



# michoud messenger

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## Sparks Fly as MAF & JSC Collaborate on CPAS

Johnson Space Center is developing and testing the Capsule Parachute Assembly System for the Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle – and when it came time to start putting torch to metal, they chose Michoud to perform the work.

Michoud Assembly Facility machinists and welders began work on the Forebody Weldment in September 2011. The forebody is part of the test frame structure, used for development testing of the Crew Exploration Vehicle Parachute Assembly System (CPAS). Once the work is completed, the structure will be trucked to Johnson and assembled into the test frame. Projected delivery of the CPAS forebody is scheduled for mid-February.

Once the test frame and its additional features are integrated, it will be brought to the Yuma Proving Grounds in Arizona. The test system will be dropped from a Boeing C-17 airlifter flying at an altitude of approximately 25,000 feet. The parachute assembly system will then be tested, first by

deploying two drogue chutes and then the three primary parachutes. During the entire test, data will be gathered about the chute system's performance and reliability.

Michoud's Test Lab is overseeing the work for Johnson. Lab Manager Stiles Thompson said Johnson is pleased with the progress. "With every project comes challenges, but we have been able to maintain our schedule due to the hard work and dedication of the machinists and welders assembling the forebody," Thompson said.

The work was awarded to Michoud based on earlier work performed for JSC, when Michoud built and delivered the weldment for the Mid Altitude Deployment System (MADS) in July 2011. MADS was exposed to the rigors of development testing and performed extremely well. To watch a video of the MADS test – as well as a time-lapse video of the MADS test bed integration – visit: <http://www.youtube.com/user/NA-SACPAS>.



*Sparks fly as Michoud employee Glenn Daubert grinds the surface of the Capsule Parachute Assembly System forebody smooth in preparation for a weld.*



# Laissez le Bon Temps Rouler

*...but don't forget to be safe!*

Carnival season is an exciting time for all New Orleanians. But with the fun of the holiday comes certain risks. It is important that we remain focused on our “Beyond Zero” philosophy while enjoying the holiday to ensure we keep ourselves and our families safe.

## Beyond Zero Safety Tips

Here are some easy-to-follow safety tips

- Always be aware of your surroundings, and make sure you are familiar with the places you intend to visit.
- Avoid vacant areas and dark alleys. Remember: There is strength in numbers, so stay with a group.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash or expensive jewelry. Keep your ID and cash in your front pocket to discourage pickpockets.

When watching parades...

- Never run between floats or chase floats for beads, and do not reach under a float – even if it is stopped.
- Stay alert and ready to catch beads and trinkets being thrown during a parade.
- Never leave children unattended. Have a meeting place in case anyone in your group gets separated or lost. Remember: Cell phone reception can be spotty due to the large number of people using the cell systems.
- Be responsible if you are going to be drinking. Set up a designated driver or take a taxi

It is easy to get carried away during the festivities, but we should always be mindful to keep ourselves safe while having a good time. Let's work together to have an accident-free/injury-free holiday. Happy Mardi Gras!

# Stirring It Up!



Todd Duhon, a Boeing welder at the Michoud Assembly Facility in east New Orleans, observes the robotic weld process that will be used in manufacturing of the nation's next-generation Space Launch System. Boeing is working on process development activities for the program. Here, they are using friction stir welding to join a spun dome structure to a Y-Ring.

# CMRP Graduates



Congratulations to the Jacobs teammates who passed the Certified Maintenance and Reliability Professional exam in December. To date, 51 Michoud employees have passed the rigorous exam, which covers topics including Strategic Business Planning, Manufacturing Process Reliability, Equipment Reliability, Work Management and Organizational Leadership. Pictured: (top row, left to right) Jane Kennedy, Joy Frosch, Cheryl Redmon, David Petry, Stacie Thomas, Sean Barnes, Tamora Houser and Jeff Garth (bottom row, left to right) Paula Perez, Vickie Schmersahl, Rik Fineout, Byron Walker, Gerald Bothner, David Nolting, Derek Ybarra and Greg Heaslip. Not pictured are Arlan Cochran and Anthony Murray.

# Throw Me Something, Mister!

Hone your bead-catching skills and help a good cause at the same time. The Lockheed Martin Leadership Association is hosting a bead drive! Drop them in the collection boxes and the beads will be donated to STARC, an organization that helps people with developmental disabilities.



For more information, contact Steven Deblasio at 257-1289



## Letters from Leadership



On Jan. 26, NASA and Michoud Assembly Facility honored and paid tribute to the men and women who have lost their lives in pursuit of NASA's mission. This solemn occasion is a reminder that the work we do at Michoud is challenging and requires a focused team effort.

Workplace safety must always be at the forefront of our minds and we must continually rededicate ourselves to an accident-free/injury-free workplace. The ultimate sacrifice made by NASA's heroes should frame the ambitious path our nation is pursuing as we build on our accomplishments and reach out to explore deep space.

The work being done at Michoud to enable deep space exploration continues. The structure for Orion Flight Test One (OFT-1), now being built by Lockheed Martin, is continuing to take shape. Boeing continues to make great progress on their process development using the RWT3 machines. And Jacobs is hard at work on the fore-body for the Crew Exploration Vehicle Parachute Assembly System.

While it's exciting to see hardware being produced at our facility, with its rich legacy of spaceflight hardware manufacturing and delivery, let's not look past the fact that the true legacy being built at Michoud is the quality of our workforce. We are Michoud's greatest asset, and together we are positioning ourselves for continued growth.

Thank you for your personal dedication and the many sacrifices you make each day as we prepare our facility for the future. If we are to truly honor the sacrifices made by those who came before us, we must build on their success and create an affordable, sustainable path to deep space.

*Wishing you a safe and happy Mardi Gras,  
Steve Doering*

## USDA Hosts Monthly Diabetes Support Group

USDA employee Richard Parks has organized a Diabetes Support Group that is free of charge for all Michoud employees. The group is open to team members who have diabetes, have a family member with diabetes, or are interested in learning more about diabetes.

As a Type 2 diabetic himself, Parks "has a strong interest in helping people deal with a disease which many view as a stressful, never-ending experience," he said. He believes support groups "provide a place outside the clinical setting for diabetics to reach out to others suffering from the same illness... There are valuable lessons to be gained from listening to others speak of their experiences."

The support group meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m.

in the St. John Conference Room (Bldg. 350, First Floor, Post S15). If you would like more information, please contact Parks at [richard.parks@nfc.usda.gov](mailto:richard.parks@nfc.usda.gov).



## USDA HR Moves to New Location



*United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Jacobs Manufacturing Support and Facilities Operating Contract (MSFOC) employees gathered in a newly renovated space in Building 350 that will house USDA's Human Resources department. Pictured from left to right: MSFOC employees Terry Herrin and Dave Turnage; USDA Deputy Calvin Turner; MSFOC employee Tony Murray; USDA employees Michael Jackson, Lynne Chaplain, Erroll Williams, Joyce Yoe and Wardell Jones; and MSFOC employees Larry Jackson and Joe Wiley.*

# Science Fair Fun!



Michoud employees volunteered their time at St. Tammany Jr. High School (STJH) on Jan. 12 to help judge the school's science fair. Pictured from left to right, MSFOC employee Steven Hanburg, STJH Science Teacher Crystal Drake and NASA employee Cynthia Spraul judged projects in categories that spanned a range of scientific disciplines. The group is standing behind a material science project in which the student researched the sound absorption characteristics of multiple acoustic foam samples.

# Coats for Clark High

Michoud Assembly Facility employees joined together this holiday season to make winter a bit warmer for high school students at Clark Sr. High School in New Orleans.

In a coat drive organized by Manufacturing Support and Facilities Operating Contract (MSFOC) employee Denise Sanders, Michoud succeeded in collecting 50 coats, jackets and sweatshirts for donation to underprivileged, needy and even homeless young people who attend Clark. In addition, MSFOC Teammate Sierra Lobo donated 20 uniform shirts to the school.

Recently, NASA donated 50 computers to Clark. They will be used in classrooms to improve the learning experience of the students.



Pictured from left to right: Sierra Lobo employees Joe Wiley and Denise Sanders present some of the donated items to Clark Sr. High student representatives Jaquan, Chris and Shannon; Community Initiatives Coordinator Mike Jayes; and Principal Reginald Coleman.



## ... to Fight Hunger

**Saturday, February 25**  
1pm - 4pm

700 Edwards Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70123



**Second Harvest Food Bank**  
Greater New Orleans and Acadiana

**All MAF Tenants Welcome!**

To participate, contact Chip Howat at 257-0478 or [carl.j.howat@nasa.gov](mailto:carl.j.howat@nasa.gov).

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

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