



# michoud messenger

Volume 3, Issue 12 | December 1, 2011

## SLS Industry Day at Michoud

On Nov 14th, Michoud Assembly Facility hosted an industry day to present NASA's approach to procuring its Space Launch System. Attended by over 100 different companies seeking information about participating as a supplier to the program, the event began with a welcome and opening comments from Michoud Assembly Facility Director Steve Doering. SLS Executive Jody Singer presented an overview of the SLS Program, followed with a presentation about NASA's procurement strategy, delivered by NASA Procurement Officer Ed Pendley.

Rounding out the afternoon were presentations by John Honeycutt, NASA Stages Manager outlining the SLS Stages Elements, Robert Champion, Michoud Chief Operating Officer briefing the MAF Business Model and Affordability Initiatives, and finally im Taylor, MSFC Site Development Coordinator talking about the contracting process at MAF. After the pre-

sentations, attendees were offered a chance to tour the facility and see firsthand the extensive manufacturing capabilities at MAF.

Four stops included a friction stir welding demonstration, an introduction to the services included in MAF's pay-by-the-service business model including high-speed machining and metal fabrication shops, the materials test lab, metrology calibration lab, carbon fiber composite layup and cure capabilities, non-destructive evaluation techniques, as well as a peek at the Orion Multi Purpose Crew Vehicle manufacturing area and OFT-1 which is scheduled to fly in 2014.

The event was a success for NASA in showcasing Michoud Assembly Facility to potential industry partners and highlighting MAF's cost-effective capabilities available to build the large-scale stage components needed for the SLS program.



## On Your Marks... Get Set... GO!



MAF officials recently gathered to hold a ribbon cutting ceremony to open Michoud's new exercise track. Pictured left to right: Malcolm Wood, Alva Chase, Dr. Juan Blanch, Dr. Claudette Millsap-Austin, Captain Eric Johnson, Dennis Secketa, Calvin Turner, John White. After the ribbon cutting, a series of relay races pitting tenant teams in a friendly competition was held. The new track is one mile in circumference and open for all tenants to use.

## SLS Stages Tour



The SLS Stages Office recently visited Michoud in order to get a feel for MAF's capabilities and manufacturing layout. Since team members are located throughout the country, the event also allowed the group to participate in a series of team building exercises.

## Find Us On Facebook



Friend "Nasa Michoud" the official Facebook site of NASA Michoud Assembly Facility to stay up to date about all things MAF!

## Civil Air Patrol Visit



Several members of the Louisiana Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) visited Michoud on November 21st to view the facility and learn from Michoud's Stephen Turner.

The CAP is a congressionally chartered, federally supported auxiliary branch of the Air Force composed of volunteers. CAP uses aviation as a cornerstone to promote aerospace education, leadership training, physical fitness and moral leadership in children and young adults ages 12-21. The mission of the CAP is threefold: To educate its members and the general public on aerospace technology; to provide a Cadet Program that offers opportunities for adolescents to advance through ranks and earn experience in Air Force type situations, including flight time; and thirdly, the CAP is capable of providing emergency response services including search and rescue operations both in the air and on the ground. Most famous of which include anti-submarine activities in World War II and as the first damage assessment plane to fly over ground zero after 9/11.

Within NASA's mission towards STEM education, Steve Turner said "the CAP Cadets are the pinnacle of NASA's goal to reach new minds and cultivate them for Math, Science and Engineering Futures." The tour facilitates two missions for the CAP, their commitment to aerospace education by allowing their members to view first-hand the technology being developed at Michoud, and to provide aerospace oriented programs for their cadets by scheduling field trips that bring cadets to the heart of the spaces program in Louisiana. This particular visit focused on NASA's next step in space exploration, with a great deal of time spent discussing Orion and the Space Launch System including a discussion on how their generation can get involved in space exploration as they get older.

# Letters from Leadership

Our goal here at the Michoud Assembly Facility is to foster a culture of caring that achieves an accident-free, injury-free workplace. During a recent safety stand-down, Michoud hosted Billy Robbins, an internationally acclaimed safety presenter, to drive home this message to MAF.

As a double-amputee due to a preventable accident on the job, Billy's message was that an accident-free, injury-free workplace is both possible and achievable by shifting our attitude and not making excuses that lead to a lapse in judgement. His un-orthodox presentation style reinforced the need for MAF to work together and create a workplace environment where we can all leave work better off than when we came in.

In a very real way, personal safety and a culture of caring for each other on the job is the major contributor in helping NASA achieve mission success. Please keep in mind that all of our lives are intertwined and that those ties do not get severed when we leave the gates at the end of our workday. The culture of caring at MAF and our attitude on safety should carry over into all of our relationships and spill into every aspect of our lives.

Traditionally, NASA has not shrunk from doing the "hard things" and because of the workforce's determination and grit, we have been able to accomplish some incredibly difficult feats in our service to The United States of America. At MAF, We are not a hardware-rich environment, but a people-rich environment. It is not the hardware and the tooling that allows us to do the "hard things" and to do them successfully, it is each of YOU. Your safety, health, and well-being both on the job here and at home, is important to your families, to NASA, and to the Site Contractors. Together, let's not shrink from our responsibility of safety and keep a laser-focus on creating an accident-free, injury-free workplace. It is possible!

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to personally wish each of you Happy Holidays and thank you for your dedication to NASA's mission.

– Steve Doering  
Director, Michoud Assembly Facility



## MAF Welcomes NOFD!



Michoud Leadership recently welcomed members of the New Orleans Fire Department to MAF. Pictured from left: Deputy for Special Operations Joseph Matthews, Integration and Ops Support Lead Cynthia Spraul, Assistant Superintendent Timothy McConnell, Deputy COO Malcolm Wood, Superintendent Charles Parent, S&MA and Security Lead Steve Turner, and District Chief Stephen Schmitt. The Firehouse will now be permanently staffed 24/7 by members of the New Orleans Fire Department. The NOFD staff will provide basic EMT service and first response capabilities to MAF. Please continue to call the MAF dispatch office at 911 on an in-house phone, or 504-257-2672 in the event of an emergency.

# BeyondZero Leadership Team Formed

The BeyondZero program at Michoud is not just about preaching safety in the workplace. BeyondZero is a mindset that all accidents are preventable and that our greatest concern should be toward the safety and wellbeing of co-workers. It is about creating a culture of caring that transcends safety to connect with the hearts and minds of every Manufacturing Support and Facility Operating Contract (MSFOC) employee.

In order to nurture and grow such a positive work environment, the BeyondZero Leadership Team was formed. This organization is tasked with building a shared vision and consistency throughout Michoud by championing commitment to a BeyondZero state of mind. By focusing on the core values of people, relationships and growth, the BeyondZero Leadership Team seeks to accomplish their vision by engaging leadership, changing attitudes, and creating ownership.

According to member Bernie Zagorski, "BeyondZero is about empowering individuals to take control of their work environment. It's about a commitment to yourself and a responsibility you have to your co-workers, to ensure that everyone goes home better off than

when they came in that day."

BeyondZero is a way to strengthen relationships as well as engender respect, accountability, and teamwork within the workforce. It is a belief that each individual is responsible for building an environment that emphasizes caring, compassion, and consideration for our fellow MSFOC teammates.

The BeyondZero Leadership Team seeks to build an environment that reflects loyalty to workers, supports collaboration and communication, and enhances cohesion in the workplace. The end result of these efforts is to create a healthy care and respect in the workplace that nurtures a collaborative, competitive team who values each employee and their families.

Facilitator Vince Lombardy sums up the new organization's

mission, "We need to engage employees at all levels to restore respect, accountability and teamwork by encouraging individual leadership development. In order for our organization to embody a true "Culture of Caring", everyone needs to step up and assume a leadership role; and ask the same of their team members. We must act as one voice that demands the best and safest performance from everyone, every day."

In the end, the buildings and facilities at MAF are meaningless without it's workforce. BeyondZero and a culture of caring protects and respects Michoud's greatest asset – it's people. For more information about the BeyondZero Leadership Team, please contact Vince Lombardy at [vincent.f.lombardy@nasa.gov](mailto:vincent.f.lombardy@nasa.gov).



Jacobs recently sponsored Billy Robbins, a widely acclaimed and internationally recognized motivational safety speaker. His personal story combined with a unique style of presentation that engaged the audience, was a stark reminder to everyone that an accident-free workplace is achievable and sustainable.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

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

[www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov)

michoud**messenger**

Volume 3, Issue 12 | December 1, 2011

MAF COO: Robert Champion

Editors: Chip Howat and Angela Storey

Layout/Design: Shannon Jurado

Photographers: Steven Seipel and Eric Bordelon,

