



countdown

October 28, 2008

Vol. 13, No. 80

Endeavour's STS-126 payload ready for mission



◆ Shuttle Update:

On Launch Pad 39A, space shuttle **Endeavour's** payload for the STS-126 mission was transferred from the payload changeout room to Endeavour's payload bay on Sunday. Endeavour will experience other activity this week as the mission crew takes part in a simulated countdown Wednesday, part of their pre-launch preparation.

◆ **ISS Update:** NASA Television will broadcast a special message from International Space Station crew members urging all Americans to exercise their right to vote.

The message today and Wednesday will be broadcast in high-definition beginning at noon.

Speeding 210 miles above Earth at five miles per second, Expedition 18 Commander Michael Fincke and Flight Engineer Greg Chamitoff will join millions of Americans and cast their votes in the Nov. 4 election. Thanks to a Texas bill passed in 1997, Fincke and Chamitoff will join several past astronauts who have voted from orbit.

■ **NASA News** — NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, or LRO, has begun environmental testing in a thermal vacuum that simulates the harsh rigors of space. The spacecraft, built at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, was lifted into a four-story thermal vacuum chamber for a test that will last approximately five weeks. Sealed in the chamber, the satellite will undergo a series of tests simulating the space environment it will

encounter when it orbits the moon. During the tests, NASA engineers will operate the spacecraft to ensure it is performing as planned. The project also will conduct mission simulations to further train and develop the team members who will operate the spacecraft.

■ America Recycles Day 2008

Events at KSC — The designated days at KSC for America Recycles Day, or ARD, are Nov. 13-14. The goal of ARD is to encourage all Americans to recycle and to buy recycled products annually. The theme for this year is "It All Comes Back to you."

KSC will participate in this nationwide event by displaying the center's recycling initiatives and by holding a one day e-waste collection event for employees' personal electronic equipment. Held Nov. 13, the event will accept all electronics, except for TVs, major appliances and fire alarms. More information on the e-waste collection event will be available soon.

Visit the MFF Cafeteria on Nov. 13 and the O&C Mission Briefing Room/Room 1144 on Nov. 14 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. to celebrate America Recycles Day. For more information, please contact Maggie Forbes at 867-3305.

■ **Legend, Hero, Tuskegee Airman To Speak at KSC** — Retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Lee A. Archer Jr. will share his experiences as combat fighter pilot, civil rights leader and business executive with the KSC work force 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Nov. 7 in the KSC Training Auditorium. Archer is the only Tuskegee Airman fighter pilot to receive the honor "Ace"

Space station residents encourage all to vote

for shooting down five enemy aircraft during WWII. He retired as Air Force Command Pilot after 30 years of military service, 1941-1971. Autograph and photo opportunities will be available after the presentation. Archer also will serve as Military Marshall of the 2008 KSC Space & Air Show, Nov. 8-9.

■ **NASA Science Update** — NASA will announce findings and release new images of Mercury taken Oct. 6 in a briefing to be carried live on NASA Television. The briefing will be broadcast at 1 p.m. Wednesday. For NASA TV streaming video, schedules and downlink information, go to: <http://www.nasa.gov/ntv>.

■ **Postponement** — 2008 Disability Mentoring Day at KSC has been postponed until early 2009. If you have questions, contact Helen Kane at Helen.P.Kane@nasa.gov, or 867-4444.



■ **Road Delays Possible This Week** — Today, the Banana River Bridge will be reduced to one lane

of traffic from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. for maintenance. Thursday and Friday, the Indian River Bridge also will be reduced to one lane of traffic from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. for maintenance.

Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday for NASA KSC employees. Deadlines are 9 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays. E-mail news to anita.l.barrett@nasa.gov. For questions or information, e-mail the editor or call 867-2815. You can also find PDF editions of *Countdown* on-line at: http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown_toc.html.