

Inside Wallops

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NASA Wallops Demonstrates Capabilities with Successful Rocket Launch

The NASA Wallops Flight Facility demonstrated its quick response capabilities with the successful launch this morning of an U.S. Air Force Minotaur 1 rocket from the east coast of Virginia.

The rocket was launched at 7:00 a.m. (EST) carrying the Air Force Research Laboratory's TacSat-2 satellite and NASA's GeneSat-1 microsatellite.

"Since being selected by the Space and Missile Systems Center Space Development and Test Wing as the launch site a mere 7 months ago, Wallops personnel met all launch goals. Wallops personnel definitely have a 'can do' attitude and they did whatever was necessary to get the job done," said John Campbell, director of the Wallops Flight Facility.

"As we have been doing throughout our 61-year history, the Wallops staff responded quickly and efficiently to the country's launch needs," Campbell said.

"It was truly a team effort and an honor for the Facility to work with all the participants to support this successful launch," he added.

The satellites were launched on the four-stage Minotaur I launch vehicle contracted by the Space and Missile Systems Center through Orbital Sciences Corporation's Launch Systems Group.

The mission was conducted from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport's launch pad on the south end of Wallops Island.

Two Minotaur 1 rockets are scheduled for launch in 2007 from Wallops carrying the Near-Field Infrared Experiment (NFIRE) satellite in April and the TacSat-3 satellite in October. Both missions will use the Spaceport's launch pad.

For more information on the mission, visit: <http://www.wff.nasa.gov/tacsat2>



NASA Photo

Wallops Shorts....

Minotaur Puts Wallops In the News

Following a 5 a.m. press conference at the NASA Visitor Center after the scrubbed launch attempt on December 11, there were 289 media stories posted on the Internet. 30+ reporters and 4 remote T.V. trucks attended the press conference.

About 357 stories were posted on the Internet following the 7 a.m. launch and a 9 a.m. press conference on Saturday, December 16.

In the Field

A telemetry crew and motor crew are at Poker Flat Research Range, Alaska, to begin payload checks and motor build-up for the 2007 Winter Campaign.

Wallops personnel are in Kwajalein, Republic of the Marshall Islands, to support the launch of SpaceX's Falcon DEMO2 in late January, early February.

A team is in McMurdo Station, Antarctica, to conduct three scientific balloon launches.

April Davis, NASA Visitor Center, participated in a Career Fair at Northampton Middle School, Machipongo, Va., on December 6.

Off the Pad

The first of three NASA scientific balloons in the Antarctica Campaign was launched from McMurdo Station on December 15.

The 29.47 million cubic foot balloon carried the Antarctic Impulse Transient Array (ANITA) instrument. The radio telescope is designed to detect ultra-high-energy cosmic ray neutrinos created by collisions between cosmic rays and the cosmic microwave photons. ANITA will measure electro-magnetic impulses from neutrino interactions in the Antarctic ice.

ANITA is the first NASA observatory for neutrinos of any kind. Dr. Peter Gorham, University of Hawaii, is the principal investigator.



Photo courtesy of Danny Ball, CSBF.

The scientific balloon carrying the ANITA instrument as it passed over the South Pole at approximately 118,000 feet.

Wallops Annual Awards Ceremony

Senior managers from each of the Directorates at Goddard Space Flight Center were on hand December 8 to present years of service awards to the following NASA civil service employees. Employees who received NASA and Goddard Honor Awards and special awards during 2006 were recognized. Awards unique to Wallops also were presented and are listed below.

40 Years of Service

Gloria Sullivan
Frank Hoge
Craig Purdy

35 Years of Service

Lana Budd
Printis Drummond
Dave Moltedo

30 Years of Service

Jean Lopez
John Elliott
Garry Fisher
Wayne Powell
Tom Taylor
Jay Savage
Claude Linton
Roland Wescott
Stan Williams

25 Years of Service

Kent Stover
Roy Tolbert
Lisa Bass
Sandy Bowden
Denise Gramlich
David Stuchlik
Bruce Underwood

2006 Safety Award

The Wallops Flight Facility Safety Award recognizes an individual and a group who have contributed significantly to mission or work-place safety at Wallops.

The individual 2006 Safety Award was presented to **Darryll Covington**. He effectively performed safety duties both analytical and operational for remotely-piloted vehicle and balloon missions conducted at or for Wallops.

The group 2006 Safety Award was presented to the **Range Data Acquisition and Computation (RADAC) System Team**. This team worked arduously over two years replacing an aging system responsible for Range Safety.

Robert L. Krieger Award

The Robert L. Krieger Award is presented to an individual and a group who best represent the Wallops culture.

The individual 2006 Robert L. Krieger Award was presented to **Ron Taylor**, whose work is recognized by his peers, management, and the customer for completeness, attention to detail, level of documentation and most of all, technical excellence

The Krieger Group Award was presented to the **Wallops Procurement Group**, whose persistence and dedication allowed a field campaign to continue operations after risk of failing due to logistical issues.

Wallops Exchange and Morale Association Volunteer of the Year

For his dedicated support of WEMA activities during 2006, **William H. (Nut) Lankford** was presented a plaque and named Volunteer of the Year for continued logistical support in the areas of equipment and furniture moves for assemblies and special functions.

From a letter to Dr. Ed Weiler, Director, Goddard Space Flight Center:

"I would like to extend my sincere appreciation for the outstanding cooperation and service rendered by members of your staff. On November 30, a group of senior Army and Defense Advanced Research Agency scientists were scheduled to travel via Blackhawk helicopter from Washington, DC, to the Wallops Flight Facility your staff did a superb job of planning and coordinating the landing, establishing helicopter and personnel security and arranging ground transportation for the group. Their enthusiastic cooperation and professional response were outstanding. I would like particularly to commend Caroline Massey and Lisa Goga for their efforts..... Again, I offer my thanks to you and your staff for the excellent assistance."

Nelson M. Ford
Assistant Secretary of the Army

The next edition of
Inside Wallops will be
January 8, 2007.

Our best wishes for
the holiday season!

Betty, Rebecca, Keith and Ed
Wallops Public Affairs Office



2007 Healthier You Calendars

Are now available in the following buildings:

Security Lobby, N-127
Health Unit Lobby, F-160
Library Lobby, E-105
Gym Lobby, D-1
Cafeteria Lobby, E-2
NOAA Lobby

Inside Wallops is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* also may be found on the NASA Wallops Flight Facility homepage: www.wff.nasa.gov
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