



MARSHALL STAR

Serving the Marshall Space Flight Center Community

Dec. 15, 2005

Dedicated workers brave Katrina to protect space flight hardware

By Sanda Martel

People sometimes perform heroic deeds, risking their own lives for a greater good. Such was the case when Katrina, a powerful Category 5 hurricane, hit the Gulf Coast in the early morning hours of Aug. 29.

As the storm approached, a ride-out team of 37 Lockheed Martin Space Systems and NASA employees "hunkered down" inside NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility in the eastern suburbs of New Orleans.

The workers weren't there just to wait out the storm. They volunteered to stay and protect valuable space flight hardware inside the facility where space shuttle external fuel tanks are built and processed.

"It's not about money or holding a job — it's about dedication to the program," said NASA Administrator Michael Griffin of the team. "This is dedication money can't buy."

The wind raged and the water surged, but the ride-out team kept generators running and storm drainage pumps operating. The interior of the building that houses external tanks stayed dry because workers held the doors shut as the winds rattled them, even though water rose to 6 inches in adjacent parking lots. Several buildings on the 832-acre site suffered window and roof damage, but only one fuel tank was damaged when a concrete roof panel fell and bounced off the side of the tank. The extent of the damage is still being assessed, according to Chip Jones, manager of NASA External Tank Resident Office at Michoud.

Administrator Griffin and several senior emergency operations personnel visited Michoud Sept. 7 to see conditions firsthand. The following day, during an update to



Terry Leibold/MSFC

Space shuttle external tanks undergo processing at the Michoud Assembly Facility near New Orleans. Only one fuel tank was damaged at the facility when Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast on Aug. 29.

NASA employees, the Administrator praised the team, noting that the NASA facility avoided catastrophic damage because of the workers.

"The ride-out crew risked their lives to save the facility, and many of them lost everything they owned outside our gates," said Patrick Scheuermann, chief operating officer of Michoud.

After the storm passed, miraculously with no injuries to employees, land routes were cut off and electricity and water were nonexistent for 21 days.

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Holiday schedule for Marshall Star, Daily Planet

The Marshall Star, which is printed 50 times per year, will not publish for two weeks during the holiday season.

The last issue of the year will be Dec. 22. Publication will resume Jan. 12. The Star office will close Dec. 23 and reopen

Dec. 27. Classified ads may still be submitted during this time.

The Daily Planet will cease publication Dec. 30 and resume Jan. 9.

Marshall team members sponsor small business conference

Marshall Center's Technology Transfer Program, in conjunction with the Office of Procurement and the Government and Community Relations Office, sponsored the first in a series of three small business conferences in Atlanta on Nov. 14-15.

The goal was to identify technology-based small and disadvantaged businesses as potential partners or suppliers for programs such as the Crew Launch Vehicle or partners for technology infusion and licensing collaborations.

Fifty businesses were represented at the conference with more than 150 people attending, including representatives from Georgia

Gov. Sonny Perdue's office.

Presentations were held on how to market to and partner with both NASA and its prime contractors, as well as how to license NASA technology and apply for Small Business Innovation Research contracts.

Several Marshall team members supported the conference, including Vernotto McMillan, Helen Stinson, Lynn Garrison, Carolyn McMillan, David Brock, Roy Priest and Rosa Kilpatrick.

Two other regional small business conferences are slated for Tuscaloosa, Jan. 23, and Pensacola, Fla., Jan. 25.

Marshall gets into the holiday spirit at annual reception



Marshall team members enjoy music, food and fellowship at the annual holiday reception in the Center Activities Building on Dec. 9. Left, employees choose from a variety of holiday treats. Right, team



members Teresa Mueller and Glenda Pulley assist with the food drive. Those who donated nonperishable items to the North Alabama Food Bank were eligible to receive door prizes.

Dedicated

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The Marshall Center, which operates the Michoud facility for NASA, mobilized within hours to deliver supplies to recovery teams working to restore communications and power. Building supplies, construction tools, personal items, food, bottled water and medicine were flown in by helicopter.

Facilities were brought back online quickly, but a more pressing concern was finding temporary housing for workers — 94 percent of whom reported damaged or destroyed homes. Short-term housing was provided to employees while they worked to restore the facility, bringing it back online to accept two tanks scheduled for shipment from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

The tanks were being returned for processing and retrofit to correct in-flight anomalies uncovered during the STS-114 mission in July.

Some Lockheed Martin workers temporarily relocated to other NASA centers. Marshall civil servants assigned to Michoud moved to the Stennis Space Center in Mississippi, which also was hit hard by

Hurricane Katrina.

Nine weeks after Katrina, Michoud returned to full operations. Most of its 2,000 employees — 600 of whom lost their homes in the storm — have returned to work.

"The efforts of the ride-out team made all the difference in our ability to recover so quickly and resume tank work at Michoud," said Jones. "Had they not stayed and protected the facilities and equipment, we would not be where we are today."

"Everyone is proud of the dedication and focus the ride-out crew displayed," Scheuermann said. "Since Katrina, I have seen this same dedication and focus displayed daily on the work being done on external tanks despite the personal issues most of our workers face."

Now, Michoud employees can once more focus on their work processing space shuttle external tanks and supporting the agency for the next space shuttle launch.

The writer, an ASRI employee, supports the Public and Employee Communications Office.

Classified Ads

To submit a classified ad to the Marshall Star, go to Inside Marshall, to "Employee Resources," and click on "Employee Ads — Submit Ad." Ads are limited to 15 words, including contact numbers. No sales pitches. Deadline for the next issue is 4:30 p.m. Thursday.

Miscellaneous

Simmons nursery furniture, Mahogany, 4-drawer chest w/ bookcase top, changing table and bed, \$350. 881-7819

Muzzel loader, Italian made, traditional Hawken style, .50 caliber, percussion style, needs rear site, \$150. 859-9165

Black metal mesh fireplace curtains, unused, 30-1/2Hx29"W, \$15 pr.; assorted brass candlesticks, new, \$7 each. 837-6776

Jenny Lind baby bed w/mattress, \$75. 931-937-7830

Berkley lightning fishing rod w/Abu Garcia 704 Cardinal spinning reel, all new, \$40. 883-1003

Englehardt EM-3 "Maestro" 1/4-size string bass suitable for student, \$650. 539-5495

O'Brien ProCelebrity water-ski, 67", w/ case, \$25; HO Mach-1 competition Slalom ski w/case, 67", \$50. 828-5289

Two XL-twin all natural cotton futon mattresses, together make king, \$125 for both. 520-3874

Dog crate, 36"Lx24"Wx28"H, Midwest, removable tray for cleaning, \$55; Children's skates, size 4, Cyclone, \$13. 883-6496

Chevrolet pickup bed & one 31x10.5x15 tire on OEM Chevrolet wheel, \$250. 256-772-9768

Aquarium, 60-gallon, with wrought iron stand, light and gravel, \$300. 837-1413 after 5 p.m.

Sofa, leather, tan, \$450. 256-746-8289

Oak table w/bench, L-shaped, storage in seating, 3 yr. old, \$300. 509-2536/Charlie

Tires, unused, 14" w/wheels & hubcaps, \$200; diamond engagement ring, .25-.50 cluster, w/wedding band, \$75. 651-2944

Futon with mahogany trim, black, \$100. 289-3905

Two tickets to Titans vs. Seattle, Dec. 18, Section 313, not together, \$50 each. 351-6855

Ember Hearth fireplace insert, brick lined, variable speed blower, \$250. 881-6560

AKC/CKC Maltese, ready Dec. 22, 5 girls, 3 boys, \$700. 797-0408

Schwinn Sting-Ray chopper bike, 20", \$125; boy's Harley Davidson leather jacket, size 6, \$75. 603-6306

Lexmark all-in-one (fax, copy, scan, print). 541-1788

Pentium 2 PC, windows XP, CD & 3.5" drives, 17" monitor, speakers, MS office, \$80. 508-0691

Natural gas cast iron stove, vent-free, zero clearance, \$350. 256-656-2965

Wicker papasan chair w/brown corduroy chair cushion, \$25. 883-7657

WaveMaster training bag, \$75; Yamaha Portatone PSR-36 keyboard, \$75. 722-9535

New Rawlings OLB3 official size & weight baseballs in ball bucket, 12 balls, \$20. 256-828-1234

Proscan 27" color TV, \$75; small, sturdy oak/glass media center, \$75. 348-2142

Trundle w/mattress, \$50; large bookcase, \$35; king mattress set, \$100; baby stroller, \$50. 603-3558

Vehicles

Toyota Tacoma, 2WD, steel wheels/tires/hubcaps, 14", tires worn, \$40. 655-0571

Go-cart, 6HP, 2-seater, regular oil changes, \$375. 859-7017

1997 4-wheeler, Honda Recon 250 Four Trax, \$2,300. 931-427-8205

1999 Ford Expedition, 3rd seat, sport package, 140K miles, towing package, \$8,500. 694-5911

1998 GMC Jimmy SLT, 4-door, 4x4, leather, 112K miles, many extras, \$5,200. 721-1398

1998 Toyota 4Runner, brown, leather, moonroof, 155K highway miles, dealer maintained, \$10,000. 339-8457

1978 Trans-Am, 6.6L, white, auto, ac/CD, tilt, pw/ps, well maintained, garaged, \$9,600. 772-7367

2000 Miata, white, 5-speed, AM/FM, CD/cassette, 30K miles, \$9,500. 679-1681

1991 Toyota pickup, Xtra cab, 4x4, V6, 5-speed, matching cap, low miles, \$3,750. 461-8233

2004 Honda Civic EX, 4-door sedan, \$16,000. 233-6197

1996 Chrysler Town & Country LXi, hunter green w/tan leather, \$4,000. 776-9118

2003 Hyundai Sonata, power moon-roof, 4-cyl., automatic, 33K miles, silver, \$12,800. 880-9025

Wanted

Treadmill, used but good condition. 256-655-2939

Gas-powered/hydraulic log splitter. 603-4891

Copies of Home Companion, Mary Engelbreit magazines. 527-8116

GQF incubator, cabinet style, in good condition. 256-891-1073

Books to donate to school for 6th graders. 883-2757

Washer and dryer set, good condition. 256-599-7381

Found

Eyeglasses and watch. Call 544-3623 to claim/identify

Free

Composted manure for gardens, will load for free. 420-6574

Brown nylon carpet w/pad, 425 sq. ft., old but usable, you must take up. 837-6776

Miniature poodle, house trained, 7 yrs. old, male, needs good home. 656-7843

Chapman named manager of External Tank Project Office

By Sanda Martel

John Chapman has been named manager of the External Tank Project Office in the Space Shuttle Propulsion Office at the Marshall Center.



John Chapman

Chapman will lead one of NASA's highest profile space shuttle projects and direct a workforce of more than 2,000 government and contractor employees.

From September 2004 until assuming his new position, he served as chief engineer in the Shuttle Propulsion Office. As a leader in the Marshall Center Chief Engineers Office, part of the center's Engineering Directorate, Chapman held responsibilities that included resolving problems and providing technical recommendations about flight hardware and program issues for the Shuttle Propulsion Program manager.

Chapman is a 25-year NASA veteran who has been involved with the shuttle since its development and has held nearly every shuttle office manager, deputy manager and business manager post at the Marshall Center.

In his new position, Chapman, along with his team, will continue

working to resolve foam insulation loss from the external fuel tank seen during Space Shuttle Discovery's launch in July.

Chapman was appointed to the Senior Executive Service — the personnel system that covers most of the top managerial, supervisory and policy positions in the executive branch of the government — in 2004.

From 1973 to 1978, Chapman performed engineering studies on the early development phases of the space shuttle. He provided technical and project software for the solid rocket booster project while working first for Northrop Services and then for D.P. Associates, both of Huntsville.

Chapman spent the subsequent year at Teledyne Brown Engineering in Huntsville, working in the defense industry to field-test laser-based missile guidance systems for the U.S. Army. He joined NASA as an engineer in 1980.

Chapman, who grew up in Spartanburg, S.C., earned a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering in 1973 from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. He has participated in various executive-level training courses, including Harvard University's "Promoting Innovation and Organizational Change."

The writer, an ASRI employee, supports the Public and Employee Communications Office.

Marshall's Monsi Roman honored as outstanding Puerto Rican leader

By Lori Johnston Meggs

Monsi Roman, the Marshall Center's chief microbiologist for the Environmental Control and Life Support System group, has been honored as an outstanding Puerto Rican leader by a nonprofit volunteer Puerto Rican organization based in the United States.

Presented annually by the Comité Noviembre, or November Committee, the award recognizes Roman for her outstanding contributions to the Puerto Rican and Latino communities and for serving as a role model for future leaders.

Comité Noviembre was established in 1987 to preserve the richness of the Puerto Rican culture and acknowledge the contributions Puerto Ricans have made to mainstream America.

It commemorates and acknowledges all aspects of Puerto Rican life, from the social and cultural to the educational, economic and political.

Marshall microbiologist Monsi Roman, left, and her husband Jose, an aeronautical engineer for the Marshall Center, at the awards ceremony in New York.

Roman was honored at a ceremony in November in New York. Nominated for the award by NASA Headquarters in Washington, Roman was among three people recognized at the organization's 10th annual gala.

"I was really flattered, especially since one of last year's honorees

was Orlando Figueroa, a fellow Hispanic NASA employee who is a wonderful role model," said Roman. Figueroa is director of the Applied Engineering and Technology Directorate at Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md.

"Now, as I'm looked upon as a role model to others, I am more committed than ever to making the public aware of NASA programs and the importance of science education," said Roman.

At Marshall, Roman studies microbes — living organisms including viruses, bacteria, fungi and parasites — that are visible only under a microscope. By studying how these tiny beings may behave on the International Space Station, she helps ensure safe water and air for the crew.

She also mentors students in NASA education summer programs, where she refuses to let anyone say they can't become whatever they want in life. It's a motto she has lived by since coming to the United States from Puerto Rico in 1985.

Roman earned a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras Campus in 1984 and a master's degree in microbiology from the University of Alabama in Huntsville in 1991. She joined the Marshall Center in 1989.

"We at NASA, and especially the members of our Latino community, are very proud of Monsi," said Miguel Torres, assistant director of diversity and equal opportunity strategic planning at NASA Headquarters, who nominated Roman for the award. "She has been a longstanding role model for our youth and our colleagues regarding dedication to the NASA mission and commitment to excellence."

Roman has received congratulatory letters from President George W. Bush, U.S. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York and New York Gov. George Pataki.

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Courtesy photo/Monsi Roman

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