

## Evaluations under way on External Tank in VAB

## High winds postpone NOAA-N launch 24 hours

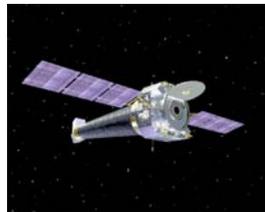
▲ **Shuttle Update:** Preparations are under way for a tanking test no earlier than next week to continue troubleshooting two issues that arose during another tanking test on April 14. Engineers are evaluating the liquid hydrogen sensors in the tank that gave intermittent readings during last month's test. These sensors serve as fuel gauges to notify the Space Shuttle Main Engines to shut down when propellants reach a certain level in the tank. This is critical in the safe operation of the main engines. Engineers are continuing to evaluate a liquid hydrogen pressurization relief valve that cycled more times during the tanking test than is standard. This valve opens and closes to ensure the liquid hydrogen stays at the correct temperature.

Following the tanking test, technicians will begin preparations for rolling Space Shuttle Discovery back to the Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB). Once in the VAB, orbiter Discovery most likely will be removed (destacked) from its External Tank and lowered into the transfer aisle. This will be the eighth time in the program's history that a destacking will be performed following a rollback.

▲ **ELV Update:** Launch of the NOAA-N satellite was delayed 24 hours Tuesday due to high winds that exceeded the allowable limit for tower rollback of the mobile service

structure. NOAA-N, the latest in the series of advanced weather satellites, was rescheduled to launch **today** from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., aboard a Boeing Delta II launch vehicle. Live launch coverage of NOAA-N began at 4 a.m. EDT.

▲ **NASA Science** — NASA reports that new results from the Chandra X-ray Observatory about the Orion Nebula



imply super-flares torched our young Solar System. Such X-ray flares likely affected the planet-forming disk around the early Sun, and may have enhanced the survival chances of Earth.

By focusing on the Orion Nebula almost continuously for 13 days, a team of scientists used Chandra to obtain the deepest X-ray observations ever taken of any star cluster. The Orion Nebula is the nearest rich stellar nursery, located just 1,500 light years away from Earth.

The Chandra X-ray Observatory was deployed from Space Shuttle Columbia's payload bay in July 1999 on mission STS-93. It was also the first mission in Space Shuttle history to be commanded by a woman, Commander Eileen Collins.

To read more about the findings and see images of the nebula and

others taken by the observatory, go to <http://chandra.harvard.edu/index.html>.

■ **Fitness Day Success** — The Fitness Centers thank all those who supported this year's National Employee Health and Fitness Day for the great turnout! Raffle prizes are being awarded this week. Look for an article and pictures on the Centers' global Web site, <http://lssc.ksc.nasa.gov/fitness/>.

Please contact Rachel Alvarado at the Fitness Center (867-7829) with any questions or suggestions regarding this event.

■ **Nurses Recognition** — Today is the last day of National Nurses Week, which began May 6. It's not too late to recognize nurses working on the Center and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in clinics, safety departments, administration or ambulances.

■ **Correction** — The "Return To Flight: Fixing the Space Shuttle" documentary airs on the Discovery channel 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. **Sunday.**

■ **Did You Know?** NASA Exchange is holding an art fair at the Multi-Function Facility Café (near the Operations Support Building) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. today and tomorrow. Stop by and check out the beautiful assortment of framed art and prints.