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John F. Kennedy Space Center

KSC work force impresses new Center Director

The new Kennedy Space Center director, Jim Kennedy, couldn't be happier with what he's seen from the people of the KSC workforce after two weeks on the job. During his first week, he was at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., witnessing the launch of the Scientific Satellite-1/Atmospheric Chemistry Experiment (SCISAT) payload from a Pegasus XL launch vehicle.

"Watching that exciting launch gave me an appreciation for the fine work of not only our Launch Services Program, but the entire KSC team," said Kennedy, who assumed his position Aug. 10. "You can't execute great launches like that without a total team effort."

Appreciation for the workforce and focus on a vision for the future is what KSC's eighth Center Director expresses when talking about the operational mission of KSC. That mission includes Shuttle Processing, International Space Station and Payloads Processing, and the



Incoming Deputy Director Dr. Woodrow Whitlow (left), who begins his new role Sept. 8, and Center Director Jim Kennedy, who assumed his position Aug. 10, are excited about KSC's future.

Launch Services Program.

"I couldn't be prouder of the work force," Kennedy said. "There are tremendously talented people here with wonderful abilities. I'm confident the future of NASA and KSC is in good hands as we work together as a team to accomplish our great missions. Our number one mission is safely returning our

Shuttle fleet to flight."

Building on the vision of former director Roy Bridges, Kennedy sees the future of KSC based upon a "shared" vision that continually improves over time. The first step in the process will begin with an offsite retreat with the NASA-KSC leaders in early September. Then, the work force will be given the chance to

add its input into the center's future vision.

He also supports the need to perform the operational mission in harmony with Spaceport and Range Technology work. These two missions, working together, will shape the future for KSC launch site operations.

"One of our missions is to support the Orbital Space Plane and Next Generation Launch Technology programs. Along with the Shuttle, they are the key to future human space flight," Kennedy said.

Kennedy supports the current NASA-KSC Core Values and Guiding Principles. These include treating people with dignity and respect; cherishing individual and cultural differences; recognizing the equality of all people regardless of the role they play on the team; and continuing to stress safety for the work force, the astronauts and the public.

"Everyone is equal and no

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A farewell gathering was held Aug. 8 at the Debus Conference Facility for JoAnn Morgan, former director of External Relations and Business Development at KSC. Guest speakers spoke of Morgan's 45-year career of NASA service and told personal stories. KSC Chief Financial Officer Napoleon Carroll (pictured) presented Morgan with various mementos from her career.



Jim Kennedy
Center Director

The Kennedy Update

What a great two weeks it's been since I was given the privilege to serve as the KSC Director. I want to thank you for the words, notes and other expressions of support since the announcement of my new assignment.

Please know that your acceptance of Bernie and I to the Kennedy Space Center is very much appreciated. The transition was made much easier by working with and succeeding a great person and leader like Roy Bridges and by working with the **BEST TEAM IN THE WORLD**.

As I begin my tenure, I want everyone to know I consider communicating with you, the work force (civil service and contractor), a top priority. I plan on accomplishing this in several ways. I'll utilize CD Comms and host periodic All Hands Meetings.

While these will not be mandatory formations, I will do my best to make them informa-

tive, enjoyable and productive to encourage everyone's participation. I'll also take opportunities at regularly scheduled meetings and other gatherings to address current issues and to solicit your thoughts, as you will have a strong voice in our future.

An additional medium for open and honest communications is the column you're reading now. It will be a regular feature in *Spaceport News*, always appearing on page 2. Hopefully, you'll find the information useful.

I'll use the column to keep you informed on important events, highlight upcoming activities and celebrate some of your great accomplishments like the successful launch of SCISAT-1 Aug. 12. I won't use it to lecture the work force, pass on personal biases or fill the space with idle chatter. So with that in mind, here we go.

Tonight is an important night. At my deadline for this column,

the Space Infrared Telescope Facility (SIRTF) mission was scheduled to launch at 1:37 a.m. This is the final mission of our Great Observatories Program (preceded by Gamma Ray Observatory, Hubble Space Telescope and Chandra X-Ray Observatory). There is a story below, so I won't repeat all the mission facts. Many people with the Launch Services Program and those who support ELV have worked long and hard to prepare for this mission, and we wish them the best with this launch campaign.

A very important event for NASA is scheduled for next week with the release of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board's official report. The planned release date is Tuesday, but it could slip a couple of days. Even if it does, it's important to know the report is about to hit the street.

Administrator Sean O'Keefe already mentioned the report would be tough on NASA. We should prepare for this and the normal flurry of media stories to follow. There are a couple of things I'd like everyone to keep in mind concerning the report's release.

First, don't take the findings personally or allow yourself to get defensive. The board did its job and the information provided, no matter the context, gives NASA an opportunity to implement solutions and come

back stronger than ever. Second, don't let the media stories and vocal critics distract you from the job at hand. I have tremendous confidence in the KSC work force and I know the entire return to flight process will demonstrate your professionalism. Don't let anything get in the way of your important work. The Shuttle program and the American public want us to succeed now more than ever.

When the CAIB report is released, Sean O'Keefe will respond on NASA's behalf for the first two days. Directors at the different Centers will address local CAIB issues on day three. I will give the KSC perspective. NASA leadership is addressing return to flight recommendations head on and will continue to do so as we reach individual milestones. Don't ever forget, the Shuttle program belongs to us, the American people, and we all deserve to be informed every step of the way.

In closing, I want everyone to know Dr. Woodrow Whitlow, Jim Hattaway and I are here for you and we're always open to your comments and suggestions. Through questions at All Hands Meetings or in conversations at other gatherings, we truly want to know what is on your mind. Please take advantage of those opportunities.

Thanks for giving me a few moments of your time and have a great week.

SIRTF scheduled for early morning launch

The Space Infrared Telescope Facility (SIRTF) is scheduled to launch Aug. 23 at 1:37 a.m. (EDT) from Launch Complex 17-B at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station aboard a Boeing Delta II Heavy expendable launch vehicle. During its 2-1/2 year mission, SIRTF will obtain images by detecting the infrared energy, or heat, radiated by objects in space. Most of this infrared radiation is blocked by the Earth's atmosphere and cannot be observed from the ground.

The mission was originally scheduled to launch in April. SIRTF will be the largest infrared telescope ever launched into

space. Its highly-sensitive instruments will give a unique view of the Universe and allow us to peer into regions of space which are hidden from optical telescopes.

Infrared light allows us to look into regions of star formation, the centers of galaxies and into newly forming planetary systems.

SIRTF will be the final mission in NASA's Great Observatories Program, also including the Hubble Space Telescope, Compton Gamma-Ray Observatory and the Chandra X-Ray Observatory. SIRTF is also a part of NASA's Astronomical Search for Origins Program.



From left, KSC Director Jim Kennedy, former KSC Director Roy D. Bridges and Brig. Gen. Greg Pavlovich, Commander of the 45th Space Wing, dedicate the Roy D. Bridges Jr. Bridge on NASA Causeway in honor of the man who helped establish the partnership between KSC and the space wing.

2003 Kennedy Space Center Honor Awards

KSC Director's Award

The Director's Award is the highest award that the Center confers on an employee. The award honors an employee who has exemplified through personal effort and innovation the highest standards and commitment to the application of continual improvement principles and practices or for the accomplishment of a job-related task of such magnitude and merit as to deserve special Center recognition.

Stephen Altemus - For distinguishing himself and the Space Shuttle Program as the Kennedy Space Center (KSC) Columbia Reconstruction Director. Mr. Altemus led the Columbia Reconstruction Team of 150 NASA and contractor employees to accomplish the monumental task of reconstructing Columbia with pieces of debris recovered in East Texas. The reconstruction team assembled by Mr. Altemus proved to be a significant factor in understanding the events that led to the breakup of Columbia.

Edward Mango (right) - For demonstrating leadership skills and for providing an invaluable service to the Space Shuttle Program and NASA as the Kennedy Space Center (KSC) Recovery Director following the Columbia accident. Mr. Mango led over 1,000 NASA and contractor employees from multiple organizations in the largest search effort ever conducted in history. Because of his leadership, the multi-agency search team was able to recover approximately 38-percent of Columbia.

Strategic Leadership Award

The Strategic Leadership Award embodies the future direction of KSC through demonstrated leadership and initiative, drive, break through performance and change; production of results; action on problems and implementation of solutions; and, supporting, encouraging, and motivating others to make forward choices on behalf of NASA and KSC. It recognizes employees' commitment in supporting and implementing the Agency, enterprise, strategic plans, and the KSC Implementation Plan.

Mary Hall - For providing exceptional dedication to NASA's strategic initiatives, namely the International Space Station Utilization Management Concept Development Team and the International Space Station Research Institute Statement of Work Development Team.

Michelle Amos - For outstanding contributions to strategic leadership in support of a high quality and diverse workforce at the Kennedy Space Center.

Richard Stevens - For successfully enhancing the Competency Management System by developing and defining the competencies of the entire NASA/KSC civil service work force.

KSC Secretarial Management Support Assistant Excellence Award

This award is granted to a KSC employee in the 303 and 318 classification series who has demonstrated exemplary performance of official duties, has a high degree of personal integrity, has established and maintained rapport with peers and superiors, and has outstanding secretarial/clerical skills. The recipient of this award is selected from the four Outstanding Secretarial/Management Support Assistant Award winners from the previous year.

Suzanne Dininny - In recognition of excellent dedication and professionalism in support of the Chief Financial Office by exercising exceptional secretarial skills and knowledge to promote a helpful and cooperative workplace environment.



From left, current KSC Director Jim Kennedy, KSC Director Award winner Edward Mango and former KSC Director Roy D. Bridges

Public Service Group Achievement Award Inter-Contractor Operations, Maintenance, Engineering and User Team

In recognition of outstanding contributions to coordinate and integrate all Spaceport contractors into a comprehensive Operations, Maintenance, Engineering and User system.

Outstanding Leadership Medal

The NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal is awarded for notable outstanding leadership which has had a pronounced effect upon the technical or administrative programs of NASA. The award may be given for an act of leadership or for sustained contributions based on an individual's effectiveness as a leader, the productivity of an individual's program, or demonstrated ability to develop the administrative or technical talents of other employees.

William Franklin - For outstanding leadership which has led KSC's Spaceport and Range Technology Development to the future through increased university and industry involvement.

Scott Kerr - For exceptional leadership as chair of the Checkout, Assembly and Payload Processing Services Source Evaluation Board.

Michael Leinbach (below) - In recognition of outstanding leadership and contributions to the nation's Space Shuttle Program.



KSC Equal Opportunity Award

Two Equal Opportunity Awards are granted each year. One to a supervisor and one to a non-supervisor. These awards are granted for outstanding contributions to Equal Opportunity. Examples of the types of contributions for which the award may be granted include: encouraging self-development and training among minorities and women; assigning minority and women employees to organizational tasks which broaden their experience; suggesting affirmative actions which alleviate problems peculiar to minorities and women; and, assigning minorities and women to tasks which encourage full utilization of their skills.

The **Supervisory Award** was given to **David Dibler** in recognition of professional dedication to the principles of equal opportunity for all employees, demonstrated on a daily basis through actions rather than words.

The **Non-Supervisory Award** was given to **Michelle Amos** for outstanding contributions to equal opportunity, recognition, and pursuit of excellence among minorities and women in support of a high quality and diverse work force at the Kennedy Space Center.

NASA Public Service Medal

The NASA Public Service Medal is granted for exceptional contributions to the mission of NASA. The award may be given to any individual who was not a government employee during the period for which the service was performed.

- Aerospace Corporation - **George Looschen**
- ASRC - **John Lyon**
- Boeing NASA Systems - **James Chilton, Deborah Melvin, Stephen Townsend**
- Dynamac Corporation - **Douglas Britt**
- InterKnowledge Inc. - **Dean Walsh**
- Space Gateway Support - **William Sample**
- United Space Alliance - **Jimmy Alexander, Sue Pinch, Roberta Wyrick, Gene Nurnberg**

NASA Exceptional Service Medal

The NASA Exceptional Service Medal is awarded for significant performance characterized by unusual initiative or creative ability that clearly demonstrates substantial improvements or contributions in engineering, aeronautics, space flight, administration, support, or space-related endeavors which contribute to the mission of NASA.

Charles Gambaro - accepted by his son (below) due to Gambaro serving in 'Iraqi Freedom.'

- Sheree Gillard**
- Michael Hallett**
- Retha Hart**
- Tyrell Hawkins**
- Harold Heimmer**
- William Knott**
- Jennifer Kunz**
- Stephen Minute**
- James Norman**
- David Schechter**
- James Shaver**
- Ned Voska**



NASA Exceptional Technology Achievement Medal

The NASA Exceptional Technology Achievement Medal, awarded to both government and non-government individuals for technology contributions achieved in early technology development contributing to the NASA mission; exemplary collaborative effort in achieving significant technology transfer; and exceptional utilization of a NASA-developed technology resulting in a significant commercial application, was awarded to **Pamela Bookman**.



KSC employees Suzie Stuckey (center) and Kim Jenkins are thanked by current KSC Director Jim Kennedy for singing the National Anthem at the annual Honor Awards ceremony.

The Kennedy Space Center annual Honor Awards ceremony was held July 31 in the IMAX II Theater at the Visitor Complex, where NASA and contractor employees were recognized for the contributions made to KSC during 2002.

Current KSC Director Jim Kennedy and former KSC Director Roy Bridges Jr. made opening remarks about their recent job transitions and what the work force faces in the upcoming months. A reception was held afterward at the Debus Conference Facility. See pages 3-6 for all the awards.



NASA Exceptional Achievement Award

The NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal is awarded for a significant contribution, specific accomplishment, or contribution clearly characterized by a substantial or significant improvement in operations, efficiency, service, financial savings, science, or technology which contributes to the mission of NASA.

- Pamela Biegert (above)**
- Hector Delgado**
- Frank Der**
- Douglas Hendriksen**
- J. Bryant Keith Jr.**
- Tommy Mack**
- Michael McCarty**
- G. Thomas Pentrack**
- Laura Rochester**
- Denise Travers**

KSC Service Awards

In grateful recognition and appreciation of faithful service in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the government of the United States of America.

- 40 Years of Service
- Dane Bishop**
- John Eggers**
- Raymond Evans**
- Roger Hathaway**
- John Kassak**
- James Roberts**
- Joel Shealy**
- 45 Years of Service
- James Belote**

KSC Certificate Of Commendation

This award recognizes exceptional individual accomplishment or outstanding direction or management of a program or program segment, which affects the entire Center or contributes significantly to the Center's mission.

- Louise Boyd**
- Josephine Burnett**
- Yvonne Catone**
- Betty Eldred**
- Erin Campbell**
- Lorenzo Chance**
- James Davis**
- Nancy Hoffman**
- William Roy**
- Nadine Sluder**
- Timothy Pugh**
- John Vondenhuevel**
- Jeffery Angermeier**
- Mark Femminineo**
- Shaun Green**
- Francisco Izquierdo**
- Peter Johnson**
- Ronald Long**
- Derwood McKinley**
- Jose Soriano**
- Steven Townsend**
- Larry Ulmer**
- Pamela Zeitler**
- Gena Baker**
- Thomas Drake**
- Eric Ernst**
- Maria Tobin**
- Thomas Bookhart**
- Gary Fooks**
- Kelly Gorman**
- Roger Langevin**
- Mark Mason**
- Linda Maust**
- Dann Oakland**
- Sheila Perry**
- William Riddle**
- Robert Schmidt**



Frances Brauer receives a KSC Certificate of Commendation.

- Ronald Storey**
- Harold Williams**
- Lisa Brawn**
- Michael Bruder**
- Rita Dal Santo**
- Michael Haddock**
- Eric Perritt**
- Mark Shugg**
- Rayelle Thomas**
- Robert Yaskovic Jr.**
- Martha Bell**
- John Calvert**
- Rex Engelhardt**
- David Sollberger**
- Michele Whittaker**
- Gregg Buckingham**
- Gwen Gamble**
- William Johnson**
- Frederick Ahmay**
- Frances Brauer**
- Dorothy Davis**
- Ralonda Farrant**
- Michael Harrison**
- Michael Lundberg**
- Donald Parker**
- Felix Soto Toro**
- Raymond Wheeler**
- Dung Trang**
- Angel Lucena**
- James Fesmire**
- Maxine Johnson**

NASA Group Achievement Award

The NASA Public Service Group Achievement Award is an award given to a group of non-government employees in recognition of an outstanding accomplishment, which has contributed, substantially to the NASA mission.

7th Annual Cape Canaveral Spaceport Symposium Team

For exemplary interagency teamwork, innovative e-government technology and professional excellence used at the Cape Canaveral Spaceport Symposium.

Autonomous Flight Safety System Project Team

In recognition of the team effort that has produced the hardware and software configuration required for the prototyping, testing and demonstrating of the Autonomous Flight Safety System.

Cape Canaveral Spaceport Master Planning Team

For outstanding collaborative planning efforts on a first of its kind integrated national Spaceport master plan.

Checkout, Assembly and Payload Processing Services Source Evaluation Board

In recognition of the acquisition strategy, requirements development, competition, and successful award of the Checkout, Assembly and Payload Processing Services contract.

Communication Tool Team

In recognition of outstanding contributions to the Shuttle Safety and Mission Assurance program by developing a tool which has contributed to better communication between NASA and their contractor counterparts.

Consolidated Space Operations Contract Transition Team

For consolidating Kennedy Space Center communications systems and services through efficient transition from three contracts to one.

Digital Camera Surveillance Prototype Development Team

For an outstanding effort in developing the Digital Camera Surveillance Prototype in support of an improved security system at Kennedy Space Center.

Environmental Remediation Group

For demonstrating exceptional fiscal responsibility and technical innovation to achieve superior environmental results at Kennedy Space Center.

Expendable Launch Vehicle Program Delta II Main Engine Cut-Off Team

For identifying a new dynamic environment associated with main engine cutoff for the Delta II vehicle and working to clear the launch vehicle and each spacecraft for this environment.

Freeze Plug Development Team

In recognition of technical efforts to develop a safe method for repairing leaks in the Liquid Oxygen Storage Facility.

Ground Water Remediation Technology Development and Deployment Team

In recognition of development and deployment of Emulsified Zero-Valent Iron Ground Water Remediation Technology at Launch Complex 34.

Implementation Team for Rehabilitation of E&O Building

In recognition of the successful implementation of modifications to rehabilitate the E&O Building through effective teamwork.

International Space Station Payload Processing Quality Assurance Branch Team

In recognition of exemplary Quality Assurance contributions and commitment to excellence in the accomplishment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's missions, goals, and objectives.

International Space Station Support Equipment Sustaining Engineering Team (below)

In recognition of exceptional teamwork and extraordinary effort that resulted in outstanding support equipment for the International Space Station Program.



2003 Kennedy Space Center Honor Awards



Joint Base Operations and Support Contract Baseline Team (above)

In recognition of dedicated efforts from National Aeronautics & Space Administration, Air Force, and Space Gateway Support in the successful completion of the contract baseline study for the Joint Base Operations and Support Contract to improve cost management and analysis.

Joint Base Operations and Support Contract Program Metric Development Team

In recognition of outstanding teamwork in the development of program metrics on the Joint Base Operations and Support Contract to improve management of the Cape Canaveral Spaceport.

Kennedy Space Center Simulation Team

For design, development, implementation, and continued enhancement of NASA's Engineering and Analysis Capabilities.

Macro Level Shuttle Processing Model Team

For successfully demonstrating space systems process modeling techniques through applied discrete event simulation technologies in development of the Macro Level Shuttle Processing Model.

Main Propulsion System Feedline Flowliner Repair Team

For tireless efforts supporting the inspection and repair of the Main Propulsion System flowliners.

NASA Launch Services Program Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) Launch Service Task Order (LSTO) Team

For achieving substantial savings and enhancing mission success in awarding the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter Launch Service Task Order under the NASA Launch Services Contract.

Operations Support Building Safety Committee (below)

In recognition of efforts to promote effective safety awareness within a forum which provides a safety and health communication "pipeline" for the Operations Support Building facility employees.



Orbiter Brake/Anti-Skid and Redundant Weight On Wheel Testing Enhancement Team

For enhancement of the Orbiter Brake/Anti-skid and Redundant Weight on Wheels Systems test resulting in significant reduction of Shuttle brake system processing cost and schedule.

Pad 39A and 39B Support Buildings Design Team

In recognition of the outstanding achievement in the design of the Pad Support Buildings at Pads 39A and 39B.

Prototype Laboratory Team

For exceptional service, accuracy, dependability and professionalism in providing unique hardware and solutions to difficult problems.

Quality Forum Team

For exemplary performance in aligning Shuttle Safety and Mission Assurance Division roles, responsibilities, processes and tools with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Mission and Vision and the Kennedy Space Center Strategic Plan.

Reusable Solid Rocket Motor Silicone Prevention and Process Support Materials Team

In recognition of the successful development and implementation of engineering and logistic procedures necessary for silicone screening and process control of support materials used for Reusable Solid Rocket Motor processing.

Shuttle Ground Support Equipment Load-Test Process Improvement Team

For development and implementation of Shuttle Ground Support Equipment Load-Test Process Improvement.

Shuttle Launch Pad B Hypergol Storage Facility Control Upgrade

For outstanding efforts in the Shuttle Launch Pad Hypergol storage area electrical patching, control cable, and data distribution systems upgrade.

Shuttle Operations Root Cause Analysis Team

In recognition of the support and dedication in performing an operation root cause analysis of the Space Shuttle Processing ground processing flow.

Shuttle STS-110 Hydrogen Mobile Launch Platform Vent Line Weld Repair Team

In recognition of outstanding efforts for the Shuttle STS-110 hydrogen vent line weld repair and subsequent investigation and repair of all suspect Mobile Launch Platform vent line welds.

Shuttle STS-112 Hold Down Post Pyro Failure Investigation Team

For outstanding teamwork and leadership in the resolution of the Shuttle STS-112 ground pyrotechnic failure anomaly.

Space Based Telemetry And Range Safety (STARS) Team

In recognition of the team effort that has produced the end-to-end hardware and software communications configuration required for the flight demonstration of the Space Launch Initiative Space Based Telemetry and Range Safety concept project.

Space Shuttle Main Engine Horizontal Handling Truck Design Team

For dedication in developing and designing a new Space Shuttle Main Engine handling truck capable of supporting present and future program needs.

Space Shuttle Program Launch Contingency Management Simulation Support Team

For outstanding support in the planning, coordination, and successful implementation of the Space Shuttle Program's launch contingency management simulation on November 1, 2002.

Telescience Lab Team

For design, development, implementation, and continued enhancement of NASA's Telescience Capability.

United Space Alliance Technical Analysis Team

For exceptional dedication and professionalism for contributions and sustained technical achievement in support of the Shuttle Program.

Return to flight activities begin at KSC

As NASA gears up for a return to flight, a number of activities took place at Kennedy Space Center during the first week of August in anticipation of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board's final report later this month.

A press conference was held Aug. 5 at the KSC Press Site in which NASA Deputy Administrator Frederick Gregory, NASA Associate Administrator for Space Flight William Readdy and NASA Associate Administrator for Safety and Mission Assurance Brian O'Connor talked about the Stafford-Covey Return to Flight Task Group (SCTG) and future Shuttle missions.

"This morning we kicked off the General Stafford/Dick Covey Return to Flight Task Group (SCTG) in which we will perform an independent assessment of our actions to implement the findings and recommendations that will be submitted in the Columbia Accident Investigation Board's (CAIB) report that we anticipate this month," said Gregory.

"We are committed to return to flight, but we are committed to



From left, NASA Deputy Administrator Frederick Gregory, NASA Associate Administrator for Space Flight William Readdy and NASA Associate Administrator for Safety and Mission Assurance Brian O'Connor discussed the issues facing the Agency for return to flight.

doing so safely as we can. This is a milestone-oriented focus. If you see a schedule with a scheduled launch, it is only so that our folks can work toward a launch date, but it does not represent the actual date that we will return to flight with the Shuttle.

"Our commitment is to independently assess NASA's response and implementation of the findings of the CAIB," said Gregory. "There will be no attempt whatsoever to argue or

defend the recommendations of the CAIB. We will respond to each of the findings and recommendations, and, in fact, go further than that.

"The Stafford-Covey task group will assess our response to the recommendations and will have an opportunity, if they find some areas that they observed were not picked up, to make a recommendation to us."

Readdy then commented on the new independent review group: "We expect from the

Columbia Accident Investigation Board final report with its findings and recommendations, as well as the torch being passed to the Stafford-Covey Task Group here to assess our performance on return to flight, that we in the Space Shuttle program will come back smarter, stronger and safer," said Readdy.

O'Connor commented that the schedule for return to flight is important to keep personnel focused on their jobs. "Among the things we are looking at is how we are structured with the support program and how the Safety and Mission Assurance organization for Shuttle and our other programs are there to help with not only the program itself, but also with the certification of flight readiness," he said.

"As Roy Bridges moves up to the Langley Research Center, one of his main tasks will be to set up this NASA engineering and safety center to give us more engineering capability and a quicker response when we do need a second look at some of the technical issues we deal with on our major programs."

Stafford-Covey Task Group holds first public meeting

The Stafford-Covey Return to Flight Task Group (SCTG), who will monitor NASA's response to the Columbia Accident Investigation Board's final report, held its first public meeting Aug. 7 at the Kennedy Space Center (KSC).

Task Group Co-chairman Richard O. Covey spoke about the group's current and future activities, then answered news media questions immediately following the meeting.

"The reason we chose this week to be at KSC was the fact that the Columbia Accident Investigation Board is drawing to a conclusion of their activities associated with Columbia debris," said Covey. "They are now going to turn that debris back over to NASA for disposition, and before they did that, we wanted the opportunity to come

and observe it so we can have that in our background."

It also gave the group a chance to begin orientation and planning for activities that will take place beginning later next month, according to Covey.

"We took advantage of the fact that the Columbia Accident Investigation Board leadership were able to make a trip here on our behalf, and we spent more than three hours with Admiral Gehman, Steve Wallace and others. Most importantly, we had the opportunity to ask them questions and understand the focus and intent of some of their recommendations."

The 27-member task group is divided into three panels – management, technical, and operations. Seventeen members attended the KSC meeting. The next meeting will be held at the



NASA employee Joy Huff (right) shows a leading edge subsystem (LESS) with tile bonded to it to members of the Stafford-Covey Return to Flight Task Group, including Richard O. Covey (third from left).

Johnson Space Center in September.

The public meeting was held in the Debus Conference Facility at the KSC Visitor Center. During their three-day KSC visit, the

task group toured Space Shuttle facilities and received briefings on a variety of Shuttle topics. For background about the group and its future activities, visit <http://returntoflight.org>.

Four KSC employees complete leadership program

NASA's Professional Development Program (PDP) graduation telecast July 29 was not only unique because it is the finale to the PDP year, but also because four graduates call Kennedy Space Center home.

PDP prepares NASA leaders to take on higher and broader roles and responsibilities in the near future. The program provides opportunities to obtain experiential understanding of Agency-wide, national and global issues and their impact on NASA's mission and U.S. goals.

Individuals choose to develop managerial competencies or concentrate on honing technical leadership skills. Assignments typically last four to 12 months, and align the individual's goals and vision with NASA's strategic needs.

"The goals of the PDP program are to develop leaders who can create measurable results that matter to the American people," according to keynote speaker James Jennings, NASA's associate deputy administrator for Institutions and Asset Management.



Professional Development Program (PDP) graduates from KSC received their certificates from James Jennings (center), NASA's associate deputy administrator for Institutions and Asset Management. This year's KSC PDP graduates include (from left) Merri Anne Stowe (MK), Susan Hutchison (UB), Dr. Gale Allen (XA) and David Cox (YA).

Dr. Gale Allen/External Relations and Business Development, David Cox/Spaceport Engineering & Technology, Merri Anne Stowe/Launch Services Program, and Susan Hutchison/International Space Station and Payload Processing represented KSC. They, along

with 17 other NASA participants, were honored at NASA Headquarters for the culmination of the 12-month program that included developmental work assignments, briefings, seminars and formal classroom education.

"Some 25 years ago I was a member of the CDP class, which

was the forerunner to PDP, so I know how important these things are," Jennings said. "All of us in public service have the opportunity to better people's lives, to work with tremendously bright and intelligent colleagues, and on occasion to make history. Indeed, public service is one of the highest callings imaginable and I'm extremely impressed with the dedication and professionalism of this PDP class and other PDP classes."

KSC graduate and class speaker Gale Allen described the spirit of PDP. "This process helps you focus your energy and your passion resulting in a greater outcome. It is the essence of a powerful leader - their passion and vision and the action they take to achieve it. Just as we were 21 with different goals, we have achieved results in different ways."

PDP has been enhanced and is being used as a succession planning tool. It is now the Leadership Development Program (LDP). Visit the LDP online (<http://nasapeople.nasa.gov/ldp>) for more information.

SHARP students learn about science and engineering

Summer High School Apprenticeship Research Program (SHARP) participants concluded their intensive eight weeks of studies at the Kennedy Space Center, with final presentations being made at the Visitor Complex Universe Theater July 25 where parents could attend.

NASA's SHARP goals are to increase underrepresented student participation and success rates in math, science and engineering. The program also strives to increase the pool of minority science and engineering professionals in the work force.

Education Programs and

University Research Division Chief Pamela Biegert explained the importance of the program.

"We could not do this program without the scientists and engineers at KSC who volunteer their time on top of their already busy schedules. I also want to recognize these

students. NASA Headquarters called to say how impressed they were with KSC's SHARP students."

Students gave presentations ranging from security issues and radio-controlled robots to space-based telemetry and environmental concerns.

KENNEDY . . . (Continued from page 1)

person is better than anyone else," he said. "It doesn't matter if you're the Center Director or the lowest ranking employee here, everyone counts and plays a critical role on the team."

During an Environmental Council kickoff meeting Aug. 7, Kennedy reaffirmed his support of KSC's important environmental mission. "We must remain good stewards of the environment by protecting our beautiful National Wildlife Refuge," he said. "It is our obligation to

ensure the wildlife here has a environmentally friendly place to live while we do our important work."

Kennedy is excited about his new position and looks forward to getting to know the many people who make up the space team, whether NASA, contractor employees or one of our mission partners.

"With our new Deputy Director Dr. Woodrow Whitlow and Associate Director Jim Hattaway in place in another two weeks, I'll have two super people to help me guide the wonderful people and mission here."



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.

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