



MARSHALL STAR

Serving the Marshall Space Flight Center Community

Nov. 13, 2008

Ready to go!

Space shuttle Endeavour poised for a Nov. 14 launch at 6:55 p.m. CST

By Sanda Martel

Space shuttle Endeavour sits on Launch Pad 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center, Fla., ready for a targeted Nov. 14 launch on a 15-day mission to the International Space Station. As the Marshall Star went to press, there was a 40 percent chance the shuttle would not launch due to weather.

"All propulsion elements are ready to support this important mission," said Steve Cash, manager of the Marshall Space Flight Center's Shuttle Propulsion Office. He noted that the propulsion elements — the external tank, solid rocket boosters and space shuttle main engines — are in top shape to boost Endeavour on the fourth and final space shuttle mission in 2008.

The STS-126 mission will turn what is now a three-bedroom, one-bathroom home for three into a five-bedroom, two-bath residence for six. This "home improvement" mission will prepare the station for long-duration missions in coming years.

STS-126 will feature four planned spacewalks focused on servicing the space station's two Solar Alpha Rotary Joints, which allow solar arrays to track the sun.



Space shuttle Endeavour on the launch pad at NASA's Kennedy Space Center, Fla.

Among Endeavour's cargo are the Water Recovery System and the EXpedite the PProcessing of Experiments, or EXPRESS, Rack 6. The Water Recovery System is the second part of a comprehensive life support system that provides the station crew with clean drinking water through a series of chemical treatment processes. EXPRESS Rack 6 is the sixth in a series of standardized payload racks that transport, store and support experiments aboard the space station. Marshall Center teams played key roles in developing and managing these two vital new pieces of space station equipment.

STS-126 crewmembers include Commander Christopher Ferguson; Pilot Eric

A. Boe; and mission specialists Sandra Magnus, Stephen Bowen, Donald Pettit, Shane Kimbrough and Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper. Magnus will remain on the orbiting outpost, replacing Expedition 17/18 Flight Engineer Gregory E. Chamitoff, who returns to Earth with the STS-126 crew. Magnus will serve as a flight engineer and NASA science officer for Expedition 18 and return to Earth on shuttle mission STS-119 in early 2009.

Martel, an AI Signal Research Inc., employee, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications.

In celebration of NASA's 50th anniversary

Fifty years ago this month, Dr. Wernher von Braun spoke publicly about future plans for rockets that would lift humans and cargo into space. In a radio and television interview, he said he considered the ballistic missile a "very suitable form of transportation" for people and cargo. "We could use missiles that we have right now and fire people with them a couple of hundred miles," von Braun said. The missile, he added, should not be regarded only as an artillery weapon, but as a means to deliver people and cargo.

Von Braun and his team of Army rocket experts in Huntsville had already built and launched a Jupiter-C rocket that carried America's first satellite into space Jan. 31, 1958. In July 1960, he and his team transferred from the Army in Huntsville to the new NASA Marshall Space Flight Center. Von Braun served as center director for 10 years.

4 Marshall civil servants receive Federal Women's Program awards

By Rick Smith

Four Marshall Space Flight Center civil servants were honored Nov. 3 with Federal Women's Program Outstanding Achievement Awards for exceptional service to the Marshall Center and the U.S. space program.

The awards recognize outstanding federal employees in professional, administrative, supervisory and clerical positions. They are presented annually by the Team Redstone Federal Women's Program. Team Redstone includes the Marshall Center and the U.S. Army Garrison at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville.

The award recipients are Regina Grant, executive support assistant in the Engineering Directorate, for clerical achievement; Alfrica L. Jones, a program specialist in the Engineering Directorate's Resource Management Office, for administrative achievement; Kathleen Matus, team lead for booster electrical systems in the Marshall Center's Reusable Solid Rocket Booster Project Office, for professional achievement; and Annette M. Sledd, manager of the International Space Station Payloads Office, for supervisory achievement.

Regina Grant

As executive support assistant for Dan Dumbacher, director of the Marshall Center's Engineering Directorate, Grant assists in the day-to-day execution of all administrative business of the largest organization at the center.

Grant joined the Marshall Center as a co-op in 1986 as a clerk stenographer in the Systems Analysis and Integration Laboratory. She became a full-time NASA employee in 1988, and served in a variety of secretarial positions across the center for two decades. She accepted her current position in 2005.

A native of Birmingham, Ala., Grant earned her associate's degree in secretarial science from J.F. Drake State Technical College in Huntsville in 1988.

Alfrica Jones

Jones manages administrative operations and human resources functions across the Engineering Directorate — assigning and coordinating work, providing analytical data to the director and serving as liaison to organizations across Marshall on administrative matters.

Jones began her NASA career at the Marshall Center in 1976 as a student aide in the Space Shuttle Propulsion Project's External Tank Office. She joined the center full time in 1980 as a clerk typist for the Science and Engineering Directorate. She was promoted in 1987 to administrative assistant; in 1989 to administrative officer; and in 2000 to operations support specialist. She assumed her current position in 2005.



Regina Grant



Alfrica L. Jones



Kathleen Matus



Annette Sledd

A Huntsville native, Jones earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and management from Athens State College in Athens, Ala.

Kathleen Matus

Matus has led the solid rocket booster electrical systems team since 2003. She is responsible for managing all costs, schedules and technical requirements associated with the solid rocket boosters' electrical components and subsystems.

Matus began her NASA career at the Marshall Center in 1991 as a computer engineer in the Mission Operations Laboratory. In 1999, she was named business manager for the Solid Rocket Booster Project at Marshall. She was promoted to assistant manager of the project office in 2001.

A native of Corning, N.Y., Matus earned a bachelor's degree with honors in electrical engineering in 1986 from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y.

Annette Sledd

Sledd has managed the International Space Station Payloads Office, part of Marshall's Science & Mission Systems Office, since 2006. She oversees development, testing and delivery of science hardware and payloads bound for or now in use aboard the orbiting research facility.

She began her NASA career at the Marshall Center in 1983 as a structural design engineer. From 1985 to 1988, Sledd designed and studied laboratory concepts for the International Space Station. She spent the following four years leading a program-level study supporting integration of laboratory requirements with the overall space station. In 2003, she was named supervisor of the Multi-Use Payload Group and tasked with overseeing a number of teams developing, testing and preparing science hardware and support equipment for flight.

Sledd, a native of Hartselle, Ala., received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1982 from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. She earned her master's degree in engineering management in 1989 from the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne.

Smith, an AI Signal Research Inc. employee, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications.

Marshall workers receive awards for 'getting shuttle flying again'

By Sanda Martel

Awards were presented to 76 Marshall Space Flight Center personnel Nov. 3 for their work in resolving the space shuttle engine cut-off, or eco-sensor, system false readings that prevented two launch attempts of space shuttle Atlantis on the STS-122 mission in December 2007.

Ed Mango, deputy director of Launch Vehicle Processing at NASA's Kennedy Space Center, Fla., presented the awards at the Marshall Center. Mango led the "near-term" team credited with identifying the defective hardware, defining the interim corrective action, and making it possible to get back to flying the shuttle.

"We wouldn't be flying today without the dedication of this team," said Steve Cash, manager of Marshall's Shuttle Propulsion Office, who attended the awards ceremony to personally thank the team for its work. Cash noted the Space Shuttle Program has worked on the eco-sensor system problem for years, but it took the efforts of this team to get the shuttle flying again — and within 60 days. The STS-122 mission was successfully launched Feb. 7, 2008.

Both Cash and John Chapman, manager of the External Tank Project Office at Marshall, told the team members they performed "spectacular and amazing work" and solved a vexing problem. After the two failed launch attempts in 2007, a tanking, or fueling, test revealed that open circuits in the external tank's feed through connector were the most likely cause of false readings in the system. The team designed a modified connector with pins and sockets soldered together.

Both the original and modified connector configurations were tested at the Marshall Center's unique engineering and test facilities at Test Stand 300 in the East Test Area and the Vibration Test Area located in Building 4619. Tests included nondestructive evaluation, X-ray, visual inspection, cryogenic testing and physical destructive analysis, which subjects hardware to the same conditions it experiences during launch. These same test facilities also are helping NASA's development of the Ares I rocket, Chapman said.

Throughout the history of the Space Shuttle Program, various problems have occurred with the eco-sensor system, which is part of a larger system designed to prevent a failure of the space shuttle main engines due to a shutdown resulting from propellant depletion. Four shuttle launch attempts since the first Return to Flight mission, STS-114 in July 2005, have been delayed because of eco-sensor system issues.

Martel, an AI Signal Research Inc. employee, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications.



Chad Bryant, an External Tank Project office engineer who led the series of Marshall tests that helped solve the space shuttle engine cut-off sensor system problem, displays the award he and 75 others received at a recent ceremony.

Celebrate American Indian Heritage Month at Nov. 19 event

By Megan Norris Davidson

Stories of great warriors, authentic American Indian artifacts and the techniques behind throwing a spear all will be part of Team Redstone's American Indian Heritage Month event Nov. 19.

Team Redstone — which includes the Marshall Space Flight Center team and U.S. Army organizations on Redstone Arsenal — and their families are invited to the celebration from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the east side of Building 4203. The event is hosted by Team Redstone and sponsored by

the Marshall Center.

Activities will include traditional and mystic American Indian dance in authentic regalia, music, food, children's games, demonstrations of flint knapping — the process of making stone tools — and campfire building.

Performers will include Little Big Mountain, a fourth-generation dancer, singer and educator on American Indian culture from Gainesville, Ga.; flutist Mark Barfoot from Lawrenceburg, Tenn.; flint-knapping demonstrator Mike Gilbert from Moundville, Ala.; and dancers from several

American Indian tribes.

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush declared November "National American Indian Heritage Month," to recognize the intertribal cultures and to educate the public about the heritage, history, art and traditions of the American Indian and Alaska Native people.

For more information or to confirm attendance, call Cindy Campbell at 544-0144 or Jerald Kerby at 544-3243.

Davidson, an AI Signal Research Inc. employee, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications.

Give today ... change tomorrow

Marshall team members 'out and about' in support of CFC

With the help of the Marshall Space Flight Center team, more families in the community have something to smile about because of the Combined Federal Campaign Community Service Days. And while team members are lending a hand by donating their time and skills by volunteering at local organizations, they also are learning about how their money is being put to good use by catching a bus to tour local

agencies that benefit from CFC.

The CFC is an annual initiative by federal and military personnel to raise money for charities. The Marshall Center has set a goal of \$600,000 for its campaign this year, which runs through Dec. 12. To participate in CFC activities or to make a donation, please visit <http://cfc.msfc.nasa.gov/>.

CFC Community Service Days



David Higginbotham/MSFC

Marshall's Wendy Cruit, Ares I first stage lead systems engineer in the Engineering Directorate, gets the Christmas season started early by helping decorate the Huntsville Hospital gift shop, operated by the Huntsville Hospital Foundation, a non-profit organization.



David Higginbotham/MSFC

Jimmy Black from the Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications helps in a Habitat for Humanity effort to build a house for a family. This organization seeks to eliminate poverty housing.



Emmett Given/MSFC

Marshall team members hammer away with workers from CASA of Madison County as they install a wheelchair ramp for a Huntsville resident. The non-profit agency provides needed services to elderly and homebound individuals.



To date, Marshall's civil service work force has contributed \$378,530 toward the center's \$600,000 goal.

CFC Bus tours



Doug Stoffer/MSFC

Marshall team members visit the many attractions at the Huntsville Botanical Garden during a CFC bus tour. The garden provides elementary education programs as well as summer camps, and a Horticulture Therapy Program designed to enhance the quality of life of those in the community with special needs.



Doug Stoffer/MSFC

Tina Smith, human resource specialist in the Office of Human Capital, tries out the xylophones exhibit at Sci-Quest – The North Alabama Science Center. This hands-on learning center has more than 125 interactive exhibits pertaining to the principles of science and offers education programs for children.



Doug Stoffer/MSFC

Marshall team members tour the local American Red Cross facility to see how their CFC donations are used to help people around the community. The Red Cross helps people prevent, prepare for and respond to life's emergencies.

Classified Ads

To submit a classified ad to the Marshall Star, go to Inside Marshall, to "Employee Resources," and click on "Marshall Star Ad Form." Ads are limited to 15 words, including contact numbers. No sales pitches. Deadline for the next issue, Nov. 20, is 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 13.

Miscellaneous

CKC Boston Terrier puppies, two males, wormed, first shots, parents onsite, \$300 each. 859-0889
 Three limited edition Alabama prints by Ken Mobley, one signed by the "Bear." 693-4280
 Washer/dryer, \$100 each. 316-2746
 CKC mini Dachshunds, 7 weeks old, first shots, wormed, \$200. 256-527-5971
 8-inch wet wheel grinder, \$35. 270-9113
 Wood shrunk, \$75; wood/fabric rocking chair, \$45; oval coffee table, \$25. 683-9232
 Dolls, Barbie, Disney, Lucy, others, new in box, list and prices upon request. 874-6886 or leighsfinds@yahoo.com
 Convection range, \$500; dishwasher, \$200. 461-8359
 Mirage speakers, two OM-7 towers, two Omnisat satellite speakers, stands, \$1,500. 679-2165

Dining table, extension leafs, four side chairs, two arm chairs, china cabinet, buffet, \$600 obo. 430-3960
 Oak dining table, matching china cabinet, six high back chairs, \$450. 585-4100
 Refrigerator, \$200. 585-4100
 225-amp Lincoln AC Electrode welder, many extras, \$190 obo. 353-7670
 44-inch Panasonic Slim Projection HDTV, \$500; Nintendo Wii system, controller, chuck, games, \$300. 457-5173
 Ampeg Reverberocket guitar tube amplifier, 50 watts, 2x12 speakers, \$400. 479-8536
 Yakima hitch-mounted bike rack, 1 1/4" receiver hitch, Yakima deadlock, \$125. 585-1386
 Sumter Cabinet Co. oak bedroom suite, six pieces, \$1,500. 828-5303
 Oak entertainment center, 31-inch television, microwave, kitchen appliances. 658-5805
 Star Wars talking bank, \$25. 464-9408
 Daniel Moore print, "The Tradition Continues," 1063/19920, signed by Gene Stallings, 1992 champions, \$350. 883-8257
 McLane reel mower, 20-inch, B&S engine, striping kit. 679-8041
 La-Z-Boy, navy, maroon, hunter green, queen-sized sleeper sofa, \$200. 337-4315
 Maytag washer dryer, Jennaire double oven, Jennaire smooth cooktop/grill, Thermador disposal, dishwasher, two sinks/faucets. 425-1762
 IKEA contemporary birch-color entertainment center, sliding glass door, metal legs, \$125. 797-5282
 AKC Weimaraner puppies, silver, \$250. 287-2488 or 347-2097
 Garbage compactor, residential, brown, \$300 obo. 852-5595 after 7 p.m.

Vehicles

2008 Maxima SL, loaded, 12k miles, \$22,995 obo; 1999 Mercury Mystique, 83k miles, \$2,500. 520-2802

2007 Honda TRX450R Sport ATV/quad, electric start, plastics, black/flames, frame/red, \$4,950. 345-9555
 2006 BMW 325i, white/tan, loaded, 39k miles, \$22,900. 883-6894 or 468-6894
 2005 Ford Taurus Five Hundred, AWD, leather, moon roof, pueblo gold, 44k miles, \$14,500. 975-1667
 2005 Polaris Sportsman 400 4x4, 42 hours, 24 miles, \$4,200. 694-3959
 2005 Nissan Armada, towing package, DVD, seats 8, loaded, 14-18 mpg, 41k miles, \$19,500. 347-1674
 2004 Chevy Z71, red, extended cab, tow package, XM, On-Star, pictures available, \$13,500 obo. 509-2536
 2003 Mitsubishi Eclipse GS, silver, five-speed manual, 30 mpg, 90k miles, \$6,000. 931-6954
 2003 Gas Club Car golf cart, beige, tan seats, windshield, \$2,375 obo. 682-6326
 1999 Pontiac Firebird, V6, auto, T-tops, 110k miles, \$3,600. 655-9464
 1998 Ford Explorer, black, power, four doors, 2WD, automatic, \$1,600. 655-2913
 1989 Mercedes 300TE wagon, third seat, records, 23/19 mpg, \$2,700. 520-5014
 1978 Harley Sportster, low miles, \$6,500 or trade for bass boat of equal value. 606-8623
 1975 BMW 3.0Si, silver, \$3,500 obo; 1973 BMW Bavaria 3.0, new brakes/tires, \$1,000 obo. 797-2545
 1972 Honda CB350, new battery/tires/seat, \$650. 883-8340
 12-foot Jon boat, 6HP, Yamaha motor, depth finder, \$950. 612-2266

Wanted

Food dehydrator. 655-0393
 35-mm slide projector. 355-8271

Marshall Center says 'thank you' to its military veterans, families



Doug Staffer/MSFC

The Marshall Space Flight Center on Nov. 6 honored civil service employees and their family members who have served or are serving in the U.S. armed forces. Marshall Associate Director Robin Henderson, center, is presented a Blue Star Banner by Robert Devlin, right, deputy director of Marshall's Office of Center Operations. The banner is in recognition of her son, Adam Henderson, who serves in the U.S. Army and is being deployed to Iraq in January for his second tour. The star in the center of the flag represents an immediate family member who is deployed. Allan Day, left, equal employment manager for Disability and Veterans Programs in Marshall's Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity, helped to honor more than 60 civil service employees at the event.

Obituaries

Don Porterfield, 77, of Huntsville died Oct. 20. He retired from the Marshall Center in 1984 as an engineer.

John J. "Jack" Cooper, 85, of Huntsville died Oct. 23. He retired from the Marshall Center in 1979 as a supervisory personnel staffing specialist.

William H. Jenkins, 78, of Huntsville died Oct. 26. He retired from the Marshall Center in 1989 as an engineer. He is survived by his wife Emma Jenkins.

Thomas "Tommy" Edward Tucker Sr., 79, of Huntsville died Oct. 28. He retired from the Marshall Center in 1987 as an

aerospace specialist. He is survived by his wife Clara Jane Tucker.

Marvin R. Hamilton, 78, of Huntsville died Oct. 28. He retired from the Marshall Center in 1980 as a mathematician. He is survived by his wife Joyce Gold Hamilton.

Melba Sotherland, 75, of Huntsville died Oct. 15. She retired from the Marshall Center in 1994 as a management and program analysis officer.

E.L. "Stretch" Schneider, 87, of Huntsville died Oct. 17. He retired from the Marshall Center in 1985 as an assistant executive officer. He is survived by his wife Beth Schneider.

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