A Day in the Life of KSC

Diary of July 26, 2000. The mood is high at Kennedy Space Center. Zvezda docked successfully with the International Space Station last night. With that crucial component firmly in place, the Space Shuttle Program is poised to ramp up. This issue of Spaceport News chronicles a single day at KSC as we move into a new era of space exploration.
Preparing the pad

Workers maintain Pad A at Kennedy Space Center’s Launch Complex 39. Above, Jack Hanover of SDB Engineers and Constructors Inc. prepares to change a bearing in the Rotating Service Structure. At top left, Robert Lust of IVEY Construction pauses on his way to install a safety hand rail. At top right, a team of United Space Alliance workers don gas masks before calibrating the pad’s hypergolic fuel system.
Coming in for landing

Clockwise from above: A “Super Guppy” transport aircraft lands at the Shuttle Landing Facility carrying the P1 truss for the International Space Station. Inside the control building, air traffic controller Donny Linton, left, and SGS air facility manager Bob Bryen survey the SLF runway. Astronaut David Brown speaks with aircraft servicer Bob Dryer after having landed the T-38 aircraft at the SLF. Dryer and aircraft servicer Chuck Floyd check the aircraft Brown has just flown in from Johnson Space Center.
Meeting of minds

Center Director Roy Bridges Jr. meets with his senior staff members at KSC Headquarters. At top left, Tip Talone, NASA director of International Space Station and Payload Processing at KSC, gets ready for the meeting. At top right, Bridges talks to his senior staff. Seated at his left are Marv Jones, associate director, and JoAnn Morgan, director of External Relations and Business Development.
Getting down to business

David Caldwell, chief test conductor for United Space Alliance, monitors a flight control system test from the Launch Control Center.

United Space Alliance data analyst Daniel Murphy helps test new Checkout and Launch Control System software in the Hazardous Materials Facility.

Sue Gross, NASA executive secretary in Shuttle Processing, listens to a coworker’s question.

Jason Cobb, a biology student from Morehouse College in Atlanta, performs a Life Science analysis.

United Space Alliance pad leader John Reinholt answers a call in the Vehicle Assembly Building. Reinholt coordinates work in the VAB.

Photobition clerk Lynn Donovan files negatives.
Fortifying ourselves

Above, cook Wayne Younger takes a breakfast order in the Multi-Function Facility. At top left, InDyne bindery technician Patty White, left, and copier operator Sue McNeely take a break from their work in Reproduction at KSC Headquarters. At top right, High Voltage Shop lineman William Lorton lifts weights in the KSC Fitness Center in the Operations & Checkout Building.
Team spirit is created both formally and informally at KSC. Above, secretary Sandy McCandless kids with her boss, Shuttle Test Director Douglas Lyons. At right, Change Leaders Network members Shannon Roberts and Lana Maier discuss the KSC 2000 initiative and helping employees benefit from changes made. Student Sarah Stout cuts up with, from left, flight crew support specialist Lauren Lunde, astronaut David Brown, attendant Glenda Jackson and flight crew support specialist Delores Abraham.
Building and maintaining

CMT structural painters Chuck Ham, left, and Rick Koury touch up pipes at the Space Station Processing Facility.

Mil-Con workers install fiber optic cable for the new multi-

Spacecoast General Contractors workers change out a cable on a weather tower. From left are laborer Alan Hensley, foreman Dan Fowler and laborer William Davis.

A VA Paving operator helps with grading a section of Sharkey Road.
A purpose hangar at the Shuttle Landing Facility. The hangar is part of the planned Reusable Launch Vehicle Support Complex.

Firefighters with the NASA/USAF Fire Department test and maintain fire truck equipment.
Making it here

United Space Alliance machinist Kreil Marshall shows a tile manufactured for thermal protection of the X-38 future vehicle. The tile is composed of the same materials as tiles made to protect the Shuttle.

Debbie Mitchell, a United Space Alliance technician in the "tile shop" of the Thermal Protection System Facility, creates a gap filler for the Orbiter’s Thermal Protection System.

NASA mechanical engineering technician Jim Niehoff uses a waterjet to rough cut metal in the Development Integration Laboratory, which is known on Center as "the Prototype Shop."

NASA mechanical engineering technician Rusty McAmis uses a milling machine.
Support services come in a variety of forms at Kennedy Space Center. Counterclockwise from above: SGS custodian Tracy White dumps white paper into a recycling bin. SGS Officer Richard Stein checks an employee’s badge at Launch Pad A. InDyne senior distribution clerk Bill White, left, and mail courier Gary Swensk sort mail. Randall Crosby helps a customer at his “Blind Man’s” snack bar. Ikon’s Don Dickenson makes copies of legal documents for KSC’s Chief Counsel Office.
Processing Station

Workers contribute to processing International Space Station elements in the Space Station Processing Facility and the Operations & Checkout Building. Clockwise from above: Boeing technician Klevenger Williams checks Station paperwork. Boeing technician Connie Adams prepares hardware tags. Boeing engineers Eric Obleman, Dan Fiers and Marty Hall test fiber optics for the S0 truss. Technicians Tony Burris and Don Vosgien check the alignment on a test stand.
Preparing the Shuttle

United Space Alliance orbiter technician Tony Dees works on the main landing gear.

Thermal Protection System specialist Mickey O’Brien installs thermal protection around the orbiter’s window.

Ed “Bear” Rieck, aft technical lead for United Space Alliance, checks a hydraulic pump reading for Atlantis.

In Orbiter Processing Facility 3, R.C. Koontz, United Space Alliance manager of the forward and aft, at right, checks in with USA pad leader Arthur “Bubba” Howard on the progress being made processing Atlantis for the STS-106 mission.
Recording the story

Jim Halsell, KSC’s new manager of Space Shuttle Program Launch Integration, is photographed by Jerry Cannon of Johnson Controls.

Nancie Strott, a multimedia specialist for Dynacs, edits video in the KSC Digital Media Lab.

Junichi Ono of Kobi, Japan, interviews astronaut Rick Searfoss at the NASA News Center for a children’s show to air on Japanese public television.
Ending the day

Atlantis Flow Director Kelvin Manning locks his office in the Launch Control Center and heads out to the parking lot.

KSC workers take the scenic drive home south down Kennedy Parkway. The Vehicle Assembly Building provides the Center’s signature backdrop.
Looking West

Kennedy Space Center is NASA’s lead center for Expendable Launch Vehicle Launch Services. NASA ELVs are processed and launched not only from the Cape Canaveral Spaceport, but also from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California and additional locations. These photographs coordinated from KSC’s resident office at Vandenberg show processing of a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration satellite set to be launched at Vandenberg no earlier than Sept. 14.

In putting together this special color edition of Spaceport News, it was our desire to portray a single day in the life of KSC, focusing on our diverse workforce and the critical roles we play in the nation’s space program. On July 26, photographer George Shelton, snapped more than 700 frames during a 12-hour period at KSC. Spaceport News Editor Kathy Hagood, working alongside Shelton, spoke with hundreds of employees on the job. To access these photos and some of the other photographs we didn’t have room to print, go to: http://www-pao.ksc.nasa.gov/kscpao/snews/photos/workersatksc/

— Bruce Buckingham, managing editor