



MARSHALL STAR

Serving the Marshall Space Flight Center Community

March 14, 2002

Milestone for science operations aboard Space Station

Payload Operations Center to mark first anniversary

by Martin Burkey

It's not attached to the International Space Station laboratory or a Russian module or any of the connecting pieces, but NASA's Payload Operations Center has been one of the Station's most important components.

On March 19, the Operations Center at Marshall will mark the one-year anniversary of round-the-clock operations in support of science aboard the world's only orbiting research station.

Staffed by three shifts of six to 19 flight controllers, this science command and control center links Earth-bound researchers with their experiments – or payloads - in orbit. Together, these controllers represent, for the International Space Station, a virtual “fourth crewmember” devoted to science.

Working with scientists and other control centers around the world, the Operations Center team sends commands to experiments, watches their progress, monitors their health and receives

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Photo by Terry Leibold, NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center

Marshall team members are getting ready to celebrate the first anniversary of 24-hour operations supporting the International Space Station from the Payload Operations Center.

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Frederick D. Gregory named NASA associate administrator for space flight

NASA news release

NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe has named Frederick D. Gregory as the associate administrator for space flight, placing him permanently in charge of the agency's Human Exploration and Development of Space Enterprise.

Gregory, 60, has served as Acting Associate Administrator for the office since December, when he replaced Joseph H. Rothenberg, who retired.

"I am pleased Fred agreed to make this commitment to what is one of the most important positions within NASA," said Administrator O'Keefe. "He brings great experience and leadership to this office, and his commitment to safety is vital as

our human space flight program moves forward."

Astronaut William F. Readdy will remain in the critical senior leadership position of Deputy Associate Administrator for Space Flight with expanded responsibilities over major programs, operations and management of the Human Exploration and Development of Space Enterprise.

Before accepting his appointment in the Office of Space Flight, Gregory was the Associate Administrator for Safety and Mission Assurance. The veteran astronaut was the senior executive responsible for the safety and reliability of all NASA programs.

Additional information about Gregory is available on the Internet at:

<http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/codeq/>
<http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/Bios/htmlbios/gregory-fd.html>



Gregory

New Marshall forum series aims to share 'lessons learned'

The Office of the Chief Financial Officer is hosting a series of forums in an effort to improve Program Planning and Control practices at the Marshall Center.

Open to all Marshall team members, the forums will provide a way for Marshall's senior managers, as well as outside experts, to share "lessons learned" and other project management knowledge.

Robert Sackheim, assistant director and chief engineer for propulsion at Marshall, will speak at the first forum April 2 in Room P110, Bldg. 4200, from 1-3 p.m. The theme of the discussion is "Plan the Work/Work the Plan," and will include Sackheim's ideas and experiences for effective project control.

Audience members are encouraged to participate in the forum discussions.

For more information, call Frank Hicks at 544-5289.



Photo by Doug Stoffer, NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center

Michael Kennedy honored with award

Michael K. Kennedy, second from right, of Hernandez Engineering Inc. received the NASA Flight Safety Award at the recent STS-109 Launch Honoree's Reception at Kennedy Space Center. From left, Marshall Center Director Art Stephenson, John Kennedy, Michael Kennedy and Michael Greenfield, acting associate administrator for Safety and Mission Assurance at NASA Headquarters, who presented the award.

James Ellis appointed to Senior Executive Service

James M. Ellis has been appointed to the Senior Executive Service as manager of the Information Services Department in the Center Operations Directorate at the Marshall Center.

Ellis began his career at NASA in 1981 as a Technical Resources Manager. He has subsequently held increasingly challenging positions including Manager, Program Planning and Management Systems Office, from 1987 to 1992; Assistant Manager, Space Shuttle Projects Office, from 1992 to 1998; and Assistant Director, Center Operations Directorate, from 1998 to 2000. Since January 2000, he has served as the Deputy Director, Safety and Mission Assurance Office.

Prior to joining NASA, he provided operations research/systems analysis support of program management functions for PATRIOT and other missile systems for the U.S. Army Missile Command, Redstone Arsenal, and the U.S. Army Aviation Center at Fort Rucker, AL. He retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1975.



Ellis

FIRST Robotics regional results

Two Marshall-sponsored FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics teams won awards in regional competition at Kennedy Space Center this past week.

Lincoln County High School in Fayetteville, Tenn., won the Delphi "Driving Tomorrow's Technology Award" recognizing engineering elegance. The award is based on such engineering designs as wiring methods, material selection, programming techniques and unique machine attributes. Being able to verbally describe -- and demonstrate -- the machine's features in a concise manner is part of the award criteria.

By winning the award, Lincoln County High School is qualified to compete in national competition in April at the Epcot Center in Orlando, Fla.

Arab High School won the "Engineering Inspiration Award" for the team's outstanding success in advancing respect and appreciation for engineering. The team was lauded for the extent and inventiveness of its efforts to recruit students to engineering and for successful community outreach efforts. Arab also will compete in the national competition.

Flag protocol at Marshall outlined

Several employees have asked questions concerning the protocol for lowering the Marshall Center's U.S. flag to half-staff, specifically in regards to the deaths of employees and retirees.

The Marshall Center's Flag Protocol Officer is the manager of the Protective Services Department and his actions are governed by NPD 1020.2G, Displaying The United States Flag At Half-Staff and the MSFC Policy on Flag Protocol. The NPD identifies three categories for the displaying of the U.S. flag at half-staff:

(1). National—Upon the deaths of any officials listed in the Presidential Proclamation 3044 and 36 U.S.C. 175(m).

(2). NASA—Following the deaths of certain current or former NASA officials, and other U.S. or foreign officials as specifically requested by the President.

(3). Local—Center Directors are delegated authority to display the U.S. flag at half-staff as a mark of respect upon the deaths of prominent state and local officials (including NASA employees), this includes on-site civil service and contractor employees, in keeping with the protocols of their state. They may also honor agreements with local military base commanders, as appropriate, to show mutual respect.

The Marshall Center policy on flag protocol specifically provides that the U.S. flag will be lowered to half-staff on the day of interment of active on-site civil service and/or contractor employees. It is not unusual for the Marshall Center to find out several weeks or months afterward about the death of a retiree. That is not the case for on-site civil service and contractors.

The fact that the flag is not lowered to half-staff at the death of a NASA retiree in no way belittles the contribution that individual made to the agency and the space program. Without the past dedication and efforts of its retirees NASA would not be the premier agency it is today.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt is Sunday

The NASA Exchange Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be Sunday, March 17 on the east end of the Marshall picnic grounds. Registration will begin at 2 p.m. followed by the Easter egg hunt at 2:30 p.m.

This year, several safety mascots will join the Easter Bunny in welcoming the children to Marshall.

Expect delays at all entrance gates due to increased security. Everyone entering the gates must be badged and in a decal vehicle or escorted in a decal vehicle driven by a badged Marshall employee.

All Marshall team members and their families are welcome to participate. For more information, call Gena Marsh at 544-0160.

Stephen Brettel named resident manager at Michoud facility

Michoud news release

Stephen Brettel has been named resident manager at NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans. In his new position Brettel will be responsible for overseeing the production of the Space Shuttle's External Tank, which is managed by the Marshall Center.

Brettel began his NASA career in 1989 under an inter-agency work agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The next year he became facility manager for the construction of the Advanced Solid Rocket Motor Nozzle Facility in New Orleans. Later, he oversaw test activities for the Space Shuttle Main Engine Project at Stennis



Brettel

Space Center, Miss. In 1994, Brettel joined the External Tank project at Michoud, where he worked as a project engineer on the development and implementation of the Super Lightweight Tank. He was promoted to External Tank Shuttle Upgrades manager in 2000, overseeing development and implementation of the Friction Stir Weld Project.

Space Shuttle Atlantis set for April launch

Space Shuttle Atlantis and its seven-member crew are set for an April 4 launch to the International Space Station.

The STS-110 mission signals a return to Space Station construction operations with installation of the initial section of framework for an Integrated Truss Structure. This structure ultimately will serve as the "spine" for future additions of truss segments that eventually will hold power and cooling systems required for future international research laboratories.

Atlantis also will carry science experiments managed by the Marshall Center for study onboard the Space Station.

Payload

Continued from page 1

data. And the team members are always available to answer questions from the Space Station crew, and assist them in their research activities.

In addition to managing all science research experiment operations onboard the Station, the Payload Operations Center also is responsible for coordination of the mission planning work of the Space Station's international partners, all science experiments going to and coming from the Station, and experiment training and safety programs for Space Station crews and ground personnel.

"This date is a major milestone for us," said Jan Davis, director of Flight Projects at the Marshall Center. "The Payload Operations Center represents an incredible effort to evolve from the science aboard the Shuttle to supporting round-the-clock operations aboard the Space Station — as well as integrating the daily participation of our international partners — for the next 15 years. We're proud of what we have accomplished for NASA and for science."

Now, one year after continuous research began, there are five research racks installed in the Destiny laboratory module. Each rack is designed to provide power, fluids, data, cooling and other utilities to a variety of experiments.

The Payload Operations Center has supported 52 different science investigations. It has assisted Space Station crews with nearly 600 hours of research work onboard the laboratory, as well as overseeing more than 60,000 hours of experiment operating time that is controlled by the science team on the ground. By early 2003, 10 research racks for experiments will be on orbit, and more than 60 experiments will be started or completed.

Onboard now, the first second-generation space plants are

growing. Already, the Station has hosted its first commercial experiments. Scientists have conducted medical research in osteoporosis, breast cancer and the body's immune function. Hundreds of students have prepared experiments for the Space Station, and they've been able to see the results of their work in their classroom, via the Internet, after the experiments were returned to Earth.

Scientists are gathering basic data on radiation, vibrations and more that will tell scientists how to make space exploration easier for astronauts and more useful for other scientists planning future experiments.

"Even as we are building the Space Station, we have been doing valuable research in medicine, agriculture, human life science, Earth's environment, manufacturing and education," said John Uri, of NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, who is the lead scientist for Expeditions Two, Three and Four to the Space Station. Each Expedition, about four months long, is led by a different crew of three, and may include additional visits by Space Shuttles and Russian spacecraft bringing supplies.

Feedback from the first two Space Station crews has been positive about the experiments, their training, their onboard instructions and our day-to-day interactions with them from the Payload Operations Center," Uri said. "From training the crews and writing instructions to managing experiment hardware and overseeing the flow of commands and data to and from the Space Station, the Marshall Center and its Payload Operations Center obviously deserve much credit."

The writer, employed by ASRI, supports the Media Relations Department.

Center Announcements

2002 Earth Week activities

Earth Week activities will be held April 15-19, including recycling, environmental and energy exhibits will be in the lobby of Bldg. 4200; a logo contest, a spot-an-environmentalist contest and the tree-planting ceremony. Harvey Cotton, director of the Botanical Garden, will speak at the ceremony, which will be from 10-11 a.m. April 18 at the Wellness Center, Bldg. 4315. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony — with the exception of the tree planting — will be in the Morris Auditorium, same date and time.

Spot-an-environmentalist contest

Marshall employees and onsite contractors are asked to submit the names of employees they see who are assisting in keeping the Marshall Center environmentally friendly. Submit the employee's name and a short description of the environmental deed to justify the person's nomination via e-mail to: lucy.boger@msfc.nasa.gov or mail to AD21, Bldg. 4250, room 16B, no later than March 29. Entries will not be accepted after the closing date. Each nominee selected will receive a gift certificate from "Wild Birds Unlimited" at the tree-planting ceremony at 10 a.m. April 18 at the Wellness Center, Bldg. 4315.

Upcoming classes

For a complete list of training opportunities at the Marshall Center, visit the "Inside Marshall" Web site.

Clubs and Meetings

ASEM March meeting

Dr. Jim Simpson of the University of Alabama in Huntsville's Marketing Department will speak to the American Society of Engineering Management (ASEM) meeting from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. March 19 at Papa Lovetti's restaurant in Huntsville. Simpson will speak on Marketing in a High Technology Environment: Customers Purchase Solutions,

Not Technology." For more information, call Kenneth Sullivan at (256) 313-6172.

Dance lessons

The MARS Ballroom Dance Club will offer bolero and cha-cha lessons on Mondays in March at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church on Whitesburg Drive. The intermediate lesson is from 7-8 p.m. and beginner lesson from 8-9 p.m. Rick Jones, USA certified dance instructor at Rocket City Dance Studio, will teach. Cost is \$7 per person per class. For more information, call Woody Bombara at 650-0200.

Toastmasters International

NASA Lunar Nooners Toastmasters Group meets at 11:30 a.m. every Tuesday in the conference room of the cafeteria in Bldg. 4610. Visitors are welcome. For more information, please call Dr. Ruth D. Jones at 256 544-3191 or e-mail: ruth.jones@msfc.nasa.gov.

Lunch-time prayer

Join the lunch-time prayer and fellowship from noon-12:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday in Bldg. 4200, room 432, or send prayer requests. For more information, send an e-mail to, or call, Johnnie Wilson at 544-1007.

Instrumentation Division meets

The Measuring Branch, Telemetry Branch and Radio Frequency Branch meet the first Tuesday of each month at 11 a.m. at the Redstone Golf Club Coffee Shop. For more information, call Tom Escue at (256) 232-1549.

Miscellaneous

UNCF Gala

The 24th annual United Negro College Fund (UNCF) Gala, featuring Susan L. Taylor, senior vice president of Essence Communications Inc., will be at 6:30 p.m. March 28 at the Von Braun Center North Hall. Cost is \$75 general admission and \$25 for students. Entertainment will be provided by vocalist Phil Perry.

Tickets may be purchased from the Equal Opportunity Office, Bldg. 4200, room 716. For more information, call Chanel Leslie at 544-3740.

Easter Egg Hunt

Marshall's annual Easter Egg Hunt will be at 2 p.m. March 17 at the picnic area. Call Gena Marsh at 544-0160 for more information.

Huntsville Flight tickets

Ticket vouchers for Huntsville Flight basketball tickets are available at the Redstone Arsenal Recreation Center Ticket Office in Bldg. 3711. Vouchers — at \$9 each — are for Upper Bowl B seats and may be used for any game. This is a savings of \$2 off the regular price.

Vouchers must be exchanged for tickets at the Von Braun Center box office and may be upgraded. The Recreation Center Ticket Office is open Wednesday-Friday from 1:30-8 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, call 876-4531 during operating hours. Discount tickets are available for Marshall team members and their families to attend the Huntsville Flight's basketball game against the Columbus Riverdragons at the Von Braun Center on Saturday, March 16 at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and must be ordered in advance by calling the VBC ticket office at (256) 429-1013 or by e-mailing thscott@NBA.COM. For more information call Candy Bailey at 544-7565.

Redstone Arsenal

Online auctions

Redstone Arsenal's Morale, Welfare and Recreation Department will conduct online property auctions on items as they become available. For more information, visit the Web at:

www.redstonemwr.com

Employee Ads

Miscellaneous

- ★ Boston rocker, \$60 obo; Panasonic stereo, cassette/radio, Technics CD, two speakers, \$20. 881-7953
- ★ Bulldozer blade and disking blade for Sears tractor, \$150 each; tractor free with both. 837-6776
- ★ Girl's white Dixie furniture, full desk w/ hutch top and chest of drawers, \$150 for both, obo. 883-7243
- ★ Several amateur/HAM radios, both hand held and mobile units. 256-776-0112 from 5-9 p.m.
- ★ Hand stitched quilt, \$30; new quilt, \$20; ladies leather coat, size 12, \$30. 852-6952
- ★ Sectional sofa \$300, Ratan sofa/loveseat \$350, sofa \$75, two beds, antiques, lawnmowers.. 837-7024
- ★ Cherry baby crib, changing table, DR light fixture, leather recliner, sewing machine. 772-3138
- ★ Wolff Sunquest 16SE tanning bed, used 20 hours at residence, \$1,400. 256-974-8828
- ★ Chevrolet truck bed and tailgate, mid-80's, white, 8', \$200; diamond plate rear step bumper, \$100. 922-1512, ext. 1982
- ★ Sears Craftsman radial arm saw, 10", on legs w/spindle chuck for shaper tools, \$225 obo. 774-5716
- ★ Radio controlled airplanes, helicopters, controllers, etc., selling out, any reasonable offer. 603-7898
- ★ Chifforobe, early 1940's, three mirrored cabinets, 5-drawers, \$200; 1974 Ford FMX transmission, \$50. 464-3300
- ★ SeaRay boat, 21', 1988, cuddy-cabin, galvanized trailer, Mercury 120, full camper tops, porta-pot, 4-speaker AM/FM cassette, extras, \$5,100. 256-586-4542
- ★ Antique round solid oak claw-foot table w/ four antique fancy spindle back cane bottom chairs, \$650 for all. 353-0370
- ★ Baby crib, mattress and bedding, \$70. 961-1841/Lisa
- ★ Limestone windowsills and headers. 882-1097
- ★ Hybrid king-size tube waterbed mattress, soft side w/high wooden platform, new

- heater, \$75 obo. 828-6213
- ★ Fifteen classical albums, \$1 each; Apothecary collectibles set of six, \$15. 882-1097
- ★ Magnavox stereo, 54" long, \$100. 837-6776
- ★ Antique pump organ, \$500; sleeper sofa, \$100; king size oak headboard, \$150; night stand, \$75. 723-4384
- ★ Kitchen-Aid refrigerator, 19 cu. ft., upright, 10 years old, \$100. 430-0450
- ★ Hydra kayak w/wood paddle, 16', two water tight compartments; \$500 obo. 256-586-7555
- ★ Rattan dining set w/glass top table, 40"Wx72"L, six matching chairs, \$250; four adjustable height rattan barstools, \$25 each. 256-355-3089
- ★ Gateway 300 Mhz PC w/64 Mb RAM, 4Gb hard drive, 17" monitor, \$275 obo. 882-1779
- ★ African grey parrot, 5 yr. old female, large dark green wrought iron floor cage, 2.5'x3.5'x6", \$1,500. 776-2642

Vehicles

- ★ 1992 Buick Lesabre Limited, one-owner, all records, jade green, 126K miles, \$2,990 obo. 722-9274
- ★ John Deere tractor, Model 5300, front-end loader, \$16,500; 2000 Tahoe; pewter, heated-leather seats, on-star, loaded, 58.5K miles, \$23,500. 776-4633
- ★ 1998 Dodge Grand Caravan, \$9,900 obo. 233-6197/564-6225 beeper
- ★ 1987 TransAm, new paint, wheels, brakes, shocks, 100K miles, 2,700 obo. 256-536-2433
- ★ 2000 Honda Civic LX, blue/green, 25,650 miles, all power, AM/FM/CD, 5-speed. 883-4530
- ★ 1986 Chevrolet Silverado, new 350, pos-traction, dual tanks, red, SWB, new a/c, \$5,000. 256-247-0369
- ★ 1990 Jeep Cherokee, 4WD, 77K miles, all-power, CD, security system, many options, new tires, \$5,500. 883-6416
- ★ 1990 Acura Integra LS, 5-speed, 3 dr., aqua, sunroof, air, 154K miles, org. owner, \$3,500. 256-682-6140
- ★ 1999 Mazda Miata, 5-speed, dark green w/

- black interior, 22K miles, \$13,000. 351-1373 after 5 p.m.
- ★ Chevrolet Suburban, 1983, tow package, 350 V8, auto, \$1,200. 880-8359
- ★ 1999 Chevrolet Metro coupe 2-door, 5-speed, 3-cylinder, 1.0L, AM/FM/CD, silver, 34K miles, \$5,000 obo. 256-721-3904
- ★ 1998 Mercury Mountaineer, V6, leather interior, AM/FM CD, all electric, \$13,750. 830-0232
- ★ 1991 Honda Accord EX, one-owner, PW/PDL, sunroof, CD changer/cassette, 157K miles, service records available, \$3,900 obo. 256-880-0438
- ★ 1995 Honda Civic EX, 4-door, 5-speed, red, 75K miles, \$6,600 obo. 256-830-0548/961-7634
- ★ 1991 Toyota Corolla, auto, air, AM/FM/cassette, \$2,000. 539-9491
- ★ 1996 Mazda Millenia, sunroof, CD changer, all power, champagne w/gray interior, 77K miles, \$8,500. 880-9025
- ★ 1999 Honda Accord EXL, white, 4-door, keyless, all power, sunroof, leather, automatic, 38K miles, \$15,900. 651-2257

Found

- ★ Key ring with keys and plastic animal attached. Call 544-3623 to claim/identify.

Wanted

- ★ Truck bed toolbox for pick-up truck. 256-498-5520
- ★ Motorcycle cover for a Cruiser VT750, new or used. 776-0112

Free

- ★ Bassett Hound, female, 1.5 year old, spayed. 776-3972 evenings
- ★ To good home, Cody, purebred Cardigan Welsh Corgi neutered male, 2-1/2 years old, friendly, shots up to date, not good with other pets. 259-2164

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