

An aerial photograph of the NASA Michoud Assembly Facility, showing various industrial buildings and parking lots.

michoud messenger

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Michoud's Final Mission Tank, ET-138 Delivered New Orleans-style

In a New Orleans-style ceremony, complete with a second line band, workers at NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility delivered the last production external tank for the space shuttle program July 8. Hundreds of current and former Michoud employees gathered to celebrate 37 years of work on the 153 foot long external tank. Many politicians and NASA officials also were on hand for the ceremony.

"The workforce here is the back bone of the space shuttle program," said Bill Hill, Assistant Associate Administrator of the Space Shuttle Program. "We asked you all to finish strong and you have done that - thank you."

"Sitting behind us (ET-138) is the best example of the pride and dedication of the work force here at Michoud," said Marshall Space Flight Center Director Robert Lightfoot.

ET-138 rolls to the barge at NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility with hundreds of employees in tow July 8.

ET-138 is scheduled to fly on the last space shuttle mission, set for Feb. 26, 2011. The mission commander was on hand to praise Michoud workers and their craftsmanship.

"It is a complicated piece of hardware ... I appreciate what the tank goes through when we lift off - thanks to the Michoud work force," said Cmdr. Mark Kelly, ET-134 mission commander.

ET-138 departed Michoud on its journey to NASA's Kennedy Space Center via barge following the ceremony. Lockheed Martin is completing work on ET-122, which was damaged during Hurricane Katrina five years ago. ET-122 is a launch-on-need tank and could be used if NASA decides to add another space shuttle mission next year.



Letters from Leadership

If you haven't heard by now, we had a very successful AS9100 audit, and I need to offer my thanks to the entire MSFOC Team for all your efforts. We accomplished such a great deal in a very short period of time. We had four strong points, eight opportunities for improvement, and eight minor findings (no majors). The auditors commended us for:

- The use and completion of the Safe Plan of Action form prior to beginning any work in order to greatly decrease any possibility of accidents
- The system for having Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) online at point of use for employees to readily have access to these forms in case of emergency
- The Hazardous Waste Containment Area (Bldg. 159) was very clean and orderly and very well organized - HIGHLY IMPRESSED with this area
- The V-Dot system for identifying the process and linking the customer requirements and the organization's documents

The MSFOC Team has already sent in our corrective and preventive actions regarding each of the findings. We probably have to send in objective evidence that we have implemented the actions – at the auditors discretion – before they issue the certificate. However, please make no mistake about it – we were absolutely successful in this effort!

I would like re-emphasize that achieving AS9100 certification in one year, starting from ground zero, was the gold ring, and one that only two other Jacobs' segments currently hold. Most organizations take at least two years to accomplish this. The auditors found all our personnel to be both willing and able to answer all their questions, and were very pleased with their reception.

The lead auditor did leave us with the old axiom, "this is just the start of your continual improvement journey," but what a great start it is. As always, any and all of your feedback is welcome.

– Joe Costa, Mission Assurance Director

Be a Part of MAF Goes Green Program



Please tell us how you would like to help MAF go green. We need you to answer some questions and select from the volunteer options proposed so far. We are especially interested in your ideas for other options that we could pursue. Please see your administrator for a survey.

Return the completed survey to your area administrator.

If you have any questions, please send an email to maryalice.daly@nasa.gov or call 504-234-9010.

Hurricane Hotlines

When a storm approaches and an evacuation is called or once the storm has passed, you can get the latest information from these sources:

- MAF information line – (800) 611-3116 or (504) 257-1MAF
- MAF Status website – <http://mafstatus.com>
- Local news media

Tip: Program the numbers into your cell phone and bookmark the website in your personal computers now!

Top This!

Broadmoor Construction of Metairie, La., held a “topping out” ceremony July 27 at NASA’s Michoud Assembly Facility. The event marked the last beam placed on the new Vertical Assembly Building (VAB), a 160-foot-tall structure that will be completed this fall.

NASA, Jacobs and Boeing officials watched as the beam was set in place by Broadmoor workers. The VAB is being built to support NASA’s next generation of space flight vehicles.



MEF Wraps Up Week at Michoud

The Michoud Education Fellows (MEF) spent the day at Stennis Space Center July 15. The teachers wrapped up a week of activities July 12-16 at the Michoud Assembly Facility (MAF) where they interviewed MAF personnel about their journey to their NASA job. Pictured in the photo in front of the Stennis visitor center (back row left to right) are Circe Bridges of Copper Mill Elementary; Kathy Trees of Pearl River High; Christina Hotard of Monteleone Junior High; and Pam Blanchard of LSU. Seated in the front row (left to right) are Diana Morgan of Salmen High; Lisa Redmon of Copper Mill Elementary; Renee Davis of Madisonville Junior High and Paulette Perrin of St. Tammany Parish Schools. The purpose of the MEF program is to provide educators an opportunity to explore the ways math, communication, science content and inquiry skills are used by MAF workers. The teachers will attend five course meetings at LSU on Saturdays during the 2010-11 school year.



Upward Bound at UNO



Site Services manager Jason Clayton takes time out of his day to talk with New Orleans area high school students about the NASA Michoud Assembly Facility July 19 on the University of New Orleans campus. The university hosted an "Upward Bound" program designed for bright, motivated students interested in being the first in their family to pursue a college degree.

Team 1912 Tours MAF



Team Combustion 1912, a FIRST Robotics team from Northshore High School in Slidell, toured NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility June 23. Before the tour, the team presented four of its sponsors, Lockheed Martin, Qualis, Jacobs and Sierra Lobo with plaques. To find out more about the Northshore High team, go to www.team1912.com.



Jacobs and Southern University Team Up

From left to right: Vic Silecky of Jacobs Technology; Mike Gavion; Jansen Combs; Darrell Hunter of Southern University; Cheryl Redmon of Qualis; Brian Warren and Dr. Sam Washington of Southern University. Southern is a teammate of Jacobs on the manufacturing support and facilities operations contract at the Michoud Assembly Facility. Gavion, Combs and Hunter were instrumental in supporting and standing up Michoud's laboratory operations. The Southern team spoke about their Michoud role at the Jacobs 2010 Technology, Education, and Business Symposium in Houston July 27.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Michoud Assembly Facility
13800 Old Gentilly Rd.
New Orleans, LA 70129
<http://maf.msfc.nasa.gov>

www.nasa.gov

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Acting MAF COO: Steve Doering
Editors: John Filostrat and Angela Storey
Layout/Design: Shannon Jurado
Photographers: Chip Howat and Steven Seipel

