A renaming ceremony of the National Scientific Balloon Facility in Palestine, Texas, to the Columbia Scientific Balloon Facility (CSBF) was held on Thursday, February 23, 2006.

The 90-minute ceremony began with the presentation of colors by the Fort Worth Naval Air Station, National Guard. The University of Texas at Tyler’s Patriot Singers and brass quintet performed the National Anthem.

Balloon Program Office Chief, Dave Pierce, welcomed the 250 guests and introduced the speakers that included Danny Ball, CSBF Site Manager; State Senator Todd Staples; State Representative Byron Cook; U.S. Congressman Jeb Hensarling; and NASA astronauts, Drs. Stanley Love and John Grunsfeld. Dr. John Campbell, Wallops Senior Manager, concluded the ceremony with an unveiling of the new gate sign for the Facility.

Rep. Hensarling proposed the name change to the House Committee on Science on April 26, 2005, as a reminder of what the crew of the space shuttle Columbia stood for: honor, bravery and the quest for knowledge for generations to come. NASA officially changed the name of the Facility on August 8, 2005.

On February 1, 2003, the Columbia and crew were lost over the western United States during re-entry into Earth’s atmosphere. The 28th and final flight of Columbia (STS-107) was a 16-day mission dedicated to research in physical, life and space sciences.

The balloon facility was established in 1961 by the National Science Foundation in Boulder, Colo. It moved to Palestine in 1963. It was named the National Scientific Balloon Facility in January 1973. In 1982, sponsorship of the Facility was transferred to NASA.

The Facility provides complete balloon operation services and engineering support to the scientific community in the United States and several foreign countries.

Operation services include inflating and launching the balloon, tracking and recovery of the payload, tele-command and data retrieval.

Engineering support includes balloon systems and electronics’ design and materials research.

Seventy-four on-site contract employees work at the Facility in support of NASA’s international balloon operations.

NASA Wallops Flight Facility manages the scientific balloon program for the agency’s Science Mission Directorate.
What is CHARACTER COUNTS!
by Freda Johnson, Women of Wallops

CHARACTER COUNTS! is a program that influences millions of youth across the country, cutting misbehavior and crime rates, and improving students’ commitment to school.

The program teaches children that their character does count, enforces the six pillars of character, advocates character, and models good behavior.

The Women of Wallops (WOW) Outreach Subcommittee and the Wallops Equal Opportunity Office partnered with the Accomack County, (Va.), School Board and school officials in April 2005 to implement a CHARACTER COUNTS! program for the 8th grade classes at Arcadia Middle School. The program was introduced in the 2005-2006 school year.

The program addresses six pillars of character development: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

Bragging a Great Career
Career coach, Mary Mort will be available to visit with employees on March 1 or 2 in Building E-104, Room 307. A career coach can help you:

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Mail Awareness Seminar
Tuesday, February 28, 2006
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Building E-104, Room 310

Guest speakers will include
- David C. Forde, U.S. Postal Inspector
- Kimberly B. Johnston, V.P. Marketing, NASA FCU
- Debbie Watson, WFF Deputy Information Technology Security Manager

Learn:
- The do’s and don’ts for E-mail
- How thieves skim your personal information
- Tips for protecting yourself from phishing attacks
- How to minimize your risk for identity theft
- How to manage your personal information cautiously and with heightened sensitivity

Sponsored by the Wallops Mail Services Center, Logistics Management Division. For further information contact Terry Ewell, Acting Wallops Mail Manager at x1133

Lasko Space Heater Recall
A recent incident occurred at Goddard Space Flight involving a Lasko space heater, model 5700.

The heater plug melted and fused to the power strip. The investigation determined there was a recall on this product as well as model 5500.

The power cord connection can overheat and cause the cord to separate from the space heater. This poses a fire, burn and shock hazard. All space heaters of this type should be disconnected from power and removed from service immediately.

For additional information, visit http://www.laskoproducts.com/recall_heaters.html.

2006 National Women’s History Month
Women Builders of Communities and Dreams
11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Building E-2, Williamsburg Room
A panel of women will share the special strengths, characteristics and values that have shaped their lives and enabled them to influence the culture at NASA. Panelists include Lina Savkar, Director of the Office of Human Capital Management; Marilyn Tolliver, Chief of the Logistics Management Division; Dorothy Perkins, Deputy Director-Technical; Dot Zukor, Deputy Director of Earth-Sun Exploration Division; and Nadine Estes, President of WESCO.

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