National Aeronautics and Space Administration
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MARSHALL STAR

Serving the Marshall Space Flight Center Community **Jan. 26, 2006**

NASA's Pluto mission launched toward new horizons

From NASA Headquarters

The first mission to distant planet Pluto is under way after the successful launch Jan. 19 of NASA's New Horizons spacecraft from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla.

New Horizons is the first in NASA's New Frontiers program of medium-class planetary missions. NASA's Discovery and New Frontiers Program Office at the Marshall Center assists the Science Mission Directorate at NASA Headquarters with program management, technology planning, systems assessment, flight assurance and public outreach. The Marshall Center assures the availability of the technical expertise to quickly assess needs and manage the support structure to provide oversight to these missions.

NASA/KSC

Liftoff of the Atlas V carrying NASA's New Horizons spacecraft to rendezvous with Pluto.

"It was a thrill to see it launch after two days of uncertain weather," said Allen Bacskay, the Discovery and New Frontiers Program Office mission manager for New Horizons. "To watch it lift off was to witness history in the making — the fastest spacecraft ever launched heading to an uncharted destination."

New Horizons roared into the afternoon sky last Thursday aboard a powerful Atlas V rocket at 1 p.m. CST. It separated from its solid-fuel kick motor 44 minutes, 53 seconds after launch. Mission controllers at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics

See Pluto on page 3

Day of Remembrance . . . Message from the Center Director

Today we observe NASA's Day of Remembrance, a solemn commemoration honoring the memory, valiant service and great character of the crews of Apollo 1, Challenger (STS-51-L) and Columbia (STS-107), and all who gave their lives in the cause of exploration and discovery. These men and women changed us, here in the United States and across the world. We will not forget their sacrifice, or their influence, which directly influenced every level of the agency, and created a far-reaching focus on safety. I believe the right way to honor them is by committing ourselves, not just today but every day, to the pursuit of excellence in all we do: no shortcuts, no complacency and no shifting of responsibility. We owe it to them, their families, our nation and the current and future astronauts who will take America into the next era of exploration.

Today, we are a better NASA because of the thousands of men and women across the agency who are committed to doing the right things right. From the technical fixes on the shuttle orbiter and solid rocket boosters to the fixes we are implementing on the external tank, we continue to review hardware and processes to ensure safe flight. However, our responsibility does not stop at present programs, hardware and processes. We are taking the lessons from Apollo 1, Challenger and Columbia and are applying them to the new exploration vehicles.

See Remembrance on page 2

Marshall Director David King chosen as an Associate Fellow by the AIAA

By Rita Roberts

On Jan. 9, Marshall Center Director David King was honored by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics as one of 161 aerospace industry experts chosen worldwide as 2006 Associate Fellows.

David King

The AIAA Foundation Associate Fellows Dinner, held in conjunction with the 44th AIAA Aerospace Sciences Meeting and Exhibit in Reno, Nev., recognized senior AIAA members who have at least 12 years of professional experience. Nominees are also selected for outstanding original work, important engineering or scientific work, or valuable contributions to the arts, science and technology of their field.

"To be nominated and recognized by my fellow members makes this selection even more of an honor," King said. "As a member of the AIAA, I commend the institute's efforts to further the aerospace industry. Its hard work complements the Marshall Center commitment to advance NASA's mission and the Vision for Space Exploration."

The AIAA is dedicated to the advancement of aviation, space and defense. With its headquarters in Washington, the institute has more than 35,000 members in 79 countries.

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

Remembrance

Continued from page 1

Future exploration will be exciting, but more importantly, it will be safer because of the bravery and sacrifice of the men and women we honor today. America is returning to the moon, then on to Mars and beyond. We have a huge responsibility in designing and developing the safest and most reliable Crew Launch Vehicle and Heavy Lift Launch Vehicle. We must remember our mission, and we must remember the astronauts whose legacies compel us to do our best.

As we go about our day, our gratitude for their courage will continue to grow. It is because of the work and service of others that we have the opportunity to forge a new path in exploration.

David King
Director, Marshall Space Flight Center

"This cause of exploration and discovery is not an option we choose; it is a desire written in the human heart. We are that part of creation which seeks to understand all creation. We find the best among us, send them forth into unmapped darkness, and pray they will return. They go in peace for all mankind, and all mankind is in their debt."

— President George W. Bush

NASA Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel meeting to be held Feb. 3

The NASA Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel will hold its public quarterly meeting Friday, Feb. 3, at the Marshall Institute Educator Resource Center, located at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, Room 105, from 10 a.m. to noon. The discussion will focus on NASA organizational areas of interest as they relate to safety.

During the first 30 minutes of the meeting, any member of the public may make a five-minute presentation to the panel on the subject of safety in NASA.

The presenter is permitted to file a written statement with the panel at the time of the meeting. To participate, contact Susan Burch at (202) 358-0914 at least 24 hours in advance.

Visitors will be requested to sign a visitor's register. The seating capacity is 128. Contact Burch at Susan.Burch@nasa.gov or by telephone to reserve a seat.

The Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel is a senior advisory committee that reports to NASA and Congress. The panel was established by Congress after the Apollo 204 Command and Service Module spacecraft fire in January 1967.

The launch begins 3-billion-mile journey

The 1,054-pound, piano-sized New Horizons spacecraft, the fastest ever launched, is speeding away from Earth at approximately 36,000 mph, on a trajectory that will take it more than 3 billion miles toward Pluto, its primary science target.

Over the next several weeks, mission operators at Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Md., will place the spacecraft in flight mode, check out its critical operating systems and perform small propulsive maneuvers to refine its flight path. Then, the team will begin checking and commissioning most of the seven science instruments.

New Horizons will zip past Jupiter for a gravity assist and science studies in February 2007. After the Jupiter encounter — during which New Horizons will train its science instruments on the large planet and its moons — the spacecraft will "sleep" in electronic hibernation for much of the cruise to Pluto.

Between annual in-depth checkouts, New Horizons will send back a beacon signal each week to give operators an instant read on spacecraft health. The entire spacecraft operates on less power than a pair of 100-watt household light bulbs.

New Horizons will conduct the first close-up, in-depth study of Pluto and its moons in summer 2015.

Pluto

Continued from page 1

Laboratory in Laurel, Md., where the spacecraft was designed and built, received the first radio signals from New Horizons a little more than five minutes later.

"Today, NASA began an unprecedented journey of exploration to the ninth planet in the solar system," said Dr. Colleen Hartman, deputy associate administrator for NASA's Science Mission Directorate, Washington. "Right now, what we know about Pluto could be written on the back of a postage stamp. After this mission, we'll be able to fill textbooks with new information."

"The United States of America has just made history by launching the first spacecraft to explore Pluto and the Kuiper Belt beyond," said Dr. Alan Stern, New Horizons principal investigator, from Southwest Research Institute in Boulder, Colo. "No other nation has this capability. This is the kind of exploration that forefathers, like Lewis and Clark 200 years ago this year, made a trademark of our nation."

Stern leads the mission and science team as principal investigator. Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory manages the mission for NASA's Science Mission Directorate and is operating the spacecraft in flight.

The mission team also includes several other private companies, NASA centers and university partners. NASA's Launch Services Program at Kennedy Space Center was responsible for the launch.

Sherrie Super, an ASRI employee, contributed to this report. Super supports the Public and Employee Communications Office.

David Higginbotham/MSFC

Marshall employees participate in Alabama A&M Executive Development Program

Thirty Marshall Center employees completed training in the Alabama A&M School of Business Executive Development Program, held at the Marshall Institute Training Facility on Jan. 9-13. Participants were selected by their management and approved by the Personnel Management Advisory Committee.

The A&M Executive Development Program offers two modules of management education designed to improve the effectiveness of individuals with general management responsibilities. Each module consists of lectures by distinguished faculty from leading universities, current readings, discussions and related case studies. The two modules are independent; Module I is not a prerequisite for Module II. The program started as a collaboration between Penn State University and Alabama A&M University and has continued for over 30 years.

For more program information, please contact Chris Robinson, program coordinator for the A&M Executive Development Program, at 544-1422 or Chris.Robinson@nasa.gov.

Silver Snoopy Awards presented to 9 Marshall team members

Silver Snoopy Awards were presented to nine Marshall team members Jan. 13 by astronaut Lee Archambault during his visit to the Marshall Center.

The Silver Snoopy is the astronauts' personal award to members of the workforce for outstanding and exemplary work. The Snoopy emblem reflects NASA and the industry's sense of responsibility and continuing concern for astronaut flight safety. Less than 1 percent of the space program workforce receives the award annually.

Archambault was selected as a NASA astronaut in June 1998. In June 1999, he was assigned to the Astronaut Office Shuttle Operations Branch. In September 2001, Archambault was also assigned within the Shuttle Branch to serve as an Astronaut Support Person. Beginning in October 2004, he acquired duties as a capsule communicator and will serve in this role during daily orbit shifts for STS-121. Archambault is assigned as the pilot for the crew of STS-117.

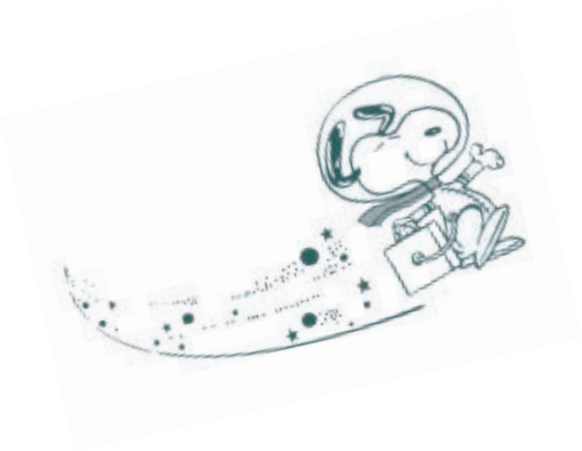
Emmett Given/MSFC

From left, Archambault and Marisa Wofford, IS05.

From left, Archambault, Mark Adrian, AS01; Tim Crabb, AS42; and Brian Caden, AS41.

From left, Sharon Espey, MP41, Archambault and Michael Carpenter, MP71.

From left, Dana Blaine, HS10, Archambault and Beth Defour, NP02.



From left, Archambault and Debra Hendon, AS21.

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

Mad River canoe w/Whitesail paddle, $400; Dry bag Farmer John suit, $150. 256-551-0276

PC game, NASCAR heat, MS sidewinder steering wheel and pedals, $50. 508-0691

Trundle bed w/mattress, $50; bookcase, $30; king mattress set w/frame, $100; baby stroller, $40. 603-3558

HP Laserjet 5, $10. 527-8116

1992 NASCAR McDonald's MAXX cards, complete sets, 37 cards, $10 set. 256-593-7207

2003 Fender P Bass w/case MIM, brown-burst, upgraded w/USA electronics. 534-5175

Yamaha rose brass trumpet with original case and music books, $300. 256-479-4345

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

Diamond ring, .9 carat platinum/gold, EGL certified, $4,000; wedding band w/6 diamonds, $1,000. 837-3672

Pastamaker and breadmaker, $30 each; $50 both. 509-2536

Pitching machine w/automatic feeder and balls, $1,100. 464-9408

Trampoline, 14' diameter, $100. 830-2806

1996 Space Technology & Applications International Forum (STAIF) conference proceedings, 3-volume set, $20. 351-1754

Ashley Millennium coffee & two end tables, gold covered iron w/glass tops, $300. 503-5115

Wedding dress w/veil, size 8, $100; Craftsman workbench w/lights and power, in box, $300. 776-9165

Line 6 Vetta Head w/floorboard, create Vintage 30, 4x12 cab, $1,400 for all. 256-232-0246

Horizontal gas furnace, 100,000 BTU, $150; condensing unit, 3-ton, $100. 881-2272

Provincial dining room suit, 11-piece, $2,000; antique Queen Anne sofa, $2,000; make offers. 881-0883

Gift certificate for golfing for 4 people at Limestone Sprints in Oneonta, $195. 536-8692

The Firm 3 body sculpting system, $40. 479-6073

Four poster Cherry twin bed w/mattress & box springs, 4-drawer chest, vanity w/mirror. 797-3123

Kel-Tec P-11 .9mm pistol, $180. 379-3606

Oval cluster ring, 29 diamonds, $350 negotiable. 534-9838

Full-size bed set w/headboard, footboard, frame, mattress and box spring, $125. 890-1142

Casio CTK-691 keyboard w/sustain pedal, stand, carrying bag, Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI), $200. 883-1003

Bunk beds w/mattresses, $100. 852-5693

Scandinavian teak bedroom furniture, queen platform bed, chest, bookshelf, nightstand, $1,000. 883-1667

2003 Epiphone Casino w/hardshell case, rarely played, factory strings, sunburst, $570. 746-9080

Three piece sectional sofa w/2 recliners, pull-out bed, coffee & end tables, floor lamp, $700. 325-0085

Ruger "old Army" stainless cap and ball revolver, $300. 851-6311

Two tickets to Evita, Saturday, Feb. 4, Row R, seats 38-39, $46 each. 256-656-5244

Nordic Track treadmill, top-of-the-line, all documentation, used little, $225. 683-7683

Vehicles

2005 Nissan Frontier, ext. cab, $18,700. 837-1774

2001 Procraft fish/ski, 150 Mercury, many extras, $12,000 firm. 714-7852

1997 Ford Thunderbird LX, automatic, power, hitch, 142K miles, $4,000. 426-5404

2000 Chevy Blazer ZR2, 4x4, 2-door, loaded, cruise, CD/cassette, towing package, 118K miles, $5,900. 882-0404

2002 Forest River Shamrock expandable travel trailer, 23', sleeps 8, loaded, slide, anti-sway hitch, $11,900. 874-7874

1991 Nissan Stanza sedan, $800. 714-7045

2001 Toyota Tacoma X-cab, 4-cyl., red, auto, a/c, ps, CD, 72.7K miles, $12,900. 682-8022

1998 GMC Sierra, V6, LWB, 68K miles, a/c, CD, toolbox, camper shell, $6,800. 216-9069

1999 Ford Explorer, 4x4, 82K miles, $7,500. 353-3229

1995 GMC Z71 KingCab, 4x4, V8, auto locks, windows, seats, CD/cassette, gooseneck hookup, 82K miles, $10,000. 931-732-4213

2001 Ford Focus SE, gold, 93K miles, one-owner, service records, $4,500 negotiable. 865-567-8862

2003 Ford F250 crew cab, 6L diesel, 4WD, leather, two-tone green/tan, tonneau cover, 66K miles, $27,000. 256-759-1494

1998 Subaru Forester, 68K miles, one-owner, heated leather seats, Security System, compass, all-wheel drive, $7,750. 533-6473

2004 Harley Davidson Road King Classic, 9K miles, pearl white, $17,900. 776-0811

2005 Yamaha YZ125F 4-stroke, blue, $2,000. 751-3766

1999 Toyota RAV4, 5-speed manual, dark red, front wheel drive, 89K miles, extras, $7,500. 729-8089

2000 Nissan Frontier crew cab, automatic, power, CD/cassette, 99K miles, silver, $10,000. 880-9025

Found

Garage door opener, parking lot next to Building 4201, first week of Jan. 544-7791 to claim/identify

Reading glasses, bronze, Friday, 1/13/06, between Bldg. 4201, 1st floor and Bldg. 4200, 7th floor. 544-2277

Wanted

Enclosed utility trailer. 828-6213

Electric washer/dryer, matched pair, good working condition, reasonably priced. 313-655-7966

Dumbell sets w/weights of 10, 15, 20 & 25 lbs.; will consider barbell set & weights also. 256-777-8229

Books or magazines in any condition for extra reading for 6th grade class. 883-2757

Mahogany and/or Chittim wood/lumber. 256-572-7396

Marshall surplus property can be purchased through sales Web site

Marshall Center's surplus property can be purchased through the General Services Administration sales Web site. Go to www.gsaauctions.gov, search by State of Alabama and you will find items located at Marshall and other federal agencies for bid. For more information, call 544-4667.

Reopening date of Redstone Gate 3 set for Jan. 30

The reopening date for Redstone Arsenal Gate 3, Redstone Road, is Jan. 30. The hours of Gate 3 are Monday-Friday, 5:30 a.m.-6 p.m., closed on weekends and federal holidays. For more information, visit Inside Marshall or call the Redstone Arsenal Provost Marshall's Office at 876-0762.

Space station Oxygen Generation System shipped to Kennedy

By Sherrie Super

The Oxygen Generation System — part of the International Space Station's Environmental Control and Life Support System — is one step closer to launch.

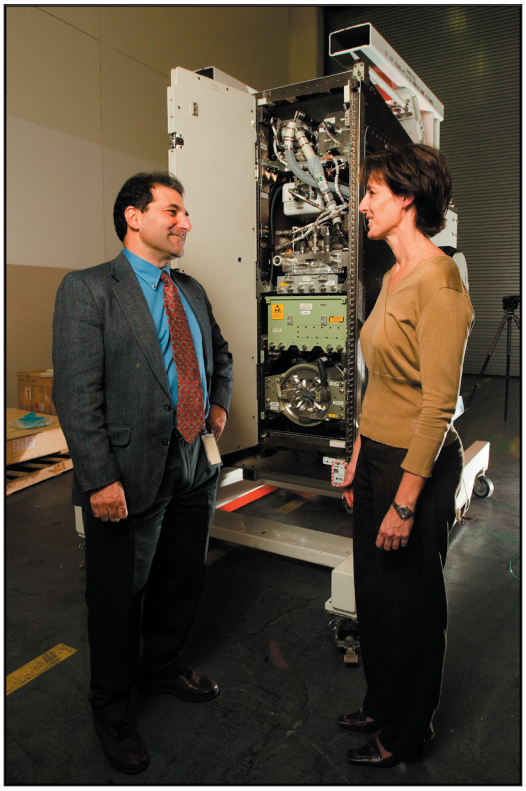
The system completed its acceptance review and was shipped Tuesday, Jan. 24, to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Kennedy is the system's last stop before its planned 2006 launch. The system is slated to fly on space shuttle Discovery as part of NASA's second Return to Flight test mission — STS-121, a mission to the space station.

Once installed on the station, the ECLSS Oxygen Generation System will help produce breathing air for the crew. It also will help replace oxygen lost due to experiment use, airlock depressurization, module leakage and carbon dioxide venting.

The system was designed and tested jointly by the Marshall Center and Hamilton Sundstrand Space Systems International in Windsor Locks, Conn.

Developing life-support systems, such as the Oxygen Generation System, is key to supporting long-duration missions to Mars and beyond for NASA's Vision for Space Exploration.

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



David Higginbotham/MSFC

Bob Bagdigian and Robyn Carrasquillo — project manager and engineering manager, respectively, for the Environmental Control and Life Support System — look over the Oxygen Generation System.

Marshall's McLean wins Marshall Exchange Council seat

Mike McLean

Mike McLean was elected to fill the vacant seat on the Marshall Exchange Council during voting that took place from Dec. 8-22. Civil service employees cast a total of 168 votes.

The Exchange Council is composed of seven Marshall employees who govern the Marshall Exchange, a non-appropriated fund activity established in 1963 by the center director. The Exchange Council develops an annual budget for the various morale and welfare activities it supports including center-wide activities, equal employment opportunity events, blood drives and sports and club activities.

McLean is the events manager at Marshall.

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