HESSI to launch today to explore solar flares

▲ ELV Launch: The HESSI spacecraft (left) is scheduled to launch today between 3:21 and 5:21 p.m. EST aboard a Pegasus XL rocket released from an Orbital Sciences L-1011 aircraft. HESSI will orbit on a circular path at an altitude of 373 miles (600 km), with inclination to the equator of 38 degrees. The spacecraft is 2.16 m (85 in) high, 5.76 m (227 in) wide after solar panel deployment and 1.1 m (43.3 in) before solar panel deployment. Total weight of HESSI is 293 kg (645 lbs.). HESSI is expected to operate at least 2 years, collecting data on solar flares. For more images, go to the Web site http://hesperia.gsfc.nasa.gov/hessi/hessi_images.htm.

▲ Silver Snoopy Awards: Four SGS employees received a Silver Snoopy on Jan. 30. Astronaut Lee Archambault presented a Silver Snoopy award to William Dunn, Human Resources administrator/employment specialist, and Sheryl Cooper, financial analyst. Dunn was awarded for “the successful operation of the SGS job placement programs and external recruitment efforts” and for meeting “program requirements on time and within cost parameters.” Cooper was awarded for providing “specialized knowledge of cost requirements and regulations… [being] an asset in establishing cost charging rules that have been embedded in the Work Control drill down process for completing working.”

Also, astronaut Doug Hurley presented a Silver Snoopy award to Lois Reinhart, a Web software developer, and to Dennis Reddecliff, an emergency management analyst. Reinhart was given the award for “developing and coordinating all web pages related to the Shuttle and Space Station programs… [and] development efforts for the KSC first-ever live coverage of a Shuttle launch over the World Wide Web” as well as other related contributions. Reddecliff was recognized in part for “working the computer networking for Emergency Preparedness, training emergency response personnel, operating the Mobile Commander Center, training KSC and CCAFS hurricane coordinators and supporting all launches.”

◆ TDRS-I Arrives-- The Tracking and Data Relay Satellite-I arrived yesterday at KSC’s Shuttle Landing Facility aboard an Air Force C-17 air cargo plane. It was off-loaded and taken to the Spacecraft Assembly and Encapsulation Facility-2 (SAEF-2). It is scheduled for launch March 8 aboard a Lockheed Martin Atlas IIA rocket from Pad 36-A.

◆ The KSC Black Employee Strategy Team (BEST) Features the Directorate Spotlight! Visit http://www-best.ksc.nasa.gov/best/Spotlight/AAHM.html each week during the month of February to see the featured directorates and to get to know the members of BEST! This week AJ, BA, JP, and OP are in the spotlight. For information, e-mail Javan Banks at javan.banks-1@ksc.nasa.gov or Stacie Smith at stacie.smith-1@ksc.nasa.gov.

◆ Did You Know? SR 3 Traffic Alert -- On Feb. 4, the installation of the Mast Arms for the traffic lights began at the new Space Commerce Way intersection, between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. During the installation, the traffic will be narrowed to one lane and the traffic flow will be temporarily stopped if required. Please obey the construction signs and slow down while in the construction area. The installation of all mast arms will require 2 to 3 days work to totally complete. If you have questions or complaints about this process, contact Jim Lorence, NASA construction manager, 867-9293, or by e-mail, James.Lorence-1@ksc.nasa.gov.