Kennedy Space Center was the hub for the final preparation and launch of the space shuttle and its payloads. The shuttle carried a wide variety of payloads into Earth orbit. Not all payloads were installed in the shuttle’s cargo bay. In-cabin payloads were carried in the shuttle’s mid-deck. Cargo bay payloads were typically large payloads which did not require a pressurized environment, such as interplanetary space probes, earth-orbiting satellites, scientific laboratories and International Space Station trusses and components.

For more information visit http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/about/history/index.html