



KSC Countdown

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Kennedy retires, Parsons takes helm of KSC

Rocket buildup on pad under way for THEMIS

◆ **Leadership Change:** Bill Parsons today assumes the role as the ninth director of KSC. In September, NASA Administrator Michael Griffin named Parsons to succeed Jim Kennedy who is retiring from the agency. Parsons has served as the center's deputy director since February. "The thousands of people who make up the team at Kennedy are the most talented and dedicated group of professionals I have had the honor to work with," said Parsons. "I look forward to the future and being a part of completing the International Space Station, and launching the vehicles that will take us back to the moon."

◆ **ELV Update:** At the Astrotech payload processing facility, THEMIS state-of-health checks and an electrical system checkout have been finished. Solar array illumination tests are also complete. The spacecraft was pressurized in preparation for fueling this week. The five probes will be installed onto the payload carrier Jan. 9-11. Spin balance testing will follow Jan. 12.

Installation of the Delta II rocket first stage is scheduled Saturday on Pad 17-B on Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. The nine solid rocket boosters will be placed around the base of the first stage and attached in sets of three between Jan. 8-13. The second stage will be hoisted atop the first stage on Jan. 16. The following day, the payload fairing will be lifted inside the clean room facility located within the mobile service tower.

■ **Contractor Participation at PM Challenge 2007** — The NASA Project Management Challenge 2007 conference will be held Feb. 6-7 at the Moody Gardens Hotel and Convention Center in Galveston, Texas. The conference theme is "Knowledge Sharing." Speaker abstracts and bi-

ographies are now posted at <http://pmchallenge.gsfc.nasa.gov/program.htm#Programsummary>.

NASA can only collect registration fees from NASA civil servants; however, contractors can participate in the NASA PM Challenge speaker tracks, discussion panels, case studies and general/keynote sessions by registering for the industry-hosted "PM Challenge EXPO." For more information, please visit <http://www.pmx2007.info>.

■ **If You Bag It - Then Tag It!** — Unidentified briefcases, gym bags, equipment bags, backpacks or similar items arouse concerns for explosive devices. To alleviate these concerns, all such items should have an identification tag. Free identification tags may be obtained at the following locations:

KSC Headquarters Building, VRC Badging Office, Room 1470; **VAB F Gate Badging Station**; **PIDS 1** located on Phillips Parkway near the CCAFS South Gate; **PIDS 3** located on NASA Causeway near the U.S. 1 entrance; **SSPF**, Room 1473; and the **USA Security Office** at the PCC. Failure to tag your property may re-

sult in its confiscation or destruction, as well as causing unnecessary evacuations.

■ **Apollo District Interpretive Program in January** — 1 p.m. on Jan. 20, "Pine Needle Basket Weaving." Learn the ancient art of pine needle basket weaving. The materials will be provided. The hour-long class meets at the Visitor Information Center.

All programs are subject to cancellation and/or rescheduling due to staff limitations, weather conditions or other factors. Some programs require reservations, a minimum age or a cost-recovery fee. Call 386-428-3384, ext. 10 for program information during operating hours (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) or visit the Web site at <http://www.nps.gov/cana>.

■ **Did You Know?** January is National Blood Donor Month. The donation of just one pint of blood can save up to three lives. For more information, visit: http://www.aabb.org/Content/Donate_Blood/Donate_Blood_Public_Education_Initiatives/National_Blood_Donor_Month/.