



Michoud messenger

Volume 4, Issue 3 | March 1, 2012

NASA DA Lori Garver Visits Michoud

NASA Deputy Administrator Lori Garver visited the Michoud Assembly Facility Feb. 23 to host a press conference with members of the New Orleans media and to tour the Orion and Space Launch System production areas. The press conference was held in Building 103 with Michoud's Robotic Weld Tool 3 as the backdrop.

Garver, after being introduced by NASA Director of Michoud Chris Crumbly, began the press conference by acknowledging Michoud's long legacy of service to our country's spacefaring ambitions. "If you are a space person, then you know that Michoud has contributed to NASA's rich and meaningful history," she said. "Just within the last few years, you have literally saved the human spaceflight program with the ride-out crew for the space shuttle." The ride-out crew was a team of dedicated Michoud employees who stayed at Michoud during Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

The Deputy Administrator discussed the proposed \$17.7-billion NASA budget being presented by the White House to Congress. While NASA's 2013 budget request remains flat, Garver emphasized that it provides a stable platform that will allow for a sustainable, continued investment in new technology enabling humans to push deeper into space than ever before. She affirmed NASA's commitment to human space exploration of our solar system, saying, "NASA, with the vehicles being built at Michoud, will be pushing into the next challenge of human deep space exploration with missions to asteroids and then on to Mars."

After the press conference, Garver toured Michoud. Joined by Todd May, SLS Program Manager, Garver's first stop was to meet with Ricardo Navarro, Director of Manufacturing, Assembly, and Operations for Boeing, to get an update on the SLS process development work and view the tooling that will be used to build the next-generation rocket. Garver then met with Jim Bray, Lockheed Martin Director, Orion Crew and Service Module IPT Lead to review the progress being made on the Orion Exploration Flight Test 1 vehicle.



All for What?



On Feb. 23, Charlie Morecraft visited Michoud and spoke to employees about his tragic, on-the-job experience. Burned across more than 50 percent of his body, he recounted his near-death experience and the pain he inflicted on himself and his family, all because he chose to circumvent established safety rules and procedures. His presentation was a stark reminder that we all need to take personal responsibility for our actions and our safety as we work together to create an accident-free, injury-free workplace. As Charlie repeatedly commented during his presentation, "All for what?"

CPAS is Complete



The Capsule Parachute Assembly System forebody weldment was completed Feb. 13 and delivered to Johnson Space Center in anticipation of the upcoming testing. Before its departure, the team, including NASA and Manufacturing Support and Facility Operations Contract employees, gathered for a photo. Congratulations to the team for another Michoud Mission Success.

MAF's 6th Annual Plant Swap

Come share your cuttings or seeds and gardening tips with other "Green Thumbs".
March 29th from 11am to 1pm, in Exploration Park.

Letters from Leadership



As many of you already may be aware, Michoud is undergoing a leadership transformation. Steve Doering has accepted a new position at Marshall Space Flight Center as Director of Center Operations. Chris Crumbly has been appointed to succeed Steve as director of Michoud, and I have accepted

the position of deputy director. I'd like to take this opportunity to wish Steve well and thank him for the outstanding job he performed as director of Michoud Assembly Facility.

Under Steve's three-year tenure we have seen many changes. When he began his service as director of MAF, there was concern about the continued viability of Michoud as the shuttle program wound down. Steve helped to formulate a plan to ensure Michoud's successful, financially sustainable future, and during his term oversaw accomplishments that are unique across NASA.

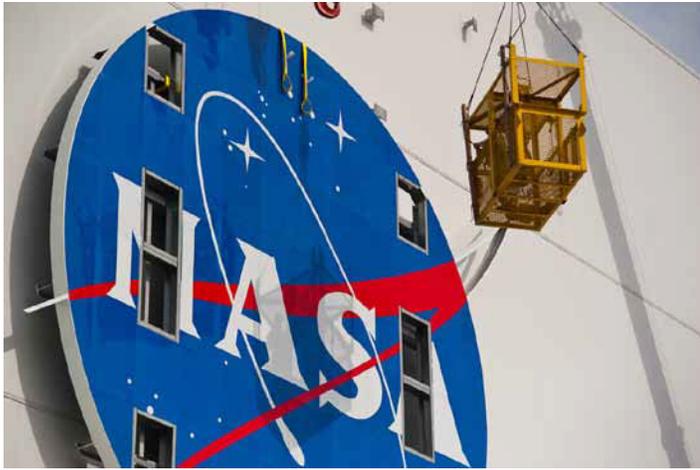
The successful transformation of MAF from a single-tenant facility to a multi-tenant facility happened under Steve's watch. With the addition of our new commercial tenants -- Blade Dynamics, B-K Engineering and Big Easy Productions -- Michoud has had a successful start in developing the site.

The Orion Program was able to deliver their first product, the ground test article, with Steve's unwavering support. The next year promises to be equally exciting as we release our first enhanced-use lease agreements and begin construction of facility modifications for the SLS program.

With Steve's leadership and a team effort, we have managed to dramatically reduce operating costs, increase our tenant base and improve operating efficiency. He leaves MAF with a legacy of a "can do" attitude. On behalf of Michoud, we would like to thank Steve for a job well done, setting our unique facility on a path toward a great and productive future.

— Robert Champion, Michoud Assembly Facility Director

Loud and Proud!



NASA partnered with Jacobs Technology to erect a giant NASA logo outside Michoud's new high bay facility, Building 115.

Jacobs Technology tapped Broadmoor Construction LLC, which also worked on the initial construction of the building, to perform an architectural assessment that determined the sign's location on the west face of the building. Johnson McAdams, an architecture and engineering firm in Greenwood, Miss., furnished the design package for the sign and mounting base consistent with the architectural study's findings.

Jacobs Technology Project Manager Eric Shoemaker stayed on top of the project and delivered it to NASA on budget and within schedule. "The team was proud to play a part in installing such an important symbol of NASA's continued vitality at Michoud," Shoemaker said. He also commended the team for

doing the job safely, without injury or accident.

Hanging the giant insignia required great coordination and skill from the team. The finished logo measures 40 feet across, weighs 16,000 pounds and is made of more than 87 panels designed to withstand 150-mph winds. The crew had to work more than 150 feet in the air as they fastened the panels in place. The durable, porcelain enamel panel finish offers a 25-year service life, so the sign is built to last.

The NASA insignia reflects the history and tradition of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Designed in 1959, the NASA logo contains the following elements: the sphere representing a planet, the stars representing space, the vector representing aeronautics and the orbit representing space travel.



LAS Takes Shape

Lockheed Martin continues to make great strides fabricating carbon fiber components for use in Orion's Launch Abort System and Service Module. Pictured above: Michoud's fiber placement machine lays down a carbon fiber material in a fabric-like pattern to create a section of the Motor Adapter Truss Assembly. During the automated fiber placement process, epoxy impregnated graphite fiber material is fed from the refrigerated creel house through the fiber placement head, which applies heat and pressure to consolidate the material on the lay-up mold. The adapter then will be placed inside Michoud's autoclave to cure the part under high pressure and temperature.

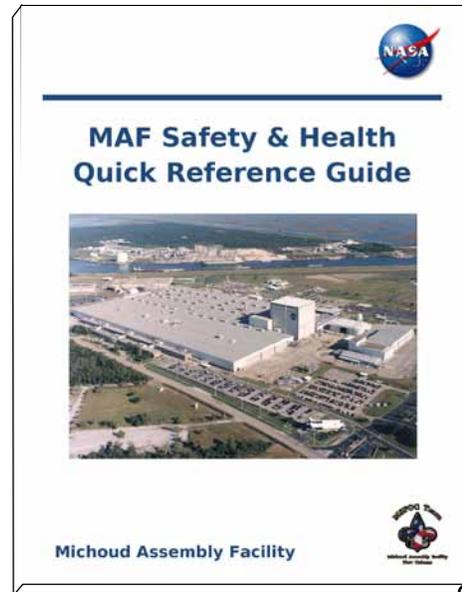


MAF Fights Hunger



Employees at NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility came together with their families Feb. 25 to assist Second Harvest Food Bank and fight hunger across southern Louisiana. The team helped to assemble more than 8,000 bags of oranges, which will be distributed to those in need. Thanks to those who came out and volunteered their time. Front: Talia Neal-Walthall, Abby Costa, Kaitlin Ditmore, Adair Vulevich, Olivia Howat and Chip Howat; Middle: Joe Costa, Kimberly Haisch, Gregory Woods, Wendy Waren, Alyssa Navarro, Juliana Navarro, Caitlyn Cochran and Luke Cochran; Back: Sam Senter, Sean Barnes, Drue Deshotels, Ric Navarro, Christine Navarro, Arlan Cochran, Corey Armont and Michelle Guillot.

Keep it Handy



The MAF Safety & Health Quick Reference Guide has been distributed to all tenants at Michoud. If you did not receive a copy, please contact the MSFOC Safety department at 504-257-0723. Particularly handy as you plan your work, the Appendix section gives you examples of the permits needed to complete your tasks. It's a great way to help you keep your job compliant with NASA safety regulations.

Michoud Roundtable Discussion

Councilmember Jon Johnson, who chairs the Economic Development and Special Projects Committee for the New Orleans City Council, recently visited the facility to hold a Michoud Roundtable Discussion. The discussion included representatives from many companies based in the Michoud corridor. On the agenda was a discussion about the upcoming Michoud Front Door Project. Still in the design stage, the Front Door Project aims to make improvements to the roadways leading up to Michoud.



National Aeronautics and Space Administration

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