National Aeronautics and Space Administration

michoud messenger

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Michoud Employees receive President's Volunteer Service Award

Lockheed Martin held a luncheon on April 17th to honor Michoud employees who contributed a significant amount of volunteer hours in service to their community. Employees Curtis Craig, Keith Joiner, Darren Kearney, Scott Marshall, Coralie Arrcement-Buffone, Brian Dejan, and David Lander were honored at the event.

Lockheed Martin Michoud Assembly Facility Senior Manager Matt Wallo presented the awards on behalf of The President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, who recognized these individuals for their dedication and service to the community in 2011. "I would like to thank these individuals for their outstanding contributions to the community as volunteers. LM employees have a long tradition of giving back to their communities, as it is part of who we are as a corporation and here locally," said Wallo. Last year, Lockheed Martin Michoud employees logged over 2,843 hours of volunteer service throughout the Greater New Orleans region.

Left to right: Scot Marshall, Darren Kearney, Caroline Arcement-Buffone, Keith Joiner, Curtis Craig, Brian Dejan, and David Ladner

Honored with the Silver Level of Service Award were employees Craig, Joiner, Kearney, and Marshall. They each donated between 250 and 500 hours of service throughout the year. Arcement-Buffone, Dejan, and Lander were honored with the Bronze Level of Service Award for donating between 100 and 249 hours of service in the community. Each person received a special pin, a personalized certificate of appreciation, and a congratulatory letter from President Barack Obama

The President's Council on Service and Civic Participation was established in 2003 to recognize the valuable contributions volunteers are making in our communities and encourage more people to serve. The Council created the President's Volunteer Service Award program as a way to thank and honor Americans who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service.

Congratulations to these individuals for their support and dedication to the community

MSFOC Stands Down for Safety

Jacobs Technology and Manufacturing Support and Facility Operations Contract (MSFOC) employees held a Safety Stand Down on April 19 that featured a number of contests and activities meant to "drive" home the Beyond Zero philosophy of an accident free, injury-free workplace. The event was organized by the Safety Department and the Employee Morale and Welfare Committee.

In the Under-The-Influence Contest, participants would put on a pair of DUI goggles and "walk the line." The DUI goggles create the same impaired vision and disorientation that someone would experience while under the influence of alcohol. After walking the line, the participant was then asked to pilot a remote control vehicle through an obstacle course with out knocking anything over. All of the participants in this challenge were then entered into a random drawing in which employee Dale Heintzelman walked away with the $150.00 prize.

The Vehicle Backing Challenge required 2 participants to team together as a driver and a spotter and back the vehicle between safety cones topped with tennis balls. The goal was to get as close to the tennis balls as possible without knocking them off the cones. This activity "drove" home the message that you should always use a spotter when backing up. All challenge participants were entered into a random drawing won by employee Anesha Demourelle, who scored a 32 inch HDTV.

Other highlights included a lunch of boiled crawfish or hot dogs served by MSFOC leadership and a quiz to test your knowledge of Beyond Zero.

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For more information, please contact Maryalice Daly at maryalice.daly@nasa.gov.

Letters from Leadership

We now have two orbiters delivered and being prepped for their new mission to remind countless future generations of the dedication, perseverance, and national pride that became the hallmarks of the Shuttle program. The very fact that these vehicles can be placed on display is a reflection of the quality workmanship and attention to detail that Michoud poured into each External Tank.

Currently, Michoud's primary mission is to contribute much of the hardware that our agency will need as our country pursues the human exploration of our solar system. We have been hard at work on the Orion MPCV program and nearing the completion of our second structure, the EFT-1 vehicle. Also, we will begin to see many physical changes in our facility as existing tools are modified and new tools are installed to accommodate the SLS program. It's an exciting time to be at Michoud, as we take on a new mission and focus on our future.

In a few days, Michoud and NASA are about to experience another mission success, albeit through the eyes of a private company, SpaceX. "But wait!" you may be saying, "None of their hardware was built here." Some may also argue, "They are our competition!" I would urge you to look at it in an alternate way.

Michoud has gained over 40 years' worth of experience in building flight hardware, and just as parents pass along hard-won knowledge to their children, our agency has done the same with commercial spaceflight. Much of what we have learned right here at Michoud, as well as throughout the agency, about building safer rockets can be found in the Falcon 9, and any other commercial vehicle being built.

The commercial spaceflight industry is growing up and "leaving the nest" as it were. NASA is helping them to stand on their own through our engineering and safety workforce capability. I would urge you to cheer these private companies on to success and take pride in the fact that we are helping in their success, because quite frankly, we NEED for them to succeed if we are to be successful in our ambition to explore deep space. Let's cheer the commercial successes in LEO, so that we, as an agency, can focus our efforts on achieving what is currently not possible.

I look forward to taking the experience we have gained over 50 plus years, and bringing it to bear on solving the challenges we face in pushing humans deeper into space than ever before. This is an exciting time at Michoud and I'm proud to be part of the team here.

– Robert Champion, Michoud Deputy Director

Dropped Again!

The Capsule Parachute Assembly System (CPAS) sled built here at Michoud recently underwent a second round of testing on April 17. NASA conducted a test of the Orion crew vehicle's entry, descent and landing parachutes high above the Arizona desert in preparation for the vehicle's orbital flight test, Exploration Flight Test-1. The two primary objectives were to determine how the entire system would respond if one of the three main parachutes inflated too quickly and to validate the drogue parachute design by testing at a high dynamic pressure that closely mimicked the environments expected for Exploration Flight Test-1

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For more information, contact Chip Howat at carl.j.howat@nasa.gov.

Radzanowski Visits Michoud

On April 12, NASA Chief of Staff Daniel Radzanowski visited Michoud for a tour of the facility. During his visit, he stopped for a quick photo-op with Michoud leadership. Pictured left to right: Terry Hagan, Malcolm Wood, Robert Champion, Daniel Radzanowski, Bryan Barley, Mike Dawson and Bob Fudickar.

Journey to Careers

MSFOC employee Steven Seipel visited Hahnville High School on April 12 to participate in a career day. The Journey to Careers program focuses on many key components of student success: character education, study skills and reading strategies, personal interests and talents, exploration of the various career fields, and post high school options. The program also gives students an opportunity to experience the interview process. Left to Right: Steven Seipel, Don Bordelon, Mike Efferson, Jodi Falgout, Cindy Tzerefos, Cathy Becnel, Yolanda Hingle, Lori Brown.

Rotary briefed on Michoud's Mission

NASA's Michoud Deputy Director Robert Champion met with members of the New Orleans Rotary Club to discuss Michoud's multi-tenant business model and talk a little bit about the Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle and the Space Launch System rocket. Founded in 1914, The New Orleans Rotary Club is the 12th oldest Rotary Club in the country. Rotary is an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide, who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

Team Combustion

Jacobs employees Ron Kent and Pat Campbell present a JETS Excellence Award (Jacobs Engineering, Technology and Science) to Northshore High School's First Robotics Team, Team Combustion. The team received the region's highest award and earned a place to compete in the national tournament. Jacobs also helps the team through volunteers who donate their time as mentors to the students.

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