



KSC sends aid to two Katrina-wracked Centers

▲ Convoy of Supplies Leaves

KSC: Federal Express trucks (below) carrying generators, lights and fuel passed through KSC guard gates Sunday on their way to Stennis Space Center in Mississippi. Stennis suffered damage and power outages from Hurricane Katrina. KSC is sending a helicopter with medical supplies and an Emergency Medical Technician to Stennis, plus a 1-megawatt generator, 125- and 225-kilowatt generators, and 1,000 gallons of diesel fuel.



Michoud Assembly Facility near New Orleans was also left without power. A NASA plane is carrying medical supplies, food and chain-saws, as well as a physician and two high voltage technicians to Michoud to ensure the facility can safely receive power when the main electricity grid comes online. In addition, a 14-person security team is also going to Michoud to relieve the security professionals at that location.

▲ Not Your Father's Moon

Buggy: When humans return to the

Moon and venture beyond, they'll get around using "smart" rovers that do much more than move cargo.

The single-use rovers of the past will be replaced by multi-use planetary rovers that are full-fledged members of "EVA squads," humans and robots working together. The rovers will be able to transport both astronauts and equipment, follow verbal commands and hand signals, take direction by wireless remote control, act as communication and video relay stations and carry extra supplies. They'll even be able to do some work autonomously or with other robots.

That's the focus of ongoing research by NASA's Science Crew Operations and Utility Testbed (SCOUT) project. Although lunar rovers were used on three Apollo missions, significantly expanding the exploration range of the astronauts, more capable vehicles will be needed to support the build-up, maintenance and exploration envisioned for prolonged lunar and Martian surface missions.

The SCOUT rover will be taken for another test drive in September as part of tests in the Arizona desert near Flagstaff.

Recently, at NASA's Johnson Space Center, spacesuited drivers, astronauts, operations personnel and engineers put the two-person SCOUT through its paces in a series of mid-year field tests. The results could help

New lunar rovers play critical role in lunar, Martian missions

pave the way for building and maintaining bases, establishing resource depots and conducting scientific research.



■ **Giving Blood** — The NASA-sponsored Blood and Bone Marrow Drive has been rescheduled for

Sept. 28. Anyone who had scheduled an appointment for Sept. 7 and would like to reschedule or anyone who would like an appointment should contact Ruth Wilburn at rwilburn@floridasbloodcenters.org.

■ **Call For Volunteers** — The Florida Space 2005 Conference takes place Nov. 15-17 at the KSC Visitor Complex. The theme is "Launching New Opportunities." Volunteers are needed for tasks ranging from working the registration desk to coordinating speakers and sponsors. To volunteer, please contact Jack Fox at jack.j.fox@nasa.gov or 867-4413.

■ **Flags Honor Storm Victims** — The United States flags at Kennedy Space Center are flying at half staff in compliance with the Proclamation by the President, as a mark of respect for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, Sept. 4-20, 2005.

■ **Did You Know?** On Sept. 8, 1565, St. Augustine was founded by Pedro Menendez de Aviles and would become the oldest continuing settlement in the United States.