



National Aeronautics and Space Administration



LAGNIAPPE

John C. Stennis Space Center

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July 2011

End of an era

Atlantis launches on final shuttle mission

Space shuttle Atlantis lifts off from Launch Pad 39A at Kennedy Space Center on July 8 on its STS-135 mission, marking the final flight for NASA's 30-year Space Shuttle Program. The mission is Atlantis' 33rd flight to space and the 37th shuttle mission to the International Space Station. The four-member Atlantis crew is carrying the Raffaello multipurpose logistics module, packed with supplies and spare parts to the space station. The mission also is flying a system to investigate the potential for robotically refueling existing spacecraft and is returning a failed ammonia pump module to help NASA better understand and improve pump designs. Upon return, Atlantis will join shuttles Discovery and Endeavour in retirement.



Stennis celebrates major safety achievement

Stennis Space Center celebrated a major workplace achievement June 9 with a flag ceremony to signify its status as a VPP (Voluntary Protection Program) Star site, a designation of safety excellence.

"I am extremely proud of the entire Stennis team," center Deputy Director Rick Gilbrech said. "Achieving Voluntary Protection Program Star site status is a great

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Stennis Space Center Deputy Director Rick Gilbrech (right) accepts a plaque designating the test facility as a Voluntary Protection Program Star site. Presenting the plaque is Clyde Payne, area director for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration in Jackson, Miss.



From the desk of

Jo Ann Larson

Equal Opportunity Manager
Office of Diversity
and Equal Opportunity



What did you and your family do to celebrate July Fourth this year? Many of us celebrated the birth of our nation and the establishment of our freedom with picnics, parades and fireworks. Along with all the festivities, hopefully we remembered that our precious freedom is not free. Countless men and women have made sacrifices protecting and serving the United States of America. Even though we celebrated Independence Day earlier in the month, we can still demonstrate our support for all who have given so much to preserve the liberty and freedoms we celebrate. So, while enjoying BBQs, picnics, sunshine and vacations with family this time of year, take a moment and thank those who have risked their lives and made great sacrifices for all of us – our active military and our nation’s veterans.

Independence Day also commemorates our human rights and equality. Think about it:

We have freedom. Our democratic government guarantees freedom of speech, freedom of religion and the right to pursue happiness as we see fit.

We have choice. Freedom of choice is one of our most

important rights. We can choose where to live and what career path to pursue.

We have opportunity. In many nations, a person’s position in the social order is defined at birth. We have the opportunity to change our circumstances through education and hard work.

This July Fourth, I also reflected on the summer my family took me to New York City to watch the fireworks exploding in the harbor above the Statue of Liberty. I remember looking at Ellis Island as the backdrop and imagining my Irish immigrant great-grandparents landing there and beginning their new life. Now, when I think of the Statue of Liberty, I think how this ultimate symbol of America is also the symbol of how our nation has always welcomed immigrants. Every day, thousands leave their homeland to come to the “land of the free and the home of the brave” so they can begin their American Dream.

The famous inscription on Lady Liberty reminds us of this: “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door.”

Thank God for America, where we can cherish and value the freedom given to us. We are truly blessed. We are free. We are Americans.

Celebrate America!

Scheuermann visits Capitol Hill delegations

Stennis Space Center Director Patrick Scheuermann (left) visited U.S. Rep. Steven Palazzo, R-Miss., and other members of the Louisiana and Mississippi congressional delegations in Washington, D.C., on June 14-15. Scheuermann visited Capitol Hill with other NASA center directors for the two days of meetings. Palazzo is serving his first term in Congress and chairs the U.S. House Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, a key congressional body that helps determine the future of the nation’s space program.



FULFILLING NASA'S EXPLORATION MISSION

LH tank installed on A-3 Test Stand



Stennis Space Center employees marked another construction milestone July 25 with installation of the 85,000-gallon liquid hydrogen tank atop the A-3 Test Stand. The 300-foot-tall stand is being built to test next-generation rocket engines that could carry humans into deep space once more. The liquid hydrogen tank and a 35,000-gallon liquid oxygen tank installed atop the steel structure earlier in June will provide fuel propellants for testing the engines. The water, isopropyl alcohol and liquid oxygen tanks installed upright at ground level (to the left of the stand in the top photo) will support the chemical steam generators to be used on the stand. Steam produced by a series of the generators will be used to reduce pressure inside the stand's test cell diffuser, allowing operators to simulate altitudes up to 100,000 feet. Testing at such simulated altitudes is critical for next-generation rocket engines, which must start and restart in space in order to carry humans beyond low-Earth orbit. The A-3 Test Stand is the first large test structure built at Stennis Space Center since the 1960s. Ground for the new stand was broken in August 2007. The A-3 Test Stand is scheduled for completion and activation in 2013.



2011 NASA Honor Awards

John C. Stennis Space Center Director Patrick Scheuermann and Marshall Space Flight Center Director Robert Lightfoot presented annual NASA Honor Awards during an onsite ceremony July 14.

Four Stennis Space Center employees received NASA's Exceptional Service Medal. The prestigious medal is awarded for significant, sustained performance characterized by unusual initiative or creative ability that clearly demonstrates substantial improvements or contributions in engineering, aeronautics, space flight, administration, support or space-related endeavors that contribute to NASA's mission.

E. Paul Foerman, public affairs officer at Stennis Space Center, received an Exceptional Service Medal for significant



contributions in keeping the public informed, educated and engaged in NASA activities. Foerman began his career at NASA in 1999 and has since led in planning and conducting major outreach activities to showcase Stennis' regional and global impact. Adept in all areas of mass communications, Foerman's contributions to post-Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts were invaluable and earned national recognition. In his current position, he manages a full range of public affairs activities and serves as a key spokesman for communicating with the media, elected officials and the general public.

Jenette Gordon, an environmental specialist in the Environmental Office of the Stennis Center Operations Directorate, received an Exceptional Service Medal for 37 years of service at the rocket engine test facility. Gordon works with NASA and resident agencies at Stennis to provide expertise and assistance in meeting environmental regulatory requirements

while satisfying mission needs. Her efforts and expertise cover all areas of environmental concern, including natural and cultural resources, water pollution prevention, air emissions, soil contaminants, hazardous chemicals and hazardous waste. Gordon maintains an open work environment through which she continually generates innovative solutions toward improved operations.



Terrell "Wendall" Pigott,

lead of the Institutional Service Branch in the Stennis Office of the Chief Financial Officer, received an Exceptional Service Medal for his expertise and leadership in institutional operations. Pigott guides civil servants and contractors in the areas of operating plan development, budget implementation, multiyear budget formulation, contract analysis and funds management to ensure the most effective use of limited resources, as well as the integrity and accuracy of NASA's financial information. He guides development and implementation of the center's institutional budgets and works with managers to ensure requirements are consolidated, analyzed and prepared for all budget calls.



Maury Vander,

manager of the Mechanical Test Operations Branch of the Stennis Engineering & Test Directorate, received an Exceptional Service Medal for his outstanding and sustained leadership in rocket propulsion testing. Vander has held numerous technical positions of increasing responsibility.



In his current role, he has provided superior support to multiple project customers and additionally served as the first test conductor for the AJ26 commercial flight engine test project. His technical capabilities have enabled him to serve as a test conductor for three different families of flight engines, an accomplishment of distinction in the history of Stennis. His efforts provide consistently strong Stennis support toward the achievement of NASA's strategic goals.

Four Stennis employees received NASA's Exceptional Achievement Medal. The prestigious medal recognizes a significant, specific accomplishment or contribution that improves operations, efficiency, service, science or technology contributing to the NASA mission.

Arlen "Ken" Griffey,

information technology specialist for the Stennis Center Operations Directorate, received an Exceptional Achievement Medal for leading the successful transition of the National Center for Critical Information Processing and Storage facility from the Department of the Navy to NASA. His efforts were of critical significance as the shared services data center facility serves numerous high-profile customers, including several federal agencies. Griffey led development of a marketing plan to extend the services facility to more agencies. In addition, he has guided various development efforts to help the facility realize its full potential.



Robert Gargiulo, chief safety officer for the A-3 Test Stand Project for the Stennis Office of Safety & Mission Assurance, received an Exceptional Achievement Medal for his safety leadership on the test stand construction project. Gargiulo advises the project manager on safety and

quality assurance issues, provides a frontline voice for safety concerns, and serves as the integrator for the test complex safety and mission assurance arrangement. In addition to these responsibilities, he has contributed outstanding fiscal control for the entire A-3 Test Stand safety effort. His efforts have been recognized by OSHA and helped Stennis achieve a full fiscal year without a lost time incident in fiscal year 2010, a first for the center.



Charles "David" Liberto, a program manager in the Stennis Project Directorate, received an Exceptional Achievement Medal for his leadership of the Taurus II AJ26 team in initiating acceptance testing of the commercial rocket engine. The test project is a collaborative effort with NASA, Orbital Sciences Corporation and Aerojet. Liberto has successfully responded to changing requirements, schedule impacts and technical challenges and has completed negotiations with Orbital for a follow-on Space Act Agreement to support additional testing through 2016. Liberto has also made significant contributions to the space shuttle main engine testing project over the years, generating about \$700,000 in cost recovery.



and in formulating solutions to address the matters. The solutions have resulted in cost savings and mitigated design issues that could have led to underperformance of the stand components. Woods' expert knowledge of test facility requirements, applicable national and internal design codes, and technical expertise make him the "go to" person on the project team for all technical issues.

One Stennis employee received NASA's Exceptional Public Service Medal. It is awarded to persons who are not government employees but made exceptional contributions to the mission of NASA.

Maria Lott, an employee with the Jacobs Technology Facility Operating Services Contract Group and Stennis Astro Camp director, received an Exceptional Public Service Medal for her excellent leadership during the past 16 years. Lott has increased student interest and aptitude in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and has helped the Astro Camp program grow from two one-week sessions per summer to 12 one-week summer sessions, eight Saturday



camps per year, a technology-based camp for 13-15 year-olds, and multiple high visibility offsite presentations per year. In the past five years alone, Astro Camp has reached an estimated 2,998 onsite and 25,115 offsite participants.

Several additional Stennis Space Center individuals and groups were recognized for service and contributions during the NASA Honor Awards ceremony. These honors included:

NASA Space Flight Awareness Leadership Award

Kerry D. Klein
Don H. Beckmeyer

J. Harry Guin Outstanding Leadership Award

Jeffrey W. Lott

Length of Service Awards

40 years

Larry W. Pigott

30 years

Laurence de Quay
Melissa P. Ferguson
Peter P. Gruzinskas
Richard W. Harris
Leanne Olson
Mary C. Whitehead

See **AWARDS**, Page 6

Jody Woods, chief engineer of the A-3 Test Stand Project for the Stennis Engineering & Test Directorate, received an Exceptional Achievement Medal for his leadership of the test stand construction effort. The A-3 stand is the first large test structure to be built at Stennis since the 1960s. Woods has led in identifying key technical issues



Group Achievement Award
LOX Barge Pump Modernization Team

AWARDS

Continued from Page 5

25 years

- Curtis D. Armstrong
- Clifton T. Arnold Jr.
- Cheryl L. Cuevas
- Diana L. Heberling
- Michael F. Killam
- Dale L. Sewell
- Charles C. Thurman
- Mark F. Warren



Group Achievement Award – Records Retention Facility Team

Group Achievement Awards

LOX Barge Pump Modernization Team

NASA

- Katie Carr
- Randolph Holland
- Marvin Horne
- Scott Jensen
- Nathan Laborde
- Bryon Maynard
- Steven Taylor

- Craig Fennessy
- Robert Ferguson
- Paul Floyd
- James Fortenberry
- Monroe Frazier
- Dale Green
- David Greene
- Alan Guin
- Louis Hathcock
- David Harriel
- Edward Johnson
- Robert Jones
- Daniel Lambert
- Chadwick Ladner
- Jackie Ladner
- Matthew Ladner
- Preston Ladner
- Robin Ladner
- James Landrum
- Joel Lee
- Jerry Lewis
- Jesse Luc

- Rickey Lyons
- David McConnell
- James McGuire
- Jacob McKinley
- Stanley Mitchell
- William Moran
- Gary Mosher
- Don Necaise
- William Nunley
- Curtis Olive
- Michael Olsen
- Kevin Parker
- Cleveland Pichon Jr.
- Mark Powe
- Mickey Reid
- Matthew Seal
- Michael Smith
- Anthony Sones
- Richard Spooner
- Ronald Thomas II
- Ryan Weir
- Grady Wilson
- Mark Wittorf
- Samuel Wright
- Richard Young
- Robert Zar

Contractor Support

- Gary Allen
- Roy Ard
- David Blansett
- Kirby Campbell
- Louis Carrier
- James Clark
- Steven Costello
- Nolan Crosby
- Billy Davis
- John Davis
- Jonile Dumas
- Leon Faciane



Group Achievement Award – Rocket Propulsion Test Project Prioritization Team

University of Southern Mississippi
Lawrence Haselmaier

Records Retention Facility Team

NASA

- James Cluff
- Troy Frisbie
- Mark Mick

Contractor Support

- Scott Andres
- Colby Albasini
- Cynthia Corona

Deanna Dartez
 Tessa Davis
 Harvey Frazier
 Laurie Green
 Ryan Grinder
 Tom Gutierrez
 Carlyn Hennig
 Elizabeth Howard
 Blake Hymel
 Donna Johnston
 Rhonda Lavigne
 Thomas Mitchell
 Shannon Narcisse
 Margie Pharr
 Lance Richardson
 Raymond Smith
 Steve Tate



Group Achievement Award – Stennis' Teaching From Space Team

Stennis' Teaching From Space Team

NASA

Dawn Davis
 Michael Gernhardt (JSC)
 Wendy Holladay
 Lucien Junkin (JSC)
 Cynthia McArthur (JSC)
 Rosa Obregon
 Alotta Taylor (HQ)
 Katie Wallace

Contractor Support

Jack Allen
 Barbara Murphy
 John Boffenmyer
 Cheryl Guilbeau
 Carla Kamlade
 Kenneth Christian
 Randall Hicks
 Angela Lane
 Jennifer Melton
 Diana Nunez

Sherrill Reynolds
 Emma Seiler
 Perry Schmidt
 Christopher Smith
 Calvin Thompson

Oklahoma State University

Matt Keil
 Carla Rosenberg
 Timothy Witherspoon

Pennsylvania State University

Stephen Cullivan

Shearer Vogt & Associates, LLC

Greg Vogt

Rocket Propulsion Test Project Prioritization Team

NASA

Louis Barrera (MSFC)
 Michele Beisler

Ricky Courtney (MSFC)
 Gerald Hill (GRC)
 Edward Johnson (MSFC)
 Robert Kowalski (WSTF)
 Bryon Maynard
 Michael Nichols (MSFC)
 Larry Pigott
 Kevin Power
 Jared Sass (KSC)
 David Taylor (GRC)
 Mark Warren

Contractor Support

Herbert Jones
 Patrick Skrmetti

Taurus II AJ26 Engine Test Operations Support Team

NASA

Daniel Allgood
 Christopher Carmichael
 Kelly Currin (KSC)
 Laurence de Quay
 Kimberly Driebergen
 Jennifer Franzo
 Wendy Holladay
 Melissa Huggins
 Scott Jensen
 Bridget Jones
 Justin Junell
 Charles Liberto
 Jeffrey Lott
 Thomas Meredith
 Christopher Mulkey
 Thomas Nicolaidis
 Rosa Obregon
 Christine Powell



Group Achievement Award – Taurus II AJ26 Engine Test Operations Support Team

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AWARDS

Continued from Page 7

Amy Rice
 Ronald Rigney
 David Roberts
 Eric Ross
 Gigi Savona
 Travis Snelling
 Dwayne Stockstill
 Steve Taylor
 Charles Thurman
 Maury Vander
 Richard Wear

Contractor Support

Glen Beech
 Gary Bennett
 Van Bolden
 Terrence Burrel
 Dennis Butts
 Sam Clay
 Nick Coleman
 Steve Costello
 Scott Curet
 Mike Easley
 Willie Ellis
 Jody Falcon
 Susan Fendley
 Scott Fleming
 Richard Franzl
 Keith Fulton
 Bradley Gallagher
 Scottie Gipson
 Dale Green
 Brianne Guillot
 Josh Hancock
 Mark Hancock
 Ken Hawkins
 Doug Henderson

Shaun Herring
 Pete Hobgood
 Mike Hodge
 Wayne Hodge
 Kurt Jarrell
 Marsella Jones
 Travis Kennedy
 Greg Ladner
 Lester Langford
 Mark Lichtenstein Jr.
 Bill Lipscomb
 Frank Lorusso
 Jeff Mallet
 Bruce Matthews
 Kenneth McCormack
 Benny McGrath
 Jacob McKinley
 Greg McVay
 Todd Meitzler
 Mark Mitchell
 Stan Mitchell
 Ken Montgomery
 Ken Morgan
 Jon Morris
 Chad Northrop
 Randy Overton
 Kayla Powell
 Jamie Parker
 Kevin Parker
 Mounir Sabbagh
 Paul Sanderson
 Michael Slade
 Davis Slavinsky
 Bill Spansel
 Darrin Spansel
 Chip Smith
 Mike Smith
 Tim Smith
 David Thomas
 Nathan Varnado

Terry Wactor
 Greg Walls

**University of Southern
 Mississippi**
 Anita Wilson

Special Recognition Awards

**Director's Certificate
 of Appreciation**
 Clifton T. Arnold Jr.

NASA Honor Awards

SMD American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Team

Randolph Holland
 Steven Taylor
 Dao Kooamphorn
 Gerald Norris
 Edward Toomey
 Deborah Norton
 Rena Perwien
 Bruce Spiering
 Theadore Mason
 James Bevis

Cross Agency Support Appropriation Transition Team

Gerald Norris
 Mary Whitehead
 James Bevis

One Stop Shopping Initiative Nathan Sovik

**Summer of Innovation Pilot
 Project**
 Katie Wallace

VPP

Continued from Page 1

accomplishment that demonstrates the commitment and involvement from all of our NASA contractors and civil servants. Our VPP journey began back in 2007 and reflects a lot of hard work on everyone's part. The dramatic improvements in our safety record reflect a true culture change and underpin the emphasis we as site leaders place on protecting our most valuable resource – our talented people.”

The Occupational Safety and Health

Administration established VPP in 1982 as a proactive safety management model to recognize excellence in safety and health. Since then, more than 2,000 organizations have been designated VPP Star sites. To reach that goal, an organization must demonstrate comprehensive and successful safety and health management programs in the workplace. This includes achieving injury and illness rates at or below the national average of their respective industries.

In the evaluation process, OSHA reviews safety and health policies and conducts onsite visits as well. Once VPP Star status is achieved, OSHA

returns at regular intervals to make sure designated sites are continuing in safety and health efforts. NASA and its five major NASA contractors worked together and underwent OSHA review to receive Star status. Throughout that process, Stennis officials worked to educate the center workforce of the importance of good safety and health practices.

Reports indicate VPP Star sites see a decline in injuries and lost time, as well as a drop in workers' comp rates. Leaders say the emphasis promotes a deeper sense of teamwork, especially at a site like Stennis, where multiple agencies must coordinate efforts.

Stennis, state partner on reef project

One giant sphere is making the leap from space exploration to ocean recreation at Stennis Space Center. Every time Bryon Maynard would drive by the Apollo-era sphere in the A Test Complex, he would consider how good an artificial reef it would make.

Thanks to a NASA partnership with the state of Mississippi, Maynard, a lead system engineer in the NASA Engineering & Test Directorate at Stennis, soon will know the answer.

On June 17, Stennis employees moved the 107,000-gallon liquid hydrogen sphere to a nearby barge for transport from the site. The state of Mississippi will lower the sphere into 85 feet of water in Fish Hatchery #13, about 23 miles south of Pascagoula.

The sphere was built in the 1960s as a reservoir for liquid hydrogen in the event of an emergency during testing of Saturn V second stages at Stennis. No such emergency ever arose.

“The sphere no longer was needed after the Saturn V Program ended,” Maynard explained. “A lot of people forgot what it was or what it had been built for. It became known as the ‘big round thing.’ Everyone who visited out here would ask about it.”



A 107,000-gallon liquid hydrogen sphere no longer needed at Stennis Space Center is barged through the facility locks June 21. It will be placed offshore as an artificial reef.

Earlier this year, Stennis slated the sphere for demolition. Maynard knew it was a chance to test his idea and drafted a proposal to convert the sphere through Mississippi’s artificial reef program. There were no environmental issues in using the sphere in this way. It would provide a positive recycling project and also make a “cool-looking” attraction for recreational scuba divers like himself, Maynard said. In addition, it would cost NASA no more to donate the sphere than to destroy it.

NASA and the Mississippi Depart-

ment of Marine Resources embraced the idea. Stennis employees prepared the sphere for removal, which included cutting a series of holes for water pass-through and diver access. The sphere and two other smaller tanks were moved to the waiting barge June 17. The barge headed from the Stennis dock June 21.

The 98,000-pound sphere now will be transported from an offsite staging area to its offshore resting place. “The ‘big round thing’ may be gone from Stennis, but at least it was not cut up into pieces,” Maynard said. “It’s providing a continuing benefit.”

Expo highlights Stennis IT services

Stennis Space Center employees enjoyed an opportunity to learn about available and emerging information technology services during the seventh annual IT Expo in the Roy S. Estess Building on June 21. The expo featured exhibits on a variety of services and capabilities, including applications support, IT security, video production, audiovisual services and records management. It was sponsored by the Stennis Office of the Chief Information Officer. In addition to exhibits, the annual event featured seminars throughout the day to highlight different IT topics and emerging IT technologies.



NASA combats 1963 mosquito infestation



Editor's Note: John C. Stennis Space Center has played a pivotal role in the success of the nation's space program. This month, Lagniappe looks back on an important moment in the center's history.

Forty-eight years ago, NASA launched one of the largest aerial spraying operations ever conducted in this part of the country. Plagued by the common, pesky, salt marsh mosquito, NASA called on the U.S. Public Health Service for assistance.

Two experts in mosquito control studied the situation at the then-Mississippi Test Operations site in Hancock County. Onsite construction workers worried about a cloud of mosquitoes that had descended on the area. About 99.9 percent of the work at the rocket test center would be outside for the next few years – putting the workers at the mercy of the pests.

Construction workers had to wear mosquito nets and keep cans of spray handy in order to stay outside. In some areas, mosquitoes would dive-bomb a worker at the rate of 80 attacks per minute. The average rate of mosquito bites ranged from 40 to 60 bites per person per minute.

The survey revealed that the majority of mosquitoes were local, Mississippi insects. The experts strongly recommended a joint eradication program by all the communities surrounding the NASA test site.

To rid this area of the pests, NASA made special arrangements with the U.S. Air Force. Two C-123 airplanes, flown from Langley Field, Va., were used for the monumental spraying operation. NASA furnished the spray for the project.

More than 100,000 acres were sprayed twice a day by the



Employees prepare for aerial spraying of the entire Mississippi Gulf Coast and St. Tammany Parish, La., to combat a 1963 mosquito infestation.

planes. About a week later, the mosquito count had been reduced to less than 10 mosquitoes per person per minute. Experts considered that to be a “livable” condition.

46 years ago

July 1, 1965 – Mississippi Test Operations designated Mississippi Test Facility.

15 years ago

July 2, 1996 – NASA Headquarters announces Stennis Space Center will conduct and manage engine component testing for the X-33 rocket engine.

Two years ago

July 29, 2009 – The last scheduled test of a space shuttle main engine is conducted at the A-2 Test Stand.

One year ago

July 14, 2010 – An Aerojet AJ26 rocket engine is delivered for installation at the E-1 Test Stand as part of Stennis' partnership with Orbital Sciences Corporation to provide commercial cargo transportation missions to the International Space Station.

Leadership Mississippi Class visits Stennis

Members of the 2011 Leadership Mississippi Class sponsored by the Mississippi Economic Council stand in front of the A-3 Test Stand at Stennis Space Center during a visit to the rocket engine test facility June 10. Leadership Mississippi is an annual program of the Mississippi Economic Council designed to help participants deepen their background and understanding of issues facing the state and provide them with effective tools to develop initiatives to improve the quality of life in Mississippi. Stennis visitors included Michael and Marsella Farnam (with son Taylor), Delaurence Johnson, and James and Loretta Jackson-Williams. The visit included briefings on work under way at Stennis and a tour of the A-3 Test Stand construction site. The A-3 stand is the first large test structure to be built at Stennis since the 1960s and will allow testing of next-generation rocket engines at simulated altitudes up to 100,000 feet.



Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity

NASA committed to end discrimination

NASA provides financial assistance to a wide range of recipients, including institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations and private corporations. NASA awards over \$1 billion a year in financial assistance to these entities. This assistance comes mainly in the form of grants and cooperative agreements between NASA and its recipients.

Under federal civil rights law, all recipients of NASA financial assistance are prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age. NASA enforces four civil rights laws prohibiting discrimination among programs and activities receiving NASA financial assistance. These prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age. The laws represent a national commitment to end discrimination in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. The laws also assist NASA in promoting one of its core values – fostering “a culture of trust, respect, teamwork, communication, creativity, equal opportunity and empowerment.”

Within NASA, the Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity (ODEO) is charged with enforcing the four laws to protect the rights of beneficiaries in programs or activities receiving NASA financial assistance. Part of

ODEO’s charge is to receive, investigate and adjudicate complaints alleging violations of the civil rights laws by recipients of NASA assistance.

The regulations contain specific requirements for recipients of federal funds on issuing notices of nondiscrimination and publicly disseminating nondiscrimination requirements. Notification may include posting information notices, publishing in local newspapers, or distributing written communications to employees and beneficiaries of the programs and activities operated by the recipient.

Anyone who believes that a recipient of NASA financial assistance has discriminated against someone may file a complaint under one or more of the civil rights laws. A complaint must be filed within 90 days of the alleged discrimination, unless the time is extended by ODEO for good cause. It should be noted that a recipient of NASA financial assistance may not retaliate against any person who has made a complaint, testified, assisted or participated in an investigation or proceeding under the discrimination laws.

For additional information, contact Brian Hey at 228-688-1249 or visit the ODEO website at: <http://odeo.hq.nasa.gov/documents/nondiscrimination.pdf>.



Feds Feed Families Food Drive under way at Stennis

NASA employees Anita Douglas (l to r), Amy Grose, Aaron Brooks and Cabrina Bell sort through early contributions to the third Feds Feed Families Food Drive under way at Stennis Space Center. All federal agencies are working together this summer to reach a nationwide goal of collecting at least 2 million pounds of nonperishable food for local food banks across the country. NASA centers are working together to collect at least 110,000 pounds of food donations by the end of August. The agency is running a friendly competition between the centers to see which one can top the others by averaging the most weight in donations per employee.

Hail & Farewell

NASA bids farewell to the following:

Casey Kirchner AST, mech. experimental equipment Engineering & Test Directorate

And welcomes the following:

Angela Hall Management and program analyst Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Gina Ladner AST, experimental facilities development Center Operations Directorate

William Driebergen Realty specialist Center Operations Directorate

Michael Perotti AST, facility systems safety Office of Safety & Mission Assurance

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NASA teams with Keesler

Young people prepare model rockets during an Astro Camp activity at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi. Stennis hosted the camp June 28 - July 1 in support of the White House Military Families Initiative. The camp also marked the beginning of a partnership between Stennis and Keesler to provide NASA education experiences to military children and to train children and youth care-providers. It is hoped that this activity can be expanded to other military bases next summer.



Astro STARS eye the sun

Tom Nicolaides, an aerospace technologist in the Engineering & Test Directorate at Stennis Space Center, looks on as 2011 Astro STARS participants take turns gazing at the sun through a special telescope. The sun-gazing activity was part of the Astro STARS (Spaceflight, Technology, Astronomy & Robotics at Stennis) camp for 13-to-15-year-olds June 27 - July 1. The weeklong science and technology camp is held each year onsite at the rocket engine test facility.

Stennis director visits USM business facility

Stennis Space Center Director Patrick Scheuermann (left) joins Sunny Webb, executive director of The Accelerator facility at the University of Southern Mississippi, on a tour of the business incubator. NASA grants have provided key support for research efforts within The Accelerator. Officially named The National Materials Science Innovation and Commercialization Accelerator, the 60,000-square foot incubator provides space for offices, laboratories and storage; the latest advances in technology; and expert guidance for companies attempting to grow a business from the ground up. Scheuermann also visited the National Center for Spectator Sports Safety and Security, which also has partnered with NASA in its work. Scheuermann cited such efforts as demonstrating how strategic partnerships "can produce important technological innovations that benefit society."

