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John F. Kennedy Space Center

Bush gives NASA exciting new vision

President calls for development of Crew Exploration Vehicle

President George W. Bush unveiled a new vision for space exploration, calling on NASA to “gain a new foothold on the moon and to prepare for new journeys to the worlds beyond our own.”

In a Jan. 14 speech at NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C., the President said the “new course for America’s space program” would give NASA a new focus and clear objectives for the future.

“We do not know where this journey will end,” said Bush, “yet we know this: Human beings are headed into the cosmos.”

The President’s plan for steady human and robotic exploration is based on a series of goals.

First, America will “finish what it started,” completing the International Space Station by 2010, he said. Research on the station will be focused on studying the long-term effects of space travel on humans, preparing for the longer journeys of the future.

After the Station is complete, the Space Shuttle will be retired, having served nearly 30 years of duty.

Bush’s second goal calls for the U.S. to begin developing a new manned exploration vehicle, called the Crew Exploration Vehicle (CEV). The first craft to explore beyond Earth orbit since the Apollo days, the spacecraft will be developed and tested by 2008 and conduct its first manned mission by 2014.

Though its main purpose will



be to leave Earth orbit, the vehicle also will ferry astronauts to and from the International Space Station after the Shuttle is retired.

“Our third goal,” Bush said, “is to return to the moon by 2020, as the launching point for missions beyond.”

He proposed sending robotic probes to the lunar surface by 2008, with a human mission as early as 2015, “with the goal of living and working there for increasingly extended periods of time.”

Bush also said lunar exploration could lead to new technologies or the harvesting of raw materials that might be turned into rocket fuel or breathable air.

“With the experience and knowledge gained on the moon,” he said, “we will then be ready to take the next steps of space exploration: human missions to

IN THE KSC TELEVISION STUDIO, KSC management and other employees view the Jan. 14 announcement from President George W. Bush, who outlined a new vision for the Agency. Below, the audience responds to the President’s new vision.



Mars and to worlds beyond.”

The proposed funding for the new exploration initiative will total \$12 billion over the next five years, with much of the money made available by reallocating \$11 billion within

NASA’s current five-year budget.

The President asked Congress to increase the Agency’s budget by roughly \$1 billion

(See VISION, Page 7)



Jim Kennedy
Center Director

The Kennedy Update

WOW! The month of January 2004 may go down as one of NASA's most important in history. With the landings of our two Mars rovers, President George W. Bush's new space vision and the announcement of NASA's reorganization, this is certainly a month historians will point to for years.

I'd like to reiterate some points I made at the town hall meeting with Congressmen Dave Weldon and Tom Feeny on Jan. 16. When considering the President's new vision for space, NASA and KSC's future is extremely bright. The vision is something I, like many of you, have been waiting for my entire career.

But I want to emphasize, even with all of the excitement about the future, returning the Space Shuttles safely to flight and completing the assembly of the International Space Station is

clearly the top priority of NASA and KSC. Make no doubt: While we'll learn more about the President's vision, my foremost attention is on Return to Flight and will remain so until our Shuttles are fit to fly.

At the same time, I'm not living in a vacuum. I fully understand the concerns many of you have, with families to raise and futures to plan, hearing the Space Shuttle fleet is scheduled to retire in 2010.

I know how hard thousands of you work and dedicate your hearts and souls to those wonderful vehicles, having literally shed blood, sweat and tears to get them ready for their safe Return to Flight.

But it's this professionalism, dedication and total commitment to America's space program that ensures no matter what shape or form the new Crew Exploration Vehicle takes, the KSC

workforce will be needed to work these programs.

When it comes to servicing these new programs, our nation wants the best in the business working on them. Rest assured, KSC is the home of the best in the space business. So again, let's concentrate on job one – returning the Shuttle fleet safely to flight.

Sunday morning at 9 a.m., at the National Space Memorial Mirror at the Visitor's Complex, I'll take part in a short memorial ceremony honoring Columbia's crew on the one-year anniversary of their tragic loss.

I hope you'll join me, along with Winston Scott of the Florida Space Authority and Dr. Stephen Feldman of the Astronaut's Memorial Foundation, as we hold a 20-minute ceremony that

heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice for human space exploration.

As a reminder, later in the day, CBS Sports will have Columbia remembrance coverage during Super Bowl pre-game activities. I also invite everyone to tune into NASA TV, Monday at 3 p.m., for the Columbia memorial ceremony from Arlington Cemetery in Virginia.

Finally, congratulations to everyone again for the successful and riveting landing of our Mars Exploration Rover Opportunity Saturday night. The excitement and thrill of another landing caps off an outstanding month for JPL and the entire NASA team involved with the Mars rovers.

The latest word is they are figuring out how to repair Spirit,

Even with all of the excitement about the future, returning the Space Shuttles safely to flight and completing the assembly of the International Space Station is clearly the top priority of NASA and KSC.

includes a wreath laying and moment of silence.

For that morning, Delaware North is waiving admission for the general public to attend, so don't worry about appropriate badges or special arrangements for family. If you have the time, I hope you join us for this short remembrance honoring these

so hopefully it'll be up and running soon. Together, the rovers will open a whole new chapter on what we know about the red planet.

Have a great weekend everyone, and may God forever bless the STS-107 crew and their families.

Bridge between KSC and CCAFS temporarily shut down

The Roy D. Bridges Jr. Bridge, formerly the Banana River Bridge, is closed to traffic from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays through Friday, Feb. 6 to replace the bearing pads on the bridge structure. The bridge will be reopened outside these hours and all day on weekends.

The bridge will be open from Feb. 7 to Feb. 14 in support of a Titan missile launch. After the launch, the bridge will again be closed from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday until Thursday, Feb. 26 to complete the repairs.

Traffic will be detoured to the Saturn Causeway/Phillips Parkway intersection during closures.

This is part of a project to replace neoprene bearing pads on the Kennedy Parkway overpass bridge, Indian River bridge (both eastbound and westbound) and Roy D. Bridges Jr. Bridge. The bearing pads being replaced, totaling 1,250, are the originals from when these bridges were constructed in the early 1960s. M&J Construction Co. of Pinellas County, Inc. was awarded a contract in August for \$657,891 to replace the bearing pads on the bridges.

January Employees of the Month



STANDING IN THE BACK ROW (from left) are Linda Adams, Information Technology and Communications Services; John Knight, Spaceport Services; Donna Lozaw, Safety, Health and Independent Assessment; Neil Berger, Shuttle Processing. Standing in the front row (from left) are Marion Poulin, ISS/Payload Processing; Kurt Leucht, Spaceport Engineering and Technology; and June Perez, Workforce and Diversity Management. Not shown are Ann Nelson, Procurement Office; and Matt Lacey, ELV and Payload Carriers Programs.

Kennedy and congressmen address new space vision

By Linda Herridge
Staff Writer

In response to President George W. Bush's announcement of new space vision and exploration objectives, Kennedy Space Center Director Jim Kennedy told workers, "This is a bright new day for NASA and for KSC as well."

Kennedy, along with Congressmen Dave Weldon and Tom Feeney, spoke to Center workers on Jan. 16 during a Town Hall meeting at the Training Auditorium that broadcasted on NASA TV.

Kennedy recognized Joanne Woerner of Senator Bill Nelson's office for her attendance at the meeting. He thanked her and Nelson for their continued unwavering support.

While Kennedy said the

President's plan for the future of space exploration was a bold new vision, he reminded workers nothing is more important now than returning the Space Shuttle Program safely to flight. Urging everyone to stay focused and committed to the work at hand, he said, "It is imperative that we complete our existing commitments."

Feeney, whose district includes KSC, sits on the House Science Committee and the Space Subcommittee. "The President's proposal is bold....but it's also practical and economical," he said.

Feeney tempered his excitement with a reminder to workers: "There's still a lot of work to be done, but one constant is there. America will continue to lead the world in space exploration."

Weldon, now in his fifth term,



IN A TOWN HALL MEETING at KSC, Center Director Jim Kennedy (center) joined U.S. Reps. Dave Weldon (left) and Tom Feeney (right) to discuss the new mission for NASA outlined by President George W. Bush Jan. 14.

sits on the powerful House Appropriations Committee and is a strong NASA-KSC and Space Program supporter. He said the initial issue associated with the President's new vision is the allocation of funds to

support the new program.

"There will be some growing pains. But overall, it's very good news for this community," Weldon said. "We will certainly

(See TOWN HALL, Page 7)

Columbia preserved to influence next generation of explorers

By Linda Herridge
Staff Writer

Inside a brightly-lit room on the 16th floor of Tower "A" in the Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB), NASA-KSC and United Space Alliance workers carefully place pieces of Columbia debris in their designated storage boxes. This room, high above the ground, is an appropriate final resting place for Columbia, NASA's first Space Shuttle.

From time to time, a piece or two of Columbia - chosen from among 83,800 pieces of debris kept at the Center - is requested for analysis during Return to Flight activities. Other pieces, such as Reinforced Carbon Carbon (RCC) panels and power reactant and storage distribution tanks, are on loan to other out-of-state Space Shuttle program contractors for long-term study.

According to Scott Thurston, NASA-KSC Columbia Research and Preservation Project lead, access to the debris was one of the criteria when considering possible storage sites after reconstruction efforts ended.

"The NASA charter required



THE COLUMBIA PRESERVATION ROOM on the 16th floor of Tower 'A' in the VAB holds 83,800 pieces of debris.

that we make Columbia available for research and education. We didn't want to put the debris inside a silo and seal it up," he said.

Thurston said the preservation team surveyed facilities at the Center and outside the Agency to determine locations that best fit space, security and cost requirements. After several comparisons, they selected a 7,000-square-foot room in the VAB.

Transferring the debris from the Shuttle Landing Facility

Reconstruction Hangar to the VAB was a large undertaking, accomplished by a team of about 40 employees working eight hours a day for nearly a month. The workers were "loaned" from their full-time jobs to accomplish the task by the end of September 2003.

James Harrison, Amy Mangiacapra and Jack Nowling, Columbia handling facilitators with United Space Alliance, helped pack and transfer debris to the VAB. They work several hours a week in the Columbia

Preservation room.

Inside the Tower "A" room, Mangiacapra and her team arranged larger pieces of debris, including window frames, RCC panels and landing gear, at the front of the storage area. Posters and remembrances from the Reconstruction Hangar now line the storage area walls.

"The area is more like a museum, and we've worked hard to maintain the dignity of the vehicle and the memory of the crew," said Jim Comer, USA project leader for debris storage.

STS-107 Columbia Memorial Events

* **Jan. 29** - NASA Remembrance Day: A moment of silence will be observed at noon Eastern Standard Time for all astronauts who died in the line of duty.

* **Feb. 1** - 9 a.m. public ceremony at the Astronaut Memorial Foundation Space Mirror in the KSC Visitor Complex; tribute to STS-107 crew during NFL's pregame Super Bowl TV broadcast.

* **Feb. 2** - 3 p.m. Columbia Memorial Ceremony at Arlington Cemetery in Virginia broadcast on NASA TV.

Spirit walks while Opportunity knocks

NASA's twin rovers Spirit and Opportunity, launched last summer from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, are exploring Mars and providing information never before available to scientists.

A small impact crater on Mars is the new home for NASA's Opportunity rover, which landed Jan. 25, and a larger crater is located nearby. Encouraging developments also continue for Opportunity's twin, Spirit.

Engineers have determined that Spirit's flash memory hardware is functional, strengthening a theory that the rover's main problem is in software that controls file management of the memory.

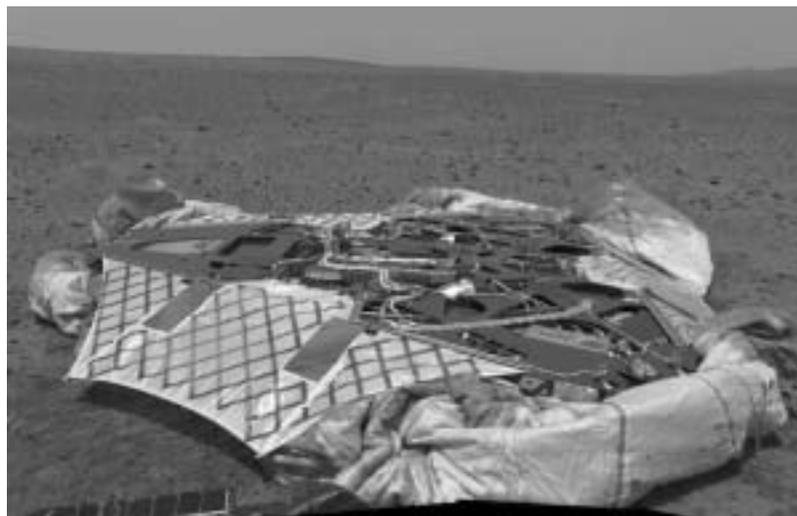
Part of the KSC Launch Services Program team who helped launch the twin rovers last summer, including Director Steve Francois, Launch Director Omar Baez and Mission Integration Manager Albert Sierra, traveled to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory for the Opportunity landing and felt the excitement displayed in the control room.

"It was phenomenal," said Baez. "NASA made it 'two for two,' which the whole team kept saying. What really brought that out was they finally grasped what was going on with Spirit that night. That made it two great stories. And then the shots from Opportunity were just unreal of the area they are in."

Sierra talked with the Mars scientist Jim Garvin about the



THIS IMAGE SHOWS one of Opportunity's first views (above) of the martian landscape after its successful Jan. 24 landing on Mars. This image was taken by the rover's navigation camera. Below, Spirit shows the rover's landing site, the Columbia Memorial Station, at Gusev Crater, Mars. The rover drove a distance of 10 feet in 78 seconds on its first journey.



opportunities to explore a geologists paradise. "Just seeing the excitement on his face as they talk about the scientific angles and all the information they're getting from Spirit was great," said Sierra. "Then we got another glimpse of this excitement on Sunday for the first Opportunity pictures when they explained the geological features.

As Baez explains, KSC employees get excited about a very physical stimulus. "We press buttons, smoke pours out of the rocket, fire comes out, you feel the rumble and you see it go up in space," he said. "These guys watch a small signal on a computer screen and get just as excited. The crazy part of that is that it happened five minutes ago, but they've got the same amount of excitement as when you see a launch here."

Opportunity returned the first pictures of its landing site four hours after reaching Mars. The photos indicate the spacecraft sits in a shallow crater that is approximately 66 feet wide.

NASA's Mars Exploration Rover Spirit successfully drove off its lander platform and onto the soil of Mars Jan. 15. The robot snapped its first picture while looking back at the now-empty lander and showing wheel tracks in the soil.

The drive moved Spirit a distance of 10 feet in 78 seconds.

NASA Headquarters realigns management, offices

In a move designed to align the Agency with the new exploration agenda outlined by President George W. Bush (*see page 1*), NASA announced a comprehensive restructuring of the offices within Headquarters in Washington.

The alignment impacts NASA management, the strategic Enterprises and the Agency's functional offices. The move, which NASA Deputy Administrator Frederick D. Gregory declared effective immediately, reflects the new vision and the results of a comprehensive review of Headquarters operations.

Retired U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Craig E. Steidle is the new Associate Administrator, Office of Exploration Systems. Since retiring from the Navy in March 2000, he has been an independent aerospace consultant. Steidle retired as Chief Aerospace Engineer and Vice Commander, Naval Air Systems Command, which develops, acquires and supports naval aeronautical systems.

The Office of Exploration Systems sets priorities and directs the identification, development, and validation of exploration systems

and related technologies. Users and technologists will work together to enable a balancing of factors between requirements, program schedules and costs.

Dr. J. Victor Lebacqz is the new Associate Administrator, Office of Aeronautics, which previously was known as the Office of Aerospace Technology. He served as Acting Associate Administrator of the Office of Aerospace Technology since July 2003. He was appointed as Deputy Associate Administrator in December 2002.

The new Office of Aeronautics was created to reflect NASA's commitment to aviation research and aeronautics technologies for the nation's civil and defense interests.

The changes are consistent with NASA's ongoing responses to the management and cultural issues addressed by the Columbia Accident Investigation Board.

"We live in a different world than we did just a few years ago, and our management structure should reflect the priorities and objectives of our commitments," Gregory added.

Dr. King's dream, legacy live on at KSC

By Jennifer Wolfinger, Staff Writer
and Justice Harvey, Office of Procurement

One of history's greatest leaders envisioned a world where people were judged solely on the content of their character. By following his example, KSC is home to a family of diverse workers who create a powerful Center capable of continued greatness.

The influential spirit of the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. evoked memories of a socio-economic struggle that shaped and defined the face of modern America. On Jan. 15 at the Training Auditorium, a diverse crowd of employees honored the life and contributions of King for the observance of what would have been his 75th birthday. The event, sponsored by the Black Employee Strategy Team, recognized all of King's contributions.

Highlighting the lasting impact of King's human rights legacy, the event was a cogent reminder of how many lives were touched by the minister's efforts and how relevant his work remains.

Orbital Space Plane Integration and Operations Manager Kelvin Manning and processing engineer Dr. Gena Humphrey offered reflections on King's life. They eloquently captured the essence of King's dream while speaking about their personal civil rights movement experiences, deftly charting the nation's sustained progress in its journey toward equality.

Striking a chord of inclusiveness, a moving video tribute to King that was spearheaded by Cheryl Johnson-Cox was another highlight. The production featured a wide range of employees sharing ways the famous orator influenced their lives, narration by King and powerful "Jim Crow" era imagery.

During his closing remarks, KSC Deputy Director Dr. Woodrow Whitlow Jr. encouraged the workforce to continue personifying the event's ideals.

NASA recruits Native Americans at conference

By Gisele Altman
Equal Opportunity Office

For 25 years, the American Indian Sciences and Engineering Society (AISES) has been instrumental in assisting Native American students in reaching their science, engineering and technological potential.

The group offers scholarships, teacher training, internships, leadership conferences, professional chapters and curriculum design for affiliated kindergarten through 12th grade schools.

Its founding members - including a hydrologist, a geologist, a technology manager and several engineers - felt there was a great need to encourage Native American students to pursue science and technology degrees.

Today, AISES reaches nearly

one million Native American students through the internet, publications and its national conference.

This year, the 25th annual National AISES Conference took place in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The event highlighted numerous exhibitors and included a career fair, training workshops, scholarship presentations, an honors banquet and a powwow.

NASA representatives from nine Centers spoke with hundreds of students and interviewed dozens of prime candidates for Agency-wide vacancies.

This initiative is coordinated by NASA Headquarters and involves the Office of Education, Office of Equal Opportunity Programs and Office of Human Resources.



KSC DEPUTY DIRECTOR WOODROW WHITLOW talks to a KSC employee after a presentation to honor the life of Dr. Martin Luther King.

"As we go forth from here today, let's not just celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. Let's remember it everyday," he said.

KSC celebrates African-American history

KSC will join the nation in observing African-American History Month throughout February. This year's theme is "Brown vs. Board of Education: 50th Anniversary." All employees are invited to the Training Auditorium Feb. 2 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. to honor the many achievements made by African-Americans in the U.S. The keynote speaker will be our own Deputy Director, Dr. Woodrow Whitlow.

KSC rolls out CAP

On Jan. 14, KSC rolled out the Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program (CAP) and provided disability awareness training to employees and supervisors in the Training Auditorium. Brittany Matthews, CAP manager at KSC, presented a detailed description of the program.

The Department of Defense (DoD) created CAP in 1990 in an effort to eliminate barriers for employees with disabilities. On Nov. 11, 2002, NASA signed an interagency agreement with the DoD to become one of 53 Federal Partner Agencies to receive accommodation services from the program.

Through this agreement, NASA supervisors and employees, along with CAP staff, will work to provide solutions for disabled people in the workplace. CAP successfully provides assistive technology to workers with visual, hearing, dexterity and cognitive disabilities and has helped more than 34,000 federal government employees.

The fast-paced, disability awareness training was conducted by Glenn McIntyre of McIntyre & Associates. Glenn, along with his service dog Boylan, shared true-life stories and humorous visuals with the audience. His training approach is one of simple formulas and universal life skills, which employ the attitude that "Always, there is a way!"

For more information on CAP at KSC or disability awareness, contact Roslyn McKinney at 867-9171. Visit <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/cap> for more information about CAP.

Bigger is better at Shuttle Landing Facility

By Anna Heiney
Staff Writer

Employees working near the Shuttle Landing Facility (SLF) have noticed a new structure rising from the treetops as a new, state-of-the-art air traffic control tower nears completion.

SLF employees look forward to working in the new building, which replaces a control tower that has been in use since 1987. Located just south of the SLF's midpoint, the old tower stands only 20 feet above the runway surface, too low to see the launch pads to the east.

During nighttime landing operations, those inside the tower are hindered by the 8-billion-candlepower xenon lights that illuminate the runway.

Built atop an existing mound, the new control tower rises nearly 100 feet over the midpoint of the runway, giving controllers a spectacular 360-degree view of KSC and north Brevard County.

The new facility also will replace the SLF Operations

Building. The operations building is home to the Military Radar Unit that monitors KSC airspace 24 hours a day and supervises runway light controls, navigational aids, weather and wind speed instrumentation, and gate controls.

In the new tower, the computer displays will be fully modernized to Federal Aviation Administration standards with touch-screen technology.

KSC weather also is monitored around the clock from a weather station located in a wooded area east of the runway. From this area, the SLF is not even visible.

When the new tower opens, those who monitor the weather will move in first, giving up their remote station in favor of the new, high-tech facility.

Construction on the new facility began in February 2003 and is nearly ready for occupancy. Only some final inspections and approvals remain. A support building and viewing deck also will be added.



THE NEW AIR CONTROL TOWER (above) at the Shuttle Landing Facility rises nearly 100 feet over the midpoint of the runway. At right is the old control tower.

K9's make sure the Spaceport is 'pawsitively' secure

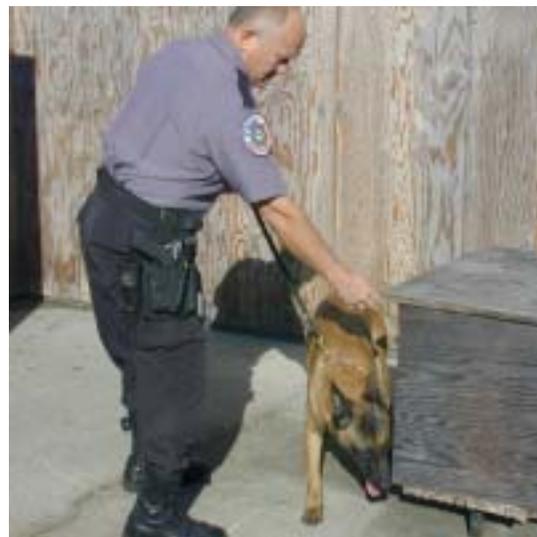
By Jennifer Wolfinger
Staff Writer

Many employees treasure the loyalty their pets offer. Similarly, the Center is equally fortunate the Space Gateway Support (SGS) Security Police K9 Unit provides the same dedication while guarding the Spaceport.

"It's incredible to work with a dog that is trained to find what evil people want to hide," said Chris Vaughn, supervisor. "It's amazing to watch a dog find illegal contraband. . .the ultimate game of hide and seek."

Three K9 handlers (officers Ken Cox, Wendy Law and Jerome Player) and Vaughn comprise the team that walks upright. K9s Ringo, Blesk, Lilly, Rex and newcomer Nero make up the four-legged crew. To accommodate future retirements, four new dogs are in training.

While the feeling of security a faithful dog evokes is familiar,



SGS SECURITY POLICEMAN Ken Cox trains Ringo, one of the Spaceport's five K9 dogs.

the K9s' tasks are far from ordinary. Since the Apollo era, they've detected explosives and narcotics. The handlers also provide crime prevention, Random Anti-terrorism Measures and educational demonstrations. Some even pursue fame. Blesk

and handler Cox can be seen on the Animal Planet network show "K9 to 5" Feb. 15 at 10:30 a.m.

The Spaceport uses a stringent selection process to meet these high expectations.

"Our dogs are imported from Holland and bred for police work," explained Vaughn. "Our standards

ensure that only the best dogs are selected. We will train and work them until they retire. Some dogs retire earlier than others and we want them to work as long as they want.

"After the dog completes training, he is highly motivated and sociable. The dogs love the new challenges."

After a four-week course, the

handlers and K9s continue learning together throughout their careers. K9s also train in different environments, so they're prepared for the tumultuous world of narcotics and explosives detection.

Vaughn stresses it's vital not to punish severely and to use positive reinforcement to encourage the K9s to perform correctly. "This method helps us keep the dogs motivated," he said. "Let's face it: We may have to search any of our large facilities at any moment. The last thing you want the dog thinking about is getting harshly corrected."

When their paws need rest, the K9s go home with Vaughn, who values safety.

"The main factor in keeping the dog safe is a clear evaluation of the situation," he said. "Each handler is trained on how to best deploy their partners and when to do so."

Remembering Our Heritage

25 years ago: The xenon ion engine

By Kay Grinter
Staff Writer

Are you up for some space trivia? Then try this one: What was the first use of the xenon ion drive?

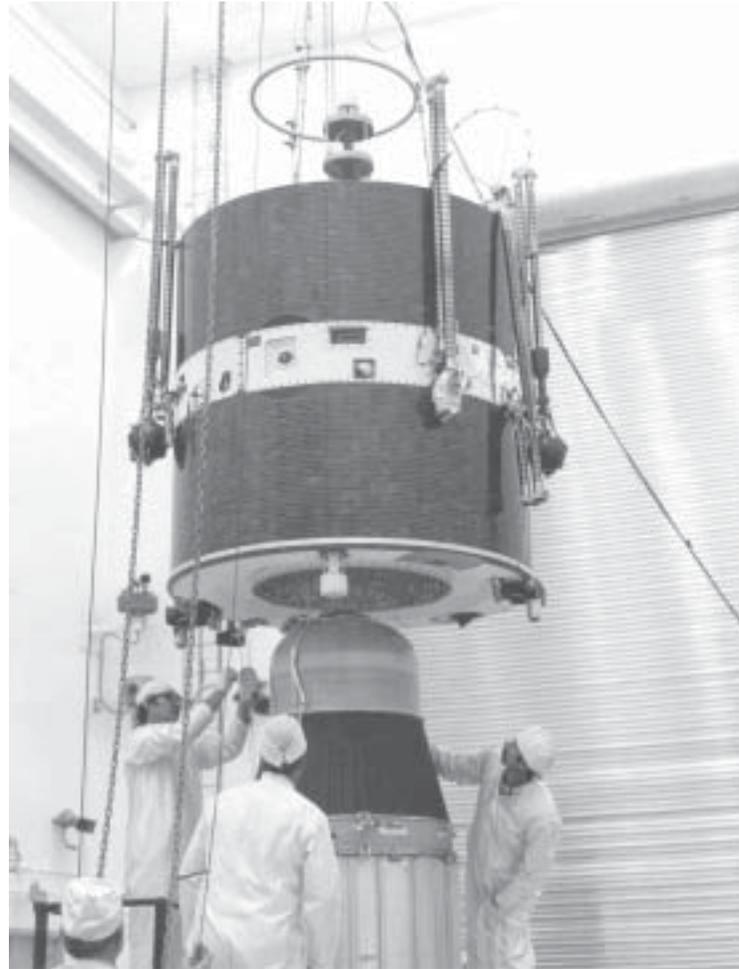
Space program veterans and trivia devotees may recall that it was built by Hughes Research Laboratories and installed aboard the Air Force Geophysics Laboratory's Spacecraft Charging At High Altitudes (SCATHA) satellite, launched Jan. 30, 1979, from Cape Canaveral on Delta 2914.

SCATHA was designed primarily to obtain information about the processes and effects of spacecraft charging on its systems' performance, a phenomenon known to have contributed to several on-orbit satellite failures.

The ion engine was not used to propel the spacecraft, but to change its electrical charge. Researchers used the data collected to develop new satellite design and test requirements.

Although the design life of the SCATHA satellite was only one year, it continued in operation for more than a decade.

NASA has worked to refine this diminutive engine, knowing that for space exploration missions throughout the solar system and beyond, less is more. The ion engine can run on a few hundred grams of propellant per



THE AIR FORCE GEOPHYSICS LABORATORY'S Spacecraft Charging At High Altitudes (SCATHA) satellite (left), launched Jan. 30, 1979, from Cape Canaveral on Delta 2914. Deep Space 1 was the first spacecraft to use an ion engine (below) as its primary means of propulsion. It was not retired until December 2001.



day, making it lightweight and inexpensive to launch, yet an ion-propelled spacecraft can go much faster and farther than any other spacecraft.

Launched Oct. 24, 1998, on a mission that was only planned to last 11 months, Deep Space 1 was the first spacecraft to use an ion engine as its primary means of propulsion. It was not retired until December 2001.

Meanwhile, back on Earth at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the Deep Space 1's spare ion engine proved itself worthy of additional deep space missions

by setting an all time endurance record of 30,352 operating hours by running continuously for nearly five years, from Oct. 5, 1998 to June 26, 2003.

By August 25, 2002, a major milestone of more than 200 kilograms (441 pounds) of xenon propellant had been processed. This was the projected amount of propellant required for the ion propulsion system on the Dawn spacecraft, the first science mission to use ion propulsion.

Set to launch around 2006, Dawn will explore the structure and composition of Ceres and

Vesta, two large asteroids that have remained relatively unchanged since their formation at the dawn of our solar system.

A new ion propulsion engine design, the Nuclear Electric Xenon Ion System (NEXIS), is under development for use in NASA's proposed Jupiter Icy Moons Orbiter (JIMO) mission.

Launching in 2012 or later, JIMO will orbit and study three planet-sized moons of Jupiter - Callisto, Ganymede and Europa - which may have vast oceans concealed beneath their icy surfaces.

TOWN HALL ... (Continued from Page 3)

be in the space business for a long time. I'm very excited about the President's new plan."

A question and answer session followed the Town Hall meeting, giving KSC workers the opportunity to direct questions and concerns to

Kennedy, Weldon and Feeney.

Feeney said: "The President's speech went beyond my expectations. We have a challenge. But

During closing thoughts, Weldon added: "This is a good time for us. We should hold our heads up high. It's not just the

"We will certainly be in the space business for a long time," said U.S. Rep. Dave Weldon.

along with challenges come opportunities. It is an exciting time for our children as well."

President's vision. It's our vision as well."

VISION ...

(Continued from Page 1)

over the next five years.

The President also announced the formation of a commission, headed by former Secretary of the Air Force Pete Aldrich, to advise him on the implementation of the new vision. Visit www.nasa.gov for details.

Malone takes helm of External Relations and Business Development

By Linda Herridge
Staff Writer

Kennedy Space Center Director Jim Kennedy announced recently that Lisa Malone was selected as director of KSC's External Relations and Business Development (XA) Directorate.

Malone succeeds JoAnn Morgan, who retired in August 2003.

In her new position, Malone will oversee XA's divisions including the Business Management Office; Partnership Development; Education Programs and University Research; Public Communications; Guest Services and Special Events; Customer Assurance and Analysis; and the Government Relations Office.

Most recently, Malone served

as acting director of External Relations and Business Development. She was selected as the deputy director in April 2003 and was responsible for overseeing the KSC Visitor Complex, news media activities, public engagement and strategic communications. She also led a diverse NASA and contractor team, which is tasked to disseminate information about NASA and Kennedy Space Center's programs.

Malone received the NASA Exceptional Service Medal in 2001 and numerous performance awards. She earned certification as an Accredited Public Relations (APR) Professional from the Florida Public Relations Association in 1992.

The Mobile, Ala., native began her career with NASA as a



LISA MALONE is the new director of KSC's External Relations and Business Development (XA) Directorate. Malone succeeds JoAnn Morgan, who retired in August 2003.

co-op student from 1982 to 1984 and joined NASA in May 1984, following graduation from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa with a bachelor's

degree in communications.

Malone received her master's degree in management from Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne in August 1995.

Lewis and Buckingham new center director assistants

Steve Lewis, lead engineer for the Command and Data Handling/Flight Software branch, will temporarily serve as special assistant to KSC Director Jim Kennedy for the next six months. Meanwhile, Bruce Buckingham, NASA news chief in the KSC Media Services Office, will be a temporary special assistant to KSC Deputy Director, Dr. Woodrow Whitlow.

Lewis, a 16-year KSC employee, was responsible for software integration for the International Space Station/Payload Processing directorate. "I will observe how the executive council operates, as well as the activities at the Center," said Lewis.

Buckingham has served as a public information officer and Agency spokesman at KSC since September 1985. He also provides commentary for Space Shuttle launches and for launches of unmanned vehicles that carry NASA payloads. "Dr. Whitlow's expertise is extremely beneficial to KSC and I'm privileged to be a part of it," said Buckingham.



STEVE LEWIS (left) and Bruce Buckingham are special assistants to KSC Director Jim Kennedy and Deputy Director, Dr. Woodrow Whitlow, respectively.

Butchko honored for service to Spaceport



FORMER SGS PRESIDENT Michael Butchko (left) is honored by KSC Director Jim Kennedy at a Jan. 16 goodbye party.



John F. Kennedy Space Center

Spaceport News

Spaceport News is an official publication of the Kennedy Space Center and is published on alternate Fridays by External Relations and Business Development in the interest of KSC civil service and contractor employees.

Contributions are welcome and should be submitted two weeks before publication to the Media Services Branch, XA-E1. E-mail submissions can be sent to Jeffery.Stuckey-1@ksc.nasa.gov

Managing editor..... Bruce Buckingham
 Editor..... Jeff Stuckey
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USGPO: 733-133/600049