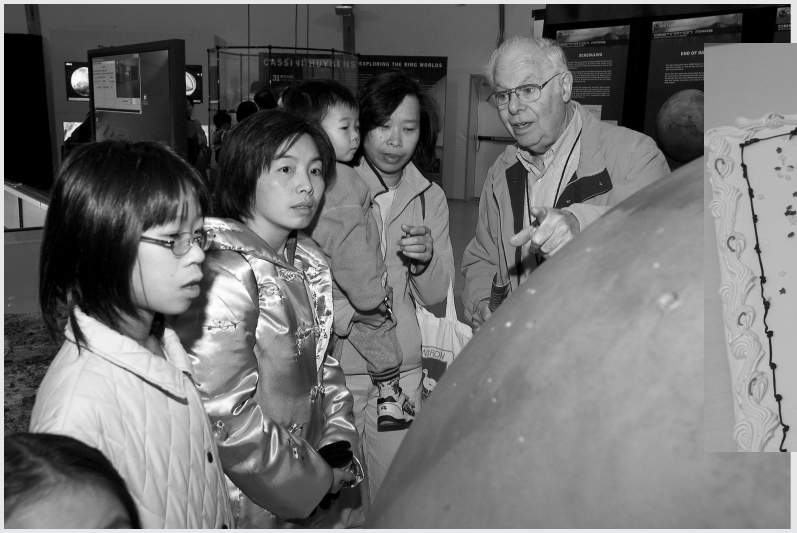
NASA photo by Dominic Hart

Astronaut Janice Voss speaks at Ames during the 65th anniversary celebration on Dec. 20.

NASA photo by Dominic Hart

NASA photo by Dominic Hart

NASA photo by Dominic Hart



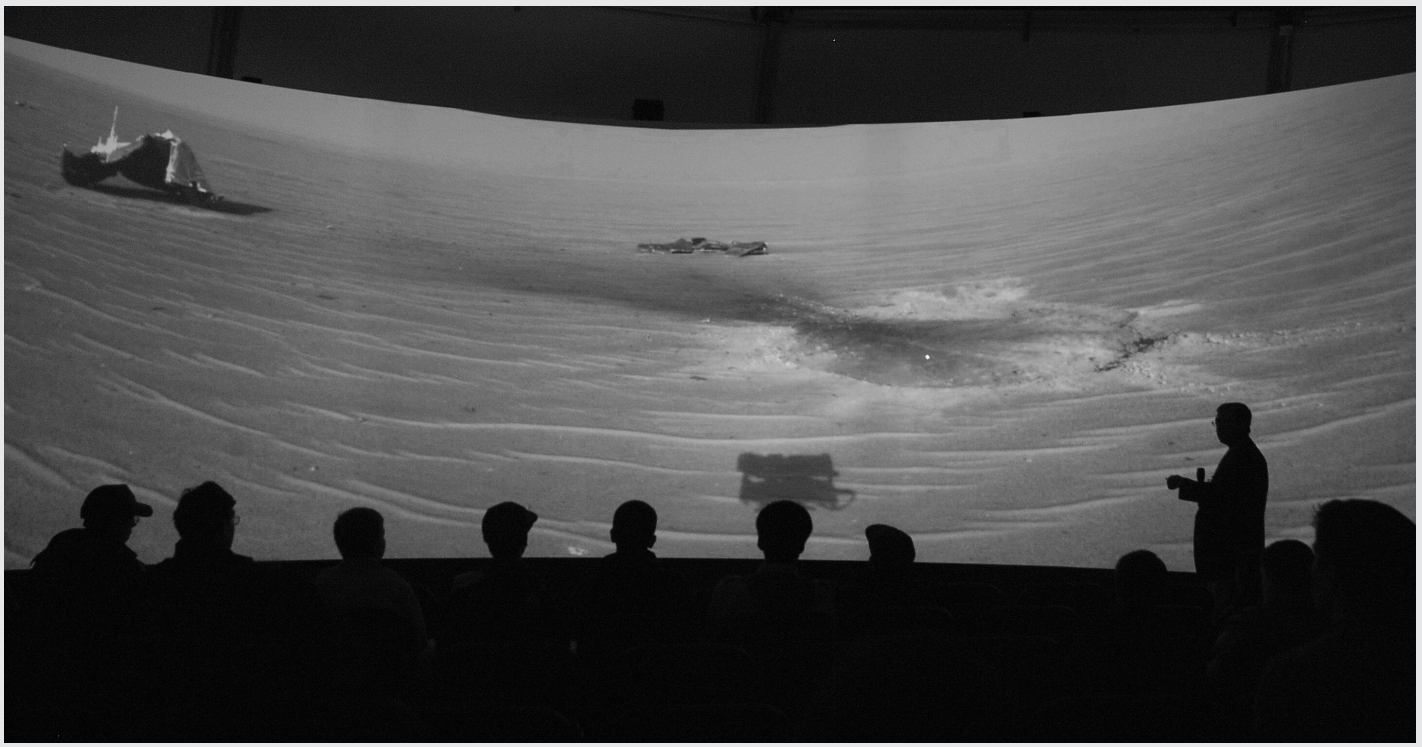
NASA photo by Dominic Hart

NASA photo by Tom Trower

The 65th NASA Ames anniversary cake shared with Ames staff on Dec. 20 in the Ames cafeteria was provided by the Ames Exchange.

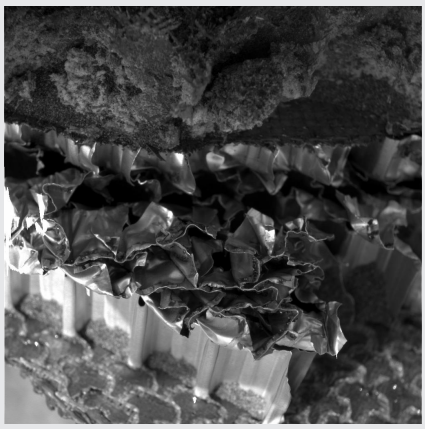
Images of Opportunity's shattered heat shield are examined

Almost a year after the Mars Exploration Rover (MER), Opportunity, landed on the red planet, the rover took close-up pictures of its shattered heat shield on the surface of that world.



NASA photo by Tom Trower

Local reporters attended the Dec. 29 'media day' event at the NASA Exploration Center. They got a chance to view the latest images of the heatshield of the Mars Exploration Rover, Opportunity, and hear Ames scientists discuss the latest findings.



Close up photos of rhe Mars Opportunity Rover heatshield.

Last January, Opportunity's heat shield protected the spacecraft from temperatures as high as 2,700 degrees Fahrenheit (1,482 degrees Celsius) as it entered Mars' atmosphere. As planned, the probe jettisoned the shield, which fell and crashed some distance from where the rover landed.

On Dec. 29, reporters had a chance to view some of the images on a big screen NASA's Exploration Center, just outside the main gate. During the news event, Ames presenters included Ethiraj (Raj) Venkatapathy, planetary exploration technology manager; Bernie Laub, heat shield expert; and Imelda Terrazas-Salinas, Arc Jet Facility expert.

Until now, NASA engineers never have looked at images of a heat shield after it had entered another planet's atmosphere. Examination of these pictures is allowing NASA experts to see how well the shield performed. As a result, engineers believe they may be able to improve future heat shield designs. As of this writing, engineers are still analyzing the images.

NASA Ames tested the heat shield. The Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif., manages the MER mission. Lockheed-Martin Corporation manufactured the heat shield.

Technical information about the NASA Ames Thermal Protection Materials and Systems Branch and its Arc Jet Facility, which tested the Mars Exploration Rover heat shield, can be found at this URL: http://asm.arc.nasa.gov

BY JOHN BLUCK

JASON set to visit Louisiana to explore the wetlands

Have you ever heard of nutria? Ever wonder where it came from, where in the U.S. it lives, how it got there or what it tastes like? Then put on your galoshes and come on a wonderful adventure exploring the mysteries and marvels in the disappearing wetlands of Louisiana.

NASA Ames will sponsor 20 live broadcasts that will take students and teachers live via satellite to the Mississippi River delta and Cajun country in Louisiana, where environmental research scientists and Argonaut students and teachers are conducting research on the effects of the disappearing wetlands.

The Ames Office of Education is excited to host the over 5,000 Bay Area middle school students and their teachers for this year's live broadcast of the JASON expedition from Louisiana.

For one week, Jan. 31 through Feb. 4, the Ames Office of Education will transform the main auditorium into a Louisiana Bayou research facility by means of a live broadcast where students interact in real time with the JASON expedition team in the field. The SOFIA Hangar, N211, will become JASON City, an educational experience found only at the Ames JASON venue. Staffed daily by over 50 Team NASA volunteers, JASON City is home to more than 16 exciting hands-on activities ranging from live demonstrations, art and animal exhibits to hands-on science experiments that help students and teachers learn more about the plight of the Louisiana wetlands and their inhabitants, including the humans.

This year's activities are sponsored by local non-profit and conservation groups, including the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge, the Center for Ecosystem Survival, the Marine Science Institute, Save the Bay, the Santa Clara Valley Water District and the Happy Hollow Zoo.

Now in its sixteenth year, the JASON Project is a multi-disciplinary educational program that sparks the imagination of students and enhances the classroom experience in science, math and technology. Led by world-famous oceanographer Dr. Robert Ballard (who discovered the location of the Titanic) and his team of leading scientists, students and teachers have traveled from our polar regions to red-hot volcanoes, the depths of the ocean and the dense tropical rain forests.

Former JASON events held at Ames, set up in the N201 auditorium.

NASA Earth science and remote-sensing scientists routinely are featured as participants on the live broadcasts. In fact, Dr. Marco Giardino from Stennis Space Center will be discussing the wealth of information available through satellite imagery when monitoring the health of the Louisiana wetlands and coastline.

This year's theme is 'Disappearing Wetlands.' Wetlands are critical life-supporting ecosystems that provide habitat for an incredible diversity of plants and animals. They are the nurseries for countless species of fish and shellfish. They protect the vulnerable coastlines from storm surges and help filter and purify fresh water. Many of our JASON students and teachers have been studying the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project, adding a local flavor to the program.

Ames employees and children are invited to attend the JASON live broadcast in N201 auditorium during the 8:30 a.m. broadcast on Tuesday, Feb 1 or the 1 p.m. broadcast on Thursday, Feb. 3.

For more information, visit our JASON@Ames Web site: http://quest.arc.nasa.gov/projects/jason/

To volunteer to help staff this event, contact Barbara Patterson at ext. 4-0494 or e-mail her at bpatterson@mail.arc.nasa.gov.

BY WENDY HOLFORTY

All-hands on culture change held

NASA photo by Tom Trower

NASA Ames Center Director G. Scott Hubbard spoke at an all-hands meeting on culture change at Ames in December to discuss Ames' continuing transformation.

Hubbard speaks to staff about budget challenges

continued from front page

ing hardware, such as the telescope cavity doors for the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) have declined, as has the need for in-house engineering work.

As a result of the budgetary declines, Hubbard said the Center offered targeted 'buyouts' to categories of employees believed to be in excess supply, in an effort to induce them to depart early. He said the Center had identified more than 500 of its 1,400 civil servants as eligible for the buyout. Of those, the majority of whom work in the Center's project management and engineering and the exploration technology directorates, Hubbard said the center needed 80 to accept the buyout in order to meet the reduced budget.

If the buyout fails to achieve the goal, Hubbard warned that Ames would not "make payroll" in 2005, and may be forced to implement a variety of tools, including furloughs (unpaid leave) for its civil servant workforce; a freeze on all new contractor tasks; reduction of procurement to a minimum; reassignment of funds reserved for the director's discretionary fund, awards, training, overtime, quality incentives and similar budgets; directed reassignment of employees to other areas of work or to other field centers as needed; a freeze on hiring; and other actions as required.

Noting that there were lots of rumors afloat, Hubbard discounted several "myths and urban legends" such as "this, too, shall pass" and "hunker down - if they don't see me, I'm safe."

"No, this is genuine," Hubbard said. He also said that if Ames were forced to implement a RIF (reduction in force), there would NOT be a substantial severance package, as many believe to be the case, for many of the employees who were laid off. Instead, those employees who are eligible to receive an annuity of any kind would receive that and that alone, not a severance package.

Hubbard also said that, contrary to what people may have heard, it is not difficult to become an Ames Associate (volunteer). He said Ames Associate status is generally available to those who opt for the buyout, and that post-employment restrictions are the same as they always have been.

Finally, Hubbard warned that additional steps may have to be taken after the center learns if the buyout is successful and how NASA fares in the FY 2006 budget when it is announced in February.

"We're going to have to undergo some office space consolidations, building closures and other 'belt-tightening' measures," Hubbard said. "This is serious. We really need your help. We've got a tough challenge ahead of us but, together, we can get through this."

BY MICHAEL MEWHINNEY

Minority students tour Ames facilities

NASA photo by Tom Trower

Minority students recently visited the the 20G centrifuge at Ames. They also visited the NASA Exploration Center and other Ames facifilities. The students are part of the program entitled 'Minorities striving and pursuing higher degrees of success in Earth sciences.' For more informaiton about the program, visit: http://www.msphds.usf.edu/index.html

Hubbard receives travel award

The '2004 International Travel Office Certificate of Appreciation' goes to … Scott Hubbard! Well, there isn't really a certificate for this, but the staff of the International Travel extends its sincere thanks to our Center director for going through the international travel process flawlessly and without a complaint, setting an excellent example for his Ames civil service staff.

If you have questions about Ames's international travel process, check the Web site at http://travel.arc.nasa.gov; contact the associate gatekeeper for your directorate (see http://travel.arc.nasa.gov/gatekeepers.html); e-mail the Ames international travel coordinator (principal gatekeeper) at Maureen.C.Weller@nasa.gov, or call her at ext. 4-1955.

The NASA astronaut class of 2004 visits Ames

The NASA astronaut graduating class of 2004 is seen here meeting with Ames Center G. Scott Hubbard during a recent visit to Ames. During their visit, astronaut candidates toured the NASA Advanced Supercomputing facility, and the Neuro Lab, FutureFlight Central and Bioinformatics facilities.

NASA photo by Dominic Hart

Young Ames' artists recognized at ice cream social

The 2005 Safety and Health calendar, featuring artwork from 36 children, was distributed recently at Ames. All artists who submitted a picture for the calendar were recognized at an ice cream social on Dec. 16 in the Ames Café.

NASA photos by Tom Trower

Ames shows 'One NASA' spirit at I/ITSEC 2004 conference

The spirit of 'One NASA' was alive and well at the 2004 Interservice / Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference (I / ITSEC). In December, almost 16,000 attendees from 44 countries descended upon the Orlando Convention Center. They learned about the latest developments in the simulation research and training arenas via presentations and exhibits. Topics ranged from vehicle design and development to military troop operations in the field.

The 'One NASA' booth at the recent Interservice/Industry Training Simulation and Education Conference.

Several NASA centers with extensive experience in simulation, including Ames, Dryden Flight Research Center, Johnson Space Center, Kennedy Space Center and Langley Research Center, came together to present a joint 'One NASA' booth at the conference.

The booth would not have been a reality, though, if it hadn't been for the amazing teamwork evidenced by the participating centers. With no external funding available for the undertaking, each center pitched in, contributing what they could to the communal effort.

As the initiator of the joint booth concept, Ames' simulation laboratories ('SimLabs') provided project management and logistical support, as well as a software demonstration of their virtual laboratory package, which allows users to participate in vehicle simulations at Ames in real time from remote locations.

Dryden brought a one-ton F-16 / F-18 cockpit flight simulator and a three-panel video display. Johnson and Langley each contributed desktop simulators of the space shuttle and general aircraft operations, respectively. Langley also donated a 12-panel video wall for all of the centers to use on a rotating basis to display videos showcasing their individual facilities.

Kennedy provided a booth structure that lent itself well to the joint NASA effort and gave the individual centers' exhibits a cohesive look in the 800-square-foot space. Additionally, Kennedy brought a seven-foot-tall talking astronaut mannequin that proved almost as popular with the conference attendees as Dryden's cockpit simulator. All centers contributed brochures and some centers were able to bring NASA stickers, pens and plastic goodie bags, as well.

The conference provided a wonderful opportunity for the participating NASA centers to interact with all branches of the military, relevant industry interests, members of academia and the general public.

In addition to educating attendees about NASA's myriad simulation capabilities, the One NASA booth was a physical testament to the new, unified direction of the agency. The One NASA I / ITSEC team was exceedingly pleased with the outcome of their efforts and is looking forward to reconvening at I / ITSEC 2005!

BY KATHLEEN STARMER

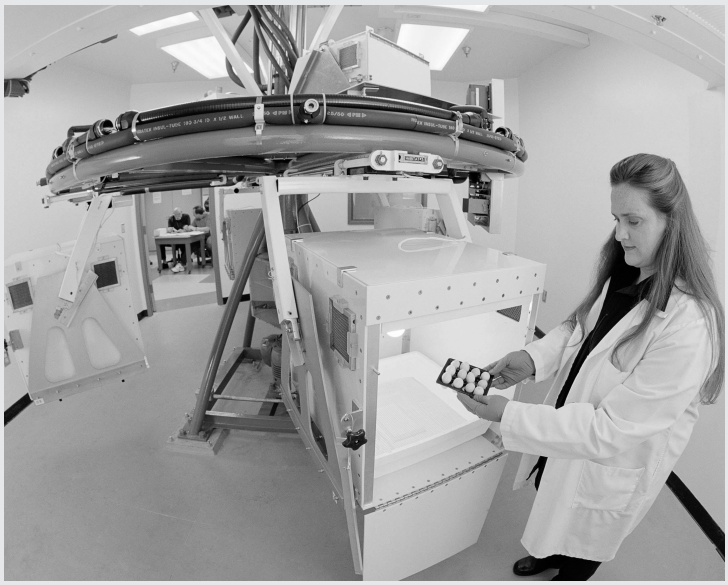
Ames employees celebrate 65th

NASA photos by Dominic Hart

NASA Ames celebrated its 65-year anniversary with a free luncheon offered to 1,000 of its employees on Jan. 19. The event was sponsored by the Ames Exchange and contractor partners. Master of ceremonies was NBC 11 news anchor/ reporter T.J. Holmes, top right photo.

NASA selects student team to conduct real-world science

NASA announced in January that a team from Troy, Mich., is the winner of the first nationwide science contest that provides students a unique opportunity to conduct their own research using one of NASA's state-of-the-art, ground-based hypergravity facilities.



Tianna Shaw, manager of the Facility Utilization Office, is seen here working on NASA's International Space Station Test Bed Centrifuge (ISSTBC).

NASA Exploration Systems Mission Directorate officials named the 'Centrifu-G's" the Hyper-G contest's main prize-winner. The team will visit NASA Ames in May and will conduct research here using the International Space Station test bed centrifuge, a hypergravity centrifuge.

"The hypergravity competition represents one of the most innovative and exciting scientific opportunities for students," said NASA Ames Education Director Mark Leon. "Not only does this particular experiment give students real science experience, it also puts them toe to toe with some of the world's leading researchers in this field," Leon said.

Tianna Shaw, manager of the Facility Utilization Office, and Jeff Smith, Ames' assistant chief of the Gravitational Research Branch, will help the students develop plans for the experiment. "This will be a unique opportunity for the students to experience the real-world application of science and engineering," Shaw said.

"Hypergravity is levels of gravity above one 'G,' or greater than Earth's gravity," Smith said. "NASA researchers conduct hypergravity experiments on centrifuges to understand how gravity causes changes in humans and other living organisms," he explained.

Understanding how a particular species changes in hypergravity helps scientists predict and better understand how the species will change in space or on another planet, which is essential for successful realization of the Vision for Space Exploration.

Centrifu-G's team members will study wound healing in the flatworm 'planaria,' which has many physiological systems in common with humans. Students hypothesized that flatworms exposed to hypergravity will experience a slower rate of regeneration.

"Studying the combined processes of wound healing and gravity stress in these tiny animals may provide clues to successfully treating wounds that might be sustained by astronauts on future long-term missions to the moon or Mars," Smith said.

During the students' visit to Ames, their teachers will have an opportunity to help guide them through the scientific process, while learning about hands-on methods in biology, physics and mathematics as they relate to NASA's exploration biology research.

The competition began in September of last year. Each student team entered the contest by submitting a letter of intent, stating the idea for a scientific experiment. In December 2004, 27 high school student teams from 10 states provided proposals. NASA engineers and scientists advised students throughout the proposal development process.

In addition to the grand prize, there are three honorable mention teams: Vinegar Eel Nematodes Under Study, Columbus, Ga.; the Team Infinity Universe, Los Alamos, N.M.; and the 12 Volt Super Shockers, Boise, Idaho.

The Treasure Valley Math and Science Center, Boise, Idaho, also received special commendation to acknowledge the number and quality of experimental ideas submitted.

For more information about the Hyper-G competition on the Web, visit: http://lifesci.arc.nasa.gov

For more information about NASA and agency programs on the Web, visit: http://www.nasa.gov/

BY VICTORIA STEINER

Coda JA personnel help local shelter

Code JA again this year decided to pool their efforts and donate gifts and money to the Support Network for Battered Women.

For several years this group has asked for companies or individuals to help families celebrate a safe and comfortable holiday season.

The shelter gave Code JA a description of what a young woman and her daughter needed along with a client biography. Donations from staff members included several books, toys and games along with a warm comforter and over $200.

According to the agency, "Ellen's family lives in another country. She and her husband moved here for a 'better life' but things did not turn out the way they hoped."

When her husband could not get a good job, he began being violent toward her. She was afraid to call the police but eventually neighbors did and he was arrested. The police found drugs on him and he was put in jail.

She is trying to make ends meet and hoping that he will not be too angry when he gets out of jail. She is also coming for counseling.

Maria Perez and Ameka Chapman were chairpersons this year. Chapman stated, "It is really nice to help people in need, even if it is in a small way."

Events Calendar

Ames Amateur Radio Club, third Thursday of each month, 12 noon, N-T28 (across from N-255). POC: Michael Wright, KG6BFK, at ext. 4-6262.

Ames Ballroom Dance Club. Classes on Tuesdays. Beginning classes meet at 5:15 p.m. Higher-level class meets at 5:50 p.m. Held in Bldg. 944, the Rec. Center. POC: Helen Hwang at helen.hwang@nasa.gov, ext. 4-1368.

Ames Bowling League, Palo Alto Bowl on Tuesday nights. Seeking full-time bowlers and substitutes. Questions to sign up: Mike Liu at ext. 4-1132.

Ames Child Care Center Board of Directors Mtg, every other Thursday (check Web site for meeting dates: http://accc.arc.nasa.gov), 12 noon to 1:30 p.m., N-210, Rm. 205. POC: Cheryl Quinn, ext 4-5793.

Ames Contractor Council Mtg, first Wednesday each month, 11 a.m., N-200, Comm. Rm. POC: Linda McCahon, ext. 4-1891.

Ames Diabetics (AAD), 1st & 3rd Weds, 12 noon to 1 p.m., at Ames Mega Bites, Sun room. Support group discusses news affecting diabetics. POC: Bob Mohlenhoff, ext. 4-2523/e-mail at: bmohlenhoff@mail.arc.nasa.gov.

Ames Federal Employees Union (AFEU) Mtg, third Wednesday of ea. month, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m., Bldg. 221, Rm 104. Guests welcome. Info at: http://www.afeu.org. POC: Marianne Mosher, ext. 4-4055.

Ames Mac Support Group Mtg, third Tuesday of ea. month, 11:30 a.m.to 1 p.m., Bldg. N262, Rm 180. POC: Julie ext. 4-4694 or Tony ext. 4-0340.

Ames Model Aircraft Club, flying radio-controlled aircraft at the north end of Parsons Ave. on weekend mornings. POC: Mark Sumich, ext. 4-6193.

Ames Sailing Club Mtg, second Thursday of ea. month (Feb through Nov), from 11.30 a.m. -1 p.m. in the special events room in the Ames Visitor Center in N-223. All are welcome. POC: Jeff Smith, ext. 4-2586.

Environmental, Health and Safety Information Forum, first Thursday of each month, 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., Bldg. 221/Rm 155. URL: http://q.arc.nasa.gov/qe/events/EHSseries/ POC: Stacy St. Louis at ext. 4-6810.

The Hispanic Advisory Committee for Excellence HACE Mtg, first Thurs of month in N255 room 101C from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. POC: Eric Kristich at ext. 4-5137 and Mark Leon at ext. 4-6498.

Jetstream Toastmasters, Mondays, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m., N-269/Rm.179. POC: Becky Brondos at ext. 4-1959, bbrondos@mail.arc.nasa.gov or Bob Hilton at ext. 4-1500, bhilton@mail.arc.nasa.gov.

Nat'l Association of Retired Federal Employees, (NARFE). Former and current federal employees. Your only contact with Congress. Join to protect your federal retirement. Chptr #50 will then meet on the first Fri. of each month at HomeTown Buffet, 2670 El Camino (at Kiely), S. Clara, 11 a.m. lunch. POC Earl Keener (408) 241-4459 or NARFE 1-800-627-3394.

Native American Advisory Committee Mtg, fourth Tues each month, 12 noon to 1 p.m., Bldg. 19, Rm 1096. POC: Mike Liu at ext. 4-1132.

NASA scientists discuss giant atmosphere brown cloud

NASA scientists say that a giant, smoggy atmospheric brown cloud, which forms over South Asia and the Indian Ocean, has intercontinental reach. The scientists presented their findings during the recent American Geophysical Union meeting in San Francisco.

The scientists discussed the massive cloud's sources, global movement and its implications. The brown cloud is a moving, persistent air mass characterized by a mixed-particle haze. It also contains other pollution, such as ozone.

"Ozone is a triple-threat player in the global environment. There are three very different ways ozone affects our lives," said Robert Chatfield, a scientist at NASA Ames. "A protective layer of good ozone, high in the atmosphere, shields us from deadly ultraviolet light that comes from the sun. Second, bad or smog ozone near the surface of Earth can burn our lungs and damage crops. In our study, we are looking at a third major effect of ozone, that it can warm the planet, because it is a powerful greenhouse gas," Chatfield said.

"We found both brown cloud pollution and natural processes can contribute to unhealthy levels of ozone in the troposphere where we live and breathe. Some ozone from the brown cloud rises to high enough altitudes to spread over the global atmosphere," Chatfield explained. Ozone from the Earth's protective stratospheric layer, produced by natural processes, can migrate down to contribute to concentrations in the lower atmosphere, according to the scientists.

The researchers studied the intercontinental smog ozone processes associated with the brown cloud over South Asia. They used a NASA technique that combines data acquired by satellites with ozone data measured by instruments on special weather balloons.

The ozone-monitoring instrument on NASA's Aura satellite is providing data about the brown cloud. "The beautiful, high-detail images from this instrument promise to help us sort out our major questions about how much of the tropospheric ozone is from pollution and how much is from natural factors," Chatfield said.

Analysis shows ozone in the lower atmosphere over the Indian Ocean comes from the intensely developed industrial-agricultural areas in the region. The southern pollutant buildup has long-range effects, often traveling across Africa, further than the brown cloud of particles, according to researchers.

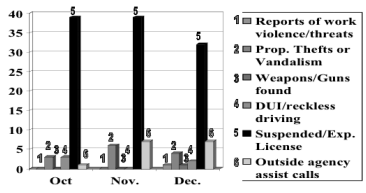
To access technical information about the brown cloud study on the Web, visit: http://geo.arc.nasa.gov/sgg/chatfield/recentRes.html For information and images related to this story on the Web, visit: http://www.nasa.gov/vision/earth/environment/brown_cloud.html

BY JOHN BLUCK

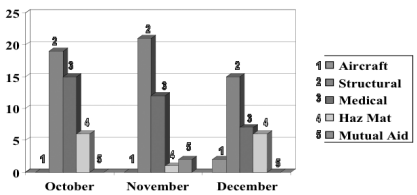
Protective Services monthly activity

A statistical summary of activities of the Protective Services Division's Security/Law Enforcement and Fire Protection Services units for the month of December 2004 is shown below.

Security/Law Enforcement Activity



Fire Protection Activity



Ames Classifieds

Ads for the next issue should be sent to *astrogram@mail.arc.nasa.gov* and must be resubmitted for each issue. Ads must involve personal needs or items; (no commercial/third-party ads) and will run on a space-available basis only. First-time ads are given priority. Ads must include home phone numbers; Ames extensions and email addresses will be accepted for carpool and lost and found ads only. Due to the volume of material received, we are unable to verify the accuracy of the statements made in the ads. Caveat emptor!

Housing

Shared housing room for rent in excellent, quiet Los Altos area near Ames. Share house w/prof'l males/females. Large house, yard w/gardener. W/D, partly furnished, N/S/pets, $540/mo plus dep. and 1/4 utils. Call (408) 243-7750 or (408)718-1593.

Have a 2bd/1ba for rent. Gd cond. It is a four plex, located at Milpitas. Maria (650) 345-2069 after 4:30 p.m. through 9:00 p.m.

2ba/1ba- 4 plx., for rent in Sunnyvale, near Lawrence/El Camino Real, $900 mo., no pets, 975 Helen Avenue. Call (408) 741-4922-James.

Furnished room for rent, $500 (includes utils) in a shared two-story new house (Central San Jose). Full house priviledges. Brand new appliances: W/D, refridgerator etc. Extras: billiard table, garage gym, satellite TV, wireless DSL. Close to 101 and only 20-30 min. from Ames. Call (831)461-1676.

Why rent? You can own your own place and get a tax deduction and live close to work. 2/3 bd/2 ba ready to move in today. $92,500. (space rent $600 lowest in valley, includes water and garbage). Call (408) 887-4420 or (559) 661-9159.

2 bd/2.5 ba twnhouse, one car garage, balcony. D/W, disposer, microwave, cntrl heat and air, refrig., W/D. Close to supermarkets, 24hr Fitness. Easy access to H880/17 and 85. Perfect for single family or single person. N/S, female pref'd. Avail late Jan, early Feb. 2005. $1,600 per month. Ric (408) 205-1361.

Exchange Information

Information about products, services and opportunities provided to the employee and contractor community by the Ames Exchange Council. Visit the web site at: http://exchange.arc.nasa.gov

Beyond Galileo N-235 (8 a.m. to 2 p.m.) ext. 4-6873

Ask about NASA customized gifts for special occasions. Make your reservations for Chase Park

Mega Bites N-235 (6 a.m. to 2 p.m.) ext. 4-5969

See daily menu at: http://exchange.arc.nasa.gov

Visitor Center Gift Shop N-943 (10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) ext. 4-5412

NASA logo merchandise, souvenirs, toys, gifts and educational items.

Tickets, etc...(N-235, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.) ext. 4-6873

Check web site for discounts to local attractions, http://exchange.arc.nasa.gov and click on tickets.

NASA Lodge (N-19) 603-7100

Open 7 days a week, 7:00 a.m. to 10 p.m. Rates from $40 - $50.

Vacation Opportunities

Lake Tahoe-Squaw Valley Townhse, 3bd/2ba, View of slopes, close to lifts. Per night: $250, two night minimum. Includes linens, cleaning, propane fireplace, fully equipped. Call (650) 968-4155, DBMcKellar@aol.com

South Lake Tahoe cottage w/wood fireplace, hot tub. Rates $50 to $130 per night. Call (650) 967-7659 or (650) 704-7732.

Vacation rental, Bass Lake, 4 mls south of Yosemite. 3bd/1.5 ba, TV, VCR, MW, frplc, BBQ, priv. boat dock. Sleeps 8. $1,050/wk. Call (559) 642-3600 or (650) 390-9668.

Big Sur vacation rental, secluded 4bd/2ba house in canyon setting. Fully eqpd kitchen. Access to priv. beach. Tub in patio gdn. Halfway between Carmel and Big Sur. $175/night for 2; $225 for 4 and $250 for more, plus $150 cleaning dep. Call (650) 328-4427.

Tahoe Donner vacation home, 2 bd/2ba. trees, deck. Access to pools, spa, golf, horseback riding, $280 wkend, $650 week. Call (408) 739-9134.

Pine Mountain Lake vacation home. Access to golf, tennis, lake, swimming, horseback riding, walk to beach. Three bedrooms/sleeps 10. $100/night. Call (408) 799-4052 or (831) 623-4054.

Incline Village: Forest Pines, Lake Tahoe condo, 3 bd/2ba, sleeps 8. Fireplace, TV/VCR/DVD, MW, W/D, jacuzzi, sauna, pool. Walk to Lake, close to ski areas. Visit Web page for pictures: http://www.ACruiseStore.com. $120/night low season, $155/night high season (holidays higher) plus $156 cleaning fee and 12% Nevada room tax. Charlie (650) 366-1873.

Disneyland area vacation rental home, 2 bd/1ba. Nearing completion completely remodeled w/new furniture. Sleeps 6 (queen bed, bunk beds, sleeper sofa). Air hockey and football tables. Introductory rate $600/wk, once completed rate will be $1000/wk. Security deposit and $100 cleaning fee required. Call (925) 846-2781.

Ski Park City Utah, NASA Ski Week XIV, Feb 5 - 12, 2005. Space limited. E-mail Steve at e-mail exnasa@sbcglobal.net or call (408) 432-0135.

New York, 5th Ave. One fully furnished bedroom in 24 hour security bldg. overlooking Washington Square Park, $1,000/wk or $3,000/mo. negotiable. Call (650) 349-0238.

Paris/France: Fully furnished studio, 5th Arr, Latin Quarter, Notre Dame and Ile-St. Louis., $1,400/wk. negotiable. Call (650) 349-0238.

Intel president to present at Ames

Paul Otellini, president and chief operating officer for Intel Corporation, will present a Director's Colloquium on Tuesday, Feb. 22, in the N201 main auditorium at 2:00 p.m.

Please mark your calendars. Details will be be coming out in a centerwide e-mail.

Tune into KARC

The entire Ames community is invited to tune in to a new edition of KARC, which can be found on-line at http://karc.arc.nasa.gov. This latest broadcast features an indepth discussion between NASA Ames Center Director G. Scott Hubbard and Ames Human Capital Director Dennis Cunningham on the subject of the recent civil service buyout offering.

While the actual buyout is strictly a civil service issue, as you all know, the Center is dealing with far reaching changes and budget issues that affect us all.

Miscellaneous

The Ames Cat Network needs help finding homes for cats trapped at Moffett. They range from feral to abandoned/lost pets. Tested, altered and inoculated. Call Iris at ext. 4-5824 if you or someone you know are interested in fostering or adopting a cat.

Century Ascend SE child booster car seat, black. 4 years old. This seat has the ability to use a 5-point seat harness or can be used with your cars seatbelt across the child and chair together. Has a detachable cup holder. Can email picture. $20 or B/O. Call (650) 255-3377.

Transportation

'98 Ford Taurus SE fully loaded, V6, automatic, 67K mls. Black w/tan leather interior. A/C w/auto. climate cntrl, pwr string, pwr windws, pwr dr locks, keyless entry, AM/FM cass. 6-disc CD changer, dual frnt airbgs, 4-whl ABS disk brakes, sliding glass sunrf. $4,900. Call (650) 255-3377.

'00 Indian Chief Custom motorcycle. Brand new custom built. Red and black. '04 accessories. Prototype S&S 100 inch motor. '03 ILM forks with front Brimbo brakes. '03 vintage front fender. Indian saddlebags, chrome foot controls. $24,000. Call (408) 978-3040.

Ames emergency announcements

To hear the centerwide status recording, call (650) 604-9999 for information announcements and emergency instructions for Ames employees. You can also listen to 1700 KHz AM radio for the same information.

Safety Data

NASA-Ames Occupational Illness-Injury Data for Calendar Year 2004
Jan. 1, 2004 – Dec. 31, 2004

	Civil Servants	Contractors
Not recordable first aid cases	24	25
Recordable no lost time cases	10	24
Lost time cases*	3	7
Restricted duty days	77	57
Lost work days	0	16

Data above is as of 12/29/04. May be subject to slight adjustment in the event of a new case or new information regarding an existing case.

Under new OSHA rules, lost time is defined as lost work days, restricted duty or job transfer. The official abbreviation is DART (Days Away, Restricted or Transfer).

Knitting for relaxation, camaraderie and creativity

Left to right,the Human Resources knitting group: Leticha Hawkins, Rosalyn Jung, Maureen Sarjeant, Eva Lister, Arlene Pineo, Mary Perez, Susan Kalb, Kristie Dunbar, Thomasa Nguyen showing off the group's knitted creations.

A group of approximately 15 human resources employees knitted up a storm in the months before the holidays to relax, have fun together and release their creative spirit.

Following instruction from Rosalyn Jung, who is an advanced knitter, the group went from never having knitted before to knitting a bundle of beautiful scarves, hats and baby blankets - some for themselves and some for gifts and charity.

After only one lesson, Leticha Hawkins declared herself addicted. She quickly made a furry poncho for each of her young daughters and is now busy meeting demands for scarves from other family members.

The group includes Arlene Pineo from the Project Development Division, Code PM, who had not knitted for many years and wanted to expand her knowledge beyond the basics. She made a lustrous scarf out of ribbon yarn. Jung's instruction covered knit and purl and the variety of patterns that could be made with just those two basic stitches, then progressed to increases and decreases, a simple lace pattern and cable technique.

The group is looking forward to learning crochet in more of these lunchtime gatherings in the new year.

NASA's chief historian presents

NASA photo by Dominic Hart

NASA chief historian Steven Dick is shown speaking during a colloquium at NASA Ames on Jan. 13 entitled 'Astrobiology and the Biological Universe.'

Astrogram

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