June 29, 2007

John F. Kennedy Space Center - America’s gateway to the universe

http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/snews/spnews_toc.html

Vol. 46, No. 13

STS-117 team completes starboard truss assembly

New truss segment significantly increases power output

The Space Shuttle Atlantis and its crew are home after completing a 14-day journey of more than 5.8 million miles in space. Atlantis’ STS-117 mission successfully increased the power capability of the International Space Station, preparing for the future delivery of European and Japanese laboratories.

Commander Rick Sturckow, Pilot Lee Archambault and Mission Specialists Jim Reilly, Patrick Forrester, Steven Swanson, John “Danny” Olivas and Sunita Williams landed at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., on June 22 at 3:49 p.m. EDT.

Weather concerns forced mission managers to shift the landing from the Kennedy Space Center to Edwards after rain clouds were too close to the Shuttle Landing Facility. Atlantis was

(See STS-117, Page 4)

RETURNING FROM mission STS-117, Space Shuttle Atlantis approaches touchdown on the runway at NASA’s Dryden Flight Research Center at Edwards Air Force Base in California. This was the 51st landing for the Space Shuttle Program at Edwards.

NASA’s Dawn mission ready for early July launch from Cape

By Linda Herridge
Staff Writer

After four years of planning and preparing, NASA’s Launch Services Program at Kennedy Space Center sees the light at the end of the tunnel as it prepares for the launch of the Dawn spacecraft aboard a Delta II heavy launch vehicle in early July.

Since the arrival of Dawn at the Astrotech facility in Titusville on April 10, the Launch Services Program team has been responsible for processing the spacecraft and integrating it with the launch vehicle for its mission to the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. The processing team includes NASA, United Launch Alliance, Analex and AI Solutions employees and the Orbital Sciences Corp. and Jet Propulsion Lab team.

Armando Piloto is the NASA KSC Dawn mission manager. He said spacecraft processing work included integrating the solar

(See DAWN, Page 2)
Director’s Update

Bill Parsons
Center Director

As Kennedy Space Center’s high-profile achievements continue to capture the attention of the world, NASA’s launch operations center receives thousands of public information requests from the media each year.

These range from simple requests such as interviewing an engineer or taking up-close photos of a space shuttle, to more intensive requests like gaining escorted access to a high-security area.

It’s important that employees understand that NASA desires a culture of openness. Consistent with NASA’s policy on the release of information to the media, employees may speak to the press and the public about their work. The policy explains many ways to offer the best communication in sharing NASA’s message with the public.

NASA employees who receive a request from a media representative should coordinate with KSC’s News Center at 321-867-2468 so that our public affairs officers can help in providing the most appropriate information concerning NASA activities at the center.

Contractor employees should work with their company’s public affairs office.

Public affairs representatives must be on hand during media visits to KSC primarily for safety and security reasons. They also facilitate discussions between employees and media, but do not tell employees what to say.

The agency’s policy on releasing information guarantees that NASA scientists may share their conclusions with the media, but requires that they draw a distinction between professional conclusions and personal views that may go beyond the scope of their specific technical work, or beyond the range of the agency.

As NASA Administrator Mike Griffin said, “Decisions concerning the newsworthiness of the numerous activities within NASA must be made and carried out in a coordinated fashion, but with views from all parties considered.”

We remain committed to the standard of open communication across KSC.

Those who have questions about the policy are invited to contact KSC’s News Center, or David Mould at NASA Headquarters in Washington at 202-358-1898 or at david.r.mould@nasa.gov.

DAWN . . .
(Continued from Page 1)

arrays, completing final spacecraft alignments and a final comprehensive performance test, and fueling the spacecraft. It also involved performing a spin-balance test and final weighing. The spacecraft was mated to the Delta II launch vehicle’s third stage at Astrotech and then transported to Launch Pad 17-B at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

“Dawn is a very ambitious mission,” Piloto said. “For the last four years, the Dawn team has done a tremendous job to get us to this point in the flow, and we continue to work very actively and very safely to ensure mission success.”

Dawn is the ninth mission in NASA’s Discovery Program. The spacecraft will be the first to orbit two planetary bodies during a single mission and study two of the largest asteroids in the main asteroid belt. This is also NASA’s first purely scientific mission powered by three solar electric ion propulsion engines. Ion propulsion is the world’s most advanced and efficient space propulsion technology.

According to Dr. Christopher Russell, principal investigator at the University of California-Los Angeles, the mission’s primary scientific objective is to advance our understanding of the origin and evolution of the solar system by studying asteroid Vesta and the dwarf planet Ceres, which have remained intact since their formation 4.6 billion years ago.

During the mission, Dawn will perform three different orbits around each of these protoplanets. According to Russell, Ceres is the largest, most massive asteroid in the main asteroid belt, while Vesta is smaller and irregularly shaped.

The spacecraft will arrive at Vesta in September 2011 and at Ceres in February 2015.

Dawn, built by Orbital Sciences Corp. in Dulles, Va., contains instruments from Italy, Germany and the U.S.

NASA’s Phoenix processing continues for August launch

ON PAD 17-A at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, a third solid rocket booster is raised from its transporter to be lifted into the mobile service tower, where two others wait. The boosters will be mated with the Delta II first stage. The Delta is the launch vehicle for the Phoenix Mars Lander spacecraft. Phoenix will land in icy soils near the north polar permanent ice cap of Mars and explore the history of the water in these soils and any associated rocks, while monitoring polar climate. Landing on Mars is planned in May 2008 on arctic ground where a mission currently in orbit, Mars Odyssey, has detected high concentrations of ice just beneath the top layer of soil. Phoenix is scheduled to launch Aug. 3.
Kennedy is first ‘StormReady’ NASA center

By Jeff Stuckey
Editor

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towing a complete commitment to employee safety, the Kennedy Space Center is now a certified “StormReady” facility. Working together with the National Weather Service, KSC has developed a proactive hazardous weather action plan.

As part of the severe weather notification process, there are multiple methods to provide warnings to the work force and visitors of KSC in the event of approaching hazardous weather.

“Being certified as StormReady shows we are proactive as hazardous weather approaches our operations,” Center Director Bill Parsons said at the June 22 recognition presentation.

“I would also like to recognize the partnerships we have with the 45th Space Wing Weather Squadron and the National Weather Service.

We’ve worked well together for a long time.”

KSC is the first government site in Florida and only the eighth in the nation to be recognized as StormReady. It is also the first NASA field center to earn this certification.

The StormReady program is designed to reduce the number of injuries and property damage from severe storms through preparedness and education.

Also participating in the presentation were Mike Benik, director of Kennedy Center Operations; Steven Cooper, acting director of the National Weather Service southern region; Bob Allen, Florida state representative; Scott Rayder, chief of staff for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and Bart Hagemeyer, meteorologist-in-charge of the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Melbourne.

Recognizing KSC as a “StormReady” community were, from left, Steven Cooper, director of the National Weather Service southern region; Scott Rayder, chief of staff for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Bob Allen, Florida state representative; Bart Hagemeyer, chief meteorologist-in-charge of the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Melbourne; and Bill Parsons, KSC director.

Spaceport community enjoys the BEST Barbecue

By Jason Rhian
Summer Intern

W
ith colorful, creative desserts, stacks of ribs and chicken and an enthusiastic crowd, the sixth-annual BEST Barbecue on June 23 at KARS Park 1 was a success.

Emcee Sonya Plummer welcomed guests and the hazy smoke seemed to attract more people until the tables were filled to capacity. The barbecue is hosted annually by the Black Employee Strategy Team to promote fellowship among employees, as well as welcome interns to life at Kennedy Space Center.

Although the weather kept Atlantis from landing, it did not dampen the spirits of the guests or hosts as they enjoyed the food and lively music. Guests had their choice of ribs, chicken or a combo platter with potato salad, baked beans and bread.

As in the past, the desserts were among the most popular features. The winner of the dessert contest was Selina Gaymon of Space Gateway Support security.

The cooks for this year’s barbecue were Tom Cooper, Bruce Lockley, Al Jenkins, Javan Banks, Sena Jones, Brian Turner and Joylene Hall.

“We added the discounted student tickets and combo plates this year and because of this, we sold 75 more tickets than last year,” said Stacie Smith, one of the event’s organizers. More than 300 people attended this year’s event.

The BLACK Employee Strategy Team, or BEST, hosted its annual barbecue at KARS Park 1 on June 22 for students, guests and workers. The barbecue is a chance to promote fellowship among employees, as well as welcome interns to the center.

Members of the Black Employee Strategy Team (right), or BEST, serve attendees at the 2007 BEST Barbecue.
STS-117 crew members deliver S3/S4 truss

Remembering Our Heritage

25 years ago: Space Shuttle Program’s last development flight

By Kay Grinter
Reference Librarian

On June 27, 1982, NASA launched mission STS-4, the fourth and final research and development flight of the Space Transportation System. Commander Thomas Mattingly and Pilot Henry Hartsfield Jr. made up the two-man crew aboard Space Shuttle Columbia.

A hailstorm with pellets “the size of golf balls” the previous night almost delayed the launch. A hardener was applied to strengthen the water-soaked tiles, and liftoff took place as planned.

Once on orbit, the affected area was turned toward the sun to dry out the tiles and prevent ice formation.

The cargo for the mission included a classified Department of Defense payload and the first commercial payload, the Continuous Flow Electrophoresis System. The first Getaway Specials and two Shuttle Student Involvement Program experiments also flew.

Following launch, the separation nuts which release half the risers on the two solid rocket booster main parachutes prematurely fired, causing the parachutes to stream instead of inflate. The booster casings were severely damaged from the high-speed water impact; they sank and were unrecoverable.

Bruce Rutledge, former manager of KSC’s Parachute Facility for USBI, recalled from his home in Salem, S.C.: “The G-force switches which activated the parachute separation nuts at water impact were fluid-dampened.

“This being the shuttle’s first summer launch, warmer air temperatures lowered the fluid’s viscosity, making the switches more sensitive to the shock of the ordnance ring blast which separates the frustum and deploys the main parachutes.

“Inserting a timer into the circuitry to block the switch’s signal until well after frustum separation solved the problem.”

The July 4 landing at Edwards Air Force Base of the successful test flight was attended by President Ronald Reagan.
The Kennedy Space Center Honor Awards Ceremony was held June 26 at the KSC Visitors Complex IMAX Theatre II to recognize KSC civil service and contractor employees with other honorary medals given by NASA.

NASA Distinguished Service Medal
Douglas Hendriksen
Roslyn McKinney

NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal
James Banke, Camille Chidester, Jarl Gustafson, Harvey Mizell, James Orr, Lynda Weatherman

2006 Presidential Rank Awards Meritorious Executive
Michael Benik, NASA director of Center Operations
John “Tip” Talone, NASA associate program manager of the Constellation Program

NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal
Richard Cota, Roberta Gnan, Ruth Harrison, Stephanie Stilson, Steven Sullivan

NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal
Robert Ashley, Scott Colloredo, Michael Dalton, James Draus, Kenneth Hale, Dicksy Hansen, Vu Le, Alan Littlefield, Jack Massey, Phillip Meade, Stacie Phillips, Timothy Pugh, Jorge Rivera, Janice Robertson, Douglas Younger

NASA Exceptional Bravery Medal
Donald Snyder

NASA Exceptional Service Medal

NASA Exceptional Public Service Medal
Robert Castlen, Katherine Gay, Terry Greenfield, Mark Laposky, Edward Ruth, Stephen Shannon, Kerry Stinson, Ronald Ten Haken, Randall Thurman

Group Achievement Awards
Clifton School House Restoration Team
John Stiner, Cheryl Paige, Mario Busacca, Barbara Naylor, Roz Foster

Engineering Directorate Organizational Development Team

Flight Termination System Interference Team
James Bjornbak, David Hendricks, John Isella, Thomas Woodard, Sarah Quach

KSC Environmental Point of Compliance Team
John Shaffer, Laura Hall, Lisa Marie Ruffe, Mario Busacca, Denise Thaller

KSC GH2 Vent Line Ice Suppression Shroud Team

FAMILY, FRIENDS and co-workers applaud recipients of the 2007 KSC Honor Awards in the IMAX Theater at the Visitor Complex on June 26.

KSC NASA/ODIN Migration Nomad System
Carol Valdes, Kimmarie Barrett, Dean Bent, Deborah Bledsoe, Susan Cargile, Peter Clements, Jeffery Lane, Clifford Smith, Randall Thurman, Vickie James, James Winn

Mars Science Laboratory Launch Service Task Order Team

Node-2 ACBM Closeout Team

(See AWARDS, Page 6)
2007 Kennedy Space Center Honor Awards

AWARDS . . .
(Continued from Page 5)

Edward Stanton, Courtney Stern, David Stewart, Vanessa Stroh, Walner Therwil, Robert Wark, Tom Yenko, Robert Crain, Betsy Ahearn

Operations and Checkout
Building Cleanout Team

Orion Crew Exploration Vehicle Procurement Team
Roselle Hanson, Steven Bigos, David Board, Richard Boyles, Nancy Bray, Mario Busacca, Debra Caldwell, Matthew Carroll, Michael Conroy, Suzanne Cunningham, Brian Graf, Harry Harriel, Andrew Haugevik, Rachel Kamenetzky, Ira Kight, Ronnie Lawson, Roger MacLeod, Paulette McGinnis, Steven Milton, James O’Malley, Mary Remley, Ronnie Rodriguez, Donald Schiller, Robert Yaskovic, Leslie Alderman, Joseph Beardall, Robert Cunningham, Carl Eastman, Michael Haddad, Glenn Rhodeside, Philip Weber, Mark Woloshin

Payload Depot Work Authorization Document Team
Michael Wall, Annette Miele, Mary Bullock, Peter Burridge, Kari Capatosto, Phillip Chandler, Thomas Cissell, Beenal Desai, Claudia Dorn, Kyle Fears, Michelle Franklin, Eric Hanson, Gary Hendrickson, Randall Hitchcock, Kevin Jackson, Karl Johnson, Steven Kelly, Ray Kindred, Donn Landfried, Thomas Leblanc, Karen Livengood, Constance Magill, Bret McAfee, Kathleen McQuade, Larry Miller, Kelly Moes, Carmen Moore, Michelle Olsen, Bryan Onate, Charles Ralph, Luis Ramos, Patricia Rose, Joseph Ross, Patricia Shadrick, Sharon Tolbert, Christopher Short, Bruce Smoedl, Donna Spencer, Cesar Villanueva, William Voigt, William Weisenberger, Shelia White, Bernadette Brightman-Merrell, Polly Gardiner, Tracy Gill, Luis Moctezuma, Lisa Pantano, Renee Sawyer, Theresa Schroeder, Deon Williams

Payload Rack Checkout Unit Team
Michael Gardner, David Brink, Vincent Carrubba, Cristine Dundas, Thomas Eichenlaub, Tracy Gill, Joseph Hyppolite, David Macon, Donald McMahon, Lisa Pantano, Matthew Parris, Shribhish Patel, Carlos Rodriguez, Jessica Rodriguez, Morgan Simpson, Susan Sitko, Courtney Stern, David Stewart, Deon Williams, Thomas Yensco, Kevin Zari

Space Shuttle Main Engine Seal Investigation Team
Jeffrey Osgood, Enrique Barnes, Kenneth Delaney, Douglas Folkes, Terrence Oshea, Heriberto Soto, Richard Wilder, Fred Jackson, Salvador Lucio, Dave Margrave, John Posey, Michele Devane

ASRC New Technologies Team
John Lane, Cristina Berger, Mary Whitten, Stanislaw Augustynowicz, Charles Buhler, Bradley Burns, Irving Bushnell, James Captain, Robert Cox, Joseph Curran, Joseph Dean, Jesus Dominguez, Tracy Gibson, Carl Hallberg, Christopher Immer, Scott Jolley, Steven Klinko, Mark Kolody, Brian Larson, Carlos Mata, Pedro Medelius, David Miller, Barbara Peterson, Mindy Ritz, Marshall Scott, Stephen Simmons, Guy Smith, Jeffrey Starnes, John Taylor, Ivan Townsend, Steven Trigwell, Pedro Vazquez, Rubiela Vinje, Peter Vokrot, Carlos Zavala, Roger Zoerner

Boeing/Delta Flight Operations Team

KICS Voice Operations Team

LC-39B Lightning Protection System Design Team

NASA Education Exploration Team
Birdette Brown, Clarence Bostic, (See AWARDS, Page 7)
2007 Kennedy Space Center Honor Awards

AWARDS . . .
(Continued from Page 6)


Process Improvement Engineering Team
Brian Baldwin, Robert Brinsmade, George Caruso, Jessica Defabrizio, Sean Eidem, William Hudecek, David Humphrey, Kirsten James, Ryan Loporto, Elizabeth Sgambaro, David Sheriff, Samuel Swanger, Barry Taylor, Philip Touchberry, Philip Vanaria

Space Launch Complex Team

Spaceflight Independent Assessment Team

KSC Certificate of Commendation

KSC Service Awards - 40 years
James Aliberti, Edgar Deane III, Douglas Hendriksen, Marlo Krisberg, Milton Riddle, Lamar Russell, Albert Taff

Quality And Safety Achievement Recognition (QASAR) Award
Tim Bianchi, Zachary Cline, Michael Young

Center Director’s Gold Dollar Ace Award
Stanislaw Augustynowicz

KSC Strategic Leadership Award
James Ball, Pamela Zeitler

KSC Equal Opportunity Award
Ronnie Rodriguez, Hortense Burt

KSC Director’s Award
Darren Bedell

Safety award recognizes Bianchi’s awareness

By Jennifer Wolfinger
Staff Writer

NASA recently awarded Tim Bianchi with the Quality and Safety Achievement Recognition, or QASAR Award, for his exceptional dedication.

The award, which was presented May 10 at NASA Headquarters in Washington, is the agency’s highest honor for quality and safety. Selection is based on a person’s contribution to the quality and safety of products, services, processes, or management programs and activities. Bianchi received a monetary award and a plaque during the NASA Honor Awards ceremony.

He was selected for a discovery he made during processing of the International Space Station, or ISS, while serving as the Safety and Mission Assurance directorate’s mission lead for quality assurance on STS-117 payload processing. During flight closeouts for the S3/4 truss segment’s aft bulkhead canister area, he discovered three loose and unsealed screws that interface with the mechanism for deploying the solar array.

This discovery prompted additional checks on the remaining mast canisters. If left undressed, this finding could have prevented mast canister deployment and resulted in functional loss of a solar array wing assembly on orbit.

“His leadership in identifying and correcting a significant flight hardware problem benefited our ISS counterparts at Johnson Space Center. Because of his efforts, the ISS Program is assured a quality product throughout the life of the ISS Program,” said Shannon Bartell, Safety and Mission Assurance director.

Bianchi is now a program specialist within the Cape Canaveral Spaceport Management Office, a joint NASA and U.S. Air Force office responsible for managing the JBOSC contract. He serves as the integrated product team lead for quality and safety, managing performance evaluations and meetings between NASA and the Air Force. Bianchi also audits work breakdown structures.

There are four QASAR award categories, and his award was in the “NASA employee within Safety and Mission Assurance” category. Nominees were initially nominated by their center director, and the nominations were evaluated and scored by each center’s Safety and Mission Assurance director. He was one of four winners chosen from 29 nominees. Prior to his selection, Bianchi was unaware of the award, but quickly recognized its significance and his teammates’ contribution.

“This is a tremendous honor to receive an award of this stature, and to be sent to D.C. to retrieve it is humbling,” said Bianchi, who joined NASA in 2004. “I credit my excellent bosses, co-workers and processing team support for this award.”
West Point cadets assist launch analysis team

By Jennifer Wolfinger
Staff Writer

Four U.S. military cadets are spending their summer helping Kennedy Space Center engineers use computers to simulate the actions of humans in order to transform training and evaluations.

The Army Research Lab sent the cadets from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in New York to support NASA’s Simulation and Analysis of Launch Teams effort, known as SALT.

SALT began in 2005 to address the need to simulate humans for analysis, training and evaluation for NASA’s current and future launch operations, and to meet other KSC needs. According to Cary Peaden, the cadet’s mentor and SALT principal investigator, the research is essential for improving future NASA training and analysis.

Cadets Tad Lefler, Sarah Phillips, and Theodore Kleinsorget will be at KSC until July 7, while Marcus Millen completed his tasks June 15. Their work includes gathering data and analysis, and testing SALT products, which support everything from providing launch teams with experience and methods to make rapid and complex decisions, to determining the origin of problems associated with communication, processing, and personnel job requirements and limitations.

Lefler, a senior from Kentucky, is studying electrical engineering with a track in robotics and electronics. Born in Pennsylvania, Millen is a senior on the Army football team with a major in management and a minor in environmental engineering.

Also a senior, Kleinsorget of Kansas is a systems engineering major and a member of Sandhurst, a team that competes in military skills competitions with the Royal Military Academy. Phillips is a junior from California majoring in life science.

Richard Hoblitzell, a KSC co-op student from the University of Louisville in Kentucky, is also contributing to the team. Serving in his third semester with the SALT project, Hoblitzell is one of the prime software developers of the SALT proof-of-concept training application for the group.

“The cadets participate in real government engineering on a small research project,” said Peaden, an Engineering Directorate employee who added that the partnership also strengthens KSC’s relationship with the academy and lab. “They learn how one large technical team performs critical operations and about governmental and multi-organizational cooperation.

“They also learn how valuable a West Point education is, and the interesting things you can do with an academy degree and leadership experience.”

United Way honors civil servants’ Combined Federal Campaign

NASA employees at Kennedy Space Center recently were recognized by the United Way of Brevard for their increased generosity and support through the agency’s 2006 Combined Federal Campaign. The civil servants were honored for achieving a new level of participation.

According to Susan McGrath, vice president of resource development for United Way, 81 percent of NASA employees participated in the monthlong campaign that runs annually in October. Workers gave $417,800 to 49 United Way programs and services.

Ray Lugo, deputy director of NASA’s Launch Services Program at KSC, was the campaign chairman for 2006. He said the campaign, also known as the CFC, is a good way for KSC employees to connect with the community.

“Often, the demands on our time preclude us from actively engaging with our community to help our fellow man in times of need,” Lugo said. “Last year, KSC employees continued the tradition of reaching out and helping the community. I believe it’s rooted in the values of our employees to do the right thing.”

The Combined Federal Campaign for 2007 will kick off in early October.