



michoud messenger

Volume 2, Issue 10 | October 1, 2010

Blowout Preventer Arrives at MAF

A barge carrying the blowout preventer (BOP) arrived at the NASA Michoud Assembly Facility (MAF) Sept. 11. The BOP, a 300-ton device, failed to stop the Gulf of Mexico oil spill after the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig exploded April 20. The BOP is being analyzed by investigators.

The Department of the Interior (DOI), on behalf of the Joint Investigation by the U.S. Coast Guard and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement, is contracting for expert BOP forensic analysis services to conduct a scientific and technical analysis of the Deepwater Horizon BOP stack. The analysis will be performed by an independent third party that will be vetted through the DOI competitive contracting process. The Joint Investigation will determine the objectives, parameters and protocol for the testing with input from all agencies and the parties in interest to the investigation.

The device was lifted from a mile beneath the sea

and later transported to MAF. The April 20 explosion killed 11 workers and spilled more than 200 million gallons of oil in the Gulf of Mexico.

The U.S. Coast Guard's Base Support Unit is located at MAF, which has access to the Gulf and Mississippi River. MAF was chosen to house the BOP due to its secure facility and strategic waterway location.

The BOP is an important piece of evidence. The goal of the forensic work at MAF is to determine the sequence of events on April 20, and factors that contributed to the BOP stack's failure to operate as intended.

The Deepwater Horizon's Blow-Out Preventer arrived at the NASA Michoud Assembly Facility Sept. 11. The hardware will be examined as evidence in an official investigation into the cause of the accident.



Letters from Leadership

As I read this newsletter I am reminded of the precision of our name, Michoud Assembly Facility Operations, and the intrinsic importance of the work we do. I enjoy this reminder. I know that I need this reminder, and I don't think I am alone in this. By week's end, I occasionally wonder what was really accomplished, why do what we do, what is better now than before and what will be better in the future? Without a consistent recorder of achievement, pride and success like the Messenger, our everyday work that demands unwavering dedication and passion could become "just a job." Unless we step back from our day-to-day activities to reflect on the historic nature of the extraordinary products and services that we support, we risk becoming insensitive to the elite nature of our work and our inherent responsibilities as industry leaders.

I remember when Dr. Michael Griffin, previous NASA Administrator, accepted the 2007 Quasar Award for economic development excellence. His economics-centric acceptance speech was somewhat NASA/Space Program specific, but his ideas on "acceptable reasons" and "real reasons" for space related expenditures offer a compelling answer to any question of why we pursue technological advances. He specified these "real reasons" as our desire to compete, our sense of human curiosity, our wonder and awe at the unknown and the unending quest for knowledge. Dr. Griffin referenced Norman Mailer's book "Of a Fire on the Moon," to highlight the kind of people who recognize the importance, power and majesty of a technological event; people who engage in such things; people like us.

As you read The Messenger, step back and consider for a minute the broader influence of the work we do. Think about the enduring benefit to humankind from the Michoud Assembly Facility, from our contributions, from all the associated companies and people providing their individual support to the history of space exploration, fusion energy research, transportation, infrastructure, biotechnology and the environment. Realize the magnitude of all of this and take pride that 100, 500 or 1,000 years from now, the world will be better, in part, because of what we are involved in today.

– Pat Campbell
Vice President and Deputy General Manager
Jacobs Technology, MAF

Heroes of the Storm

Members of the Michoud Assembly Facility Hurricane Katrina ride-out crew attended a Red Cross event called "Heroes of the Storm" Aug. 28. From left to right are John Pucheu, Joe Barrett, Steve Francis, James Ford, John Fisher, Dan Doell, Will Henderson and Steven Roshto. The event honored all the First Responders who rescued, saved lives, and healed the city in the post-hurricane chaos. The MAF ride-out crew stayed behind during the storm and made sure the facility remained operational during and after Katrina.



ET-122 Rollout

External Tank (ET) 122, also known as the "Katrina Tank," is loaded into the Pegasus barge at Michoud Assembly Facility Sept. 20. ET 122 was refurbished by Lockheed Martin workers and is the last ET to be shipped to Kennedy Space Center (KSC) in 2010. The tank was damaged during Hurricane Katrina in 2005.



Employee Spotlight

Boyett Junior High Football Team

This month's "Employee Spotlight" shifts gears to spotlight the community service provided by many of our Michoud employees – in this case, volunteer service to local schools. We all know that schools need volunteers, but many of us don't think that we can help because of our busy work schedules. However, there are many after school activities, from athletics to clubs, which depend on volunteers and really need our individual skills and talents. One lucky recipient of such dedicated support is the Boyett Junior High Football team whose head coach called one of his former players, Kris Bordelon (Jacobs), to find out if he could volunteer his afternoons after work to be an assistant coach. Kris gave an enthusiastic "Yes!" and is now in his second year of providing support, experience and mentorship to the team members. As a young man, Kris is demonstrating to these students that they mat-

ter and merit his time and attention. He is sharing the lessons of dedication, hard work and teamwork that he learned as a player while modeling the importance of giving back to the community. We salute Kris and all the dedicated Michoud volunteers who are making a difference in our schools and in the lives of our children.

Have you found your own way of giving back to your community? If so, tell us about it and help us to let others know of volunteer opportunities available in our communities. You just may point the way for them to get involved, meet other committed citizens of their area and enjoy themselves while making a school, neighborhood, city, state or country a better place to live.

Share your story by sending an email to maryalice.daly@nasa.gov.

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!

Leadership Development Program Participants

Information Technology manager Will Henderson and Reliability Engineer manager Larry Koenenn have been selected to participate in the 2011 Jacobs Technology Leadership Development Program (LDP). Both Henderson and Koenenn are recognized as individuals who continually demonstrate outstanding management and leadership skills. The LDP is a year-long program designed to enhance and improve Jacobs and the program. Last year, Jacobs employees at Michoud who participated in the LDP were Business Development Director Ray Vogel, Business Office Manager Heather Brooks and Robert Poche, an engineer in the Facilities Maintenance and Operations Department.



Larry Koenenn



Will Henderson

Jacobs Visits LSU and Southern

Jacobs Technology employees who work at NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility participated in career days at both Louisiana State University (LSU) and Southern University in Baton Rouge Sept. 14 and 15. Jacobs Technology Human Relations Manager Ron Kent talked to hundreds of students during the two-day event and came away with a good impression of the schools.

"Both universities offer quality graduates and we look forward to having some of them work for us," added Kent. He said many students were interested in internships at Michoud, which Jacobs offers.

Southern intern William Burrell and LSU intern

Glenn Stewart participated in both events with Kent. Burrell is a Southern senior graduating with a civil engineering degree while Stewart will graduate with a degree in industrial engineering from LSU. Both served as Jacobs Ambassadors at their universities and said they look forward to careers with Jacobs.

Burrell interned with Jacobs at Michoud in the Safety and Industrial Hygiene Department over the summer while Stewart worked in business development.

Both interns said the experience helped them apply what they learned in school to real world situations.



Jacobs LSU Intern Glenn Stewart talks to a student while Ron Kent looks on. They participated in the LSU career fair Sept. 14 in Baton Rouge. Hundreds of businesses participated in LSU's career fair inside the Pete Maravich Assembly Center.



Southern students Aaron Davis (left), William Burrell (center) and Austin Mouton (right) pose in front of the Jacobs booth at the Southern career fair Sept. 15 in Baton Rouge. Hundreds of students attended the annual career fair.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

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