

# Inside Wallops

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Goddard Space Flight Center  
Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Va.



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## NSROC Supports History-Breaking Launches

A NASA Sounding Rocket Operations Contract (NSROC) team from NASA Wallops Flight Facility participated in the launch of two ARAV-A (Aegis Readiness Assessment Vehicles – Class A) on November 6 from the Pacific Missile Range Facility, Barking Sands, Kauai, Hawaii.

The ARAV-A10 and A13 missions performed within defined requirements and were successfully engaged and intercepted by the USS Lake Erie, which was stationed off the coast of Kauai. This was the first simultaneous engagement of two ballistic missile type threats by a U.S. Aegis class warship.

The ARAV Program provided sub-caliber, signature augmented targets for the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense 3.6 Weapon Control System to track, engage, intercept and destroy. Flying a trajectory that is modeled closely with existing threat ballistic missile systems, the ARAV class targets are NSROC-provided rockets that deliver NSROC ignition systems, inertial measurement units and other third party systems to meet a pre-defined set of performance criteria.

In support of the Naval Surface Warfare Center, NSROC mission manager Tracy Gibb and a team of highly skilled NSROC engineers and technicians provided payload engineering, airframe manufacturing, flight performance analysis, motor services, environ-

mental testing, launcher calibration and support, and vehicle management for these vehicles.

Pre-launch support included fabrication, integration and flight preparation for four ARAV-A sounding rockets. Two of the sounding rockets were launched during the November 6 mission. The remaining two served as ready "hot" spares.

This effort verifies BMD 3.6 engagement capability with the successful, simultaneous engagement and intercept of two Group A targets. Under direction of the PMS 452 Aegis BMD Program Office, the mission was conducted as part of the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense program FTM-13 Stellar Gryffin test event. The test marked the tenth and eleventh successful intercepts by the Aegis ballistic missile defense system in thirteen attempts.

The Aegis BMD mission is to deliver an enduring, operationally effective and supportable ballistic missile defense capability in Aegis cruisers and destroyers to defend the nation, deployed forces, friends and allies, and to incrementally increase this capa-



Photo by Jerry Lamar, PMRF

bility by delivering evolutionary spiral improvements as part of BMD's block upgrades. The Aegis BMD element of the BMDs builds upon the existing Aegis weapons system and standard missile infrastructures deployed in Aegis cruisers and destroyers.

Aegis BMD provides a forward-deployable, mobile capability to detect and track ballistic missiles of all ranges, and the ability to destroy short-range ballistic missile, medium-range ballistic missile, intermediate-range ballistic missile, and selected long-range class threats in the midcourse phase of flight.

Spiral upgrades to the Aegis BMD weapon system and the SM-3 configurations will enable Aegis BMD to provide effective, supportable, defensive capability against more difficult threats, including long range ballistic missiles.

## Federal Benefits Open Season

The name of the annual Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program Open Season is changing to the more inclusive Federal Benefits Open Season. This new open season also includes the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) and the Federal Flexible Spending Account Program (FSAFEDS).

This year's Federal Benefits Open Season will take place November 12 through December 10.

All Open Season FEHB changes will become effective on January 06, 2008. For additional FEHB information visit: <http://www.opm.gov/insure/health/>

## Newest Retiree

Arthur D. (Dave) Moltedo (right) retired effective November 3 with over 36 years of government service.

Moltedo retired as an aerospace engineering technician in NASA's Range and Mission Management Office.

Congratulations, Dave!



## Government Surplus Auction Sale

November 28  
Cropper Center

Inspection: 8 to 10:30 a.m.  
Sale Starts: 10:45 a.m.  
Payment must be made by 1 p.m.

Computers, display, printers, ADP equipment, faxes, video recorder, electronic equipment, digital cameras (Sony and Canon) handheld radios, Silent Hoist fork lift, air compressors, oscilloscopes, chlorine scales, power supplies, one bedroom set, sheet rock expansion joint, light fixtures and plumbing supplies, aluminum ductwork, galvanized turn buckles, Monarch metal lathe, drill press, storage shed, 1986 Champion motor home.

For more information call x1337 or x2331.

Complete listing one week prior to sale that includes make, model, serial numbers, photos will be posted at: <http://sales.gsfc.nasa.gov/>

## Sympathy Extended



Sympathy is extended to the family, friends and co-workers of Kenneth Antonio Anderson who died November 4 in Atlantic.

Anderson was a ground maintenance employee with ES Action.

## Wallops History

This month in Wallops history.....

November 19, 1953: The first launching of a Nike-Deacon two-stage sounding rocket from Wallops Island.

The launch was part of the heat transfer studies out of Wallops.

## Wallops Shorts.....

### Launch

A NASA Terrier-Black Brant sounding rocket was launched from White Sands Missile Range, N.M., on November 6. The payload was the Extreme Ultraviolet Normal-Incidence Spectrograph (EUNIS), designed to study the physical properties of the solar corona by simultaneously observing two spectral ranges. These wavelength bands overlap those observed by the SOHO, TRACE and Solar-B spacecraft, allowing EUNIS to be used to provide in-flight radiometric calibrations for those missions. Preliminary results indicate all systems functioned nominally and good data was obtained. The payload was recovered. Dr. Douglas Rabin, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, was the experimenter. Bill Payne, NASA Sounding Rocket Operation Contract (NSROC) was the mission manager.

## NASA 50th Anniversary T-Shirts

To commemorate NASA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Oct. 1, 2008, the Wallops Exchange is offering a NASA team member exclusive t-shirt. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary t-shirt is 100%, pre-shrunk cotton for \$5 and will only be sold to NASA civil servants and contractors.

You have until Dec. 31, 2007 to place an order at: <http://www.tcbspecialties.com/nasa50th.html>

Shirts will be available the first week in March. You will be notified in February with specific dates and pick up location.

Call Karen Shannon at x2020 or Karen Thornes at x2040 for more information.

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