



# MARSHALL STAR

Serving the Marshall Space Flight Center Community

Dec. 14, 2006

## Space Shuttle Discovery blasts off Dec. 9

Space Shuttle Discovery and its seven-member crew lifted off Saturday, Dec. 9, from NASA's Kennedy Space Center at 7:47 p.m. CST on one of the most complex missions ever to the International Space Station.

Shortly before launch, Discovery's Commander Mark Polansky said he and his crew were excited to continue assembly of the station. "We look forward to lighting up the night sky and rewiring ISS."

After hearing of the successful liftoff, Expedition 14 Commander Michael Lopez-Alegria told Mission Control in Houston, "We'll leave the light on," in anticipation of the space shuttle crew's arrival Monday. Discovery successfully docked with the space station as scheduled Dec. 11 at 4:12 p.m. CST.

Low clouds delayed Discovery's launch Dec. 7. After standing down on Friday, launch personnel found the weather was much better for Saturday's launch.

During the 12-day mission, designated STS-116, a new structural component will be added to the station. Shuttle and station crews will work with ground teams to install the P5 truss. This latest addition to the station's backbone weighs 4,000 pounds and will extend the left side of the truss to allow future solar panels to rotate.

The mission also includes extensive work to reconfigure the station's electrical and cooling systems from temporary to permanent mode. During the mission, ground control will shut down and reroute the station's power



NASA/MSC

*See Discovery on page 3* Space Shuttle Discovery lights up the night sky!



Doug Staffer/MSC

## Marshall employees given 'a sign' about STS-116 launch

Checking out the sign recently erected on Rideout Road to keep employees up to date on shuttle launches are Charles Chitwood, left, deputy director of the Marshall Center; and Steve Cash, deputy manager of the Shuttle Propulsion Office at Marshall. Space Shuttle Discovery was launched Dec. 9 at 7:47 p.m. CST. It was the first night launch of the shuttle in four years. Flying on Discovery to the International Space Station are two payloads developed by the Marshall Center. The Lab-On-A-Chip Application Development Portable Test System, or LOCAD-PTS, is a unique, state-of-the-art science instrument. The Environmental Control and Life Support System, or ECLSS, will help provide the crew with fresh air and water. A second shuttle launch sign is located on Martin Road.

# Sheila Cloud appointed as Michoud Assembly Facility transition director

Sheila Cloud has been appointed to the position of Michoud Assembly Facility transition director for the Marshall Center.

As transition director, Cloud is responsible for defining and implementing a business model that optimizes Michoud assets to support NASA programs and lower operating costs. She will plan and manage the transition from shuttle to multi-NASA program operations at the facility. In addition, she will define and implement an operating structure and policies for Michoud that align with the space agency and Marshall Center governance structures.



Sheila Cloud

Since September 2003, Cloud has served as business integration executive for the deputy center director in the Office of the Director. In this role, she planned and administered comprehensive business plans at Marshall to produce the most efficient, timely and economical use of human capital and fiscal resources. Cloud introduced the three-council

governance structure, currently in use by Marshall, and benchmarked industry best practices. She also initiated the Business Integration Council, a precursor to the Integrated Management Systems Board, to improve integration across programs and the institution.

Cloud introduced scenario planning and budget forecasting, which was used for the first time at Marshall as a tool for understanding the center business base for strategically planning workforce. She also implemented the Workforce Information Management System, with the leadership of a multi-organizational team led by Bill Hicks of the Office of Strategic Analysis and Communications. In addition, she advised Marshall organizations and senior executive staff to ensure business process investments were made in accordance with federal guidelines and were consistent with Marshall and NASA

strategic and capital plans.

Cloud joined Marshall in 1983, where she became involved in the development and execution of the NASA budget. In 1986, she served as executive assistant to two center directors and routinely interfaced on program and institutional matters with center management. Later, as director of the Resources Management Office, she directed planning for all processes leading to the development of Marshall's annual budget, and managed the total center institutional budget for mission support, including workforce and travel. In 1997, she was appointed to the Senior Executive Service as director of the Institutional and Program Support Directorate, later to become the Center Operations Directorate. In this position, Cloud directed an array of institutional services, including all facility construction and engineering, logistics, medical services and information technology for Marshall and agency networks.

Cloud has made significant contributions to numerous agency teams and working groups, including the Office of Space Flight Task Team that reengineered the budget structure for space flight programs; the Infrastructure Review Team that made a comparative, institutional capability analysis of the four Office of Space Flight centers; and the agency Full Cost Initiative Working Group.

Cloud also served on the agency team that developed the NASA Strategic Management and Governance Handbook, which describes how NASA is managed and what internal and external requirements drive this management strategy. She has received agency recognition for her leadership in planning and implementing a full-cost environment at Marshall and the recent agency initiative to streamline and simplify the structure of full cost at NASA.

Cloud has received numerous honors. In 2001, she received a Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executives — one of the highest honors for government service work. Other awards include the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal, the NASA Exceptional Service Medal and a Silver Snoopy Award.

Cloud earned a bachelor's degree in business and retailing from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa in 1970. She received a master's degree in business administration from Alabama A&M University in Huntsville in 1985.

Cloud and her husband, Earl, live in Huntsville and have two children.

## Marshall's Gill and Wales win Exchange-MSFC Council seats



Hansel Gill

Hansel Gill and May Wales were elected to fill the vacant seats on the NASA Exchange-MSFC Council in a vote from Nov. 16 to Dec. 7.

The 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 NASA Exchange-MSFC Council develops an annual budget for the various morale and welfare



May Wales

activities it supports including centerwide activities, equal employment opportunity events, blood drives and sports and club activities.

Gill is a materials engineer in the Metals Engineering Branch of the Engineering Directorate.

Wales is a lead program specialist in the Office of Strategic Analysis and Communications.

## Scouting the future of space travel



Doug Starffer/MSFC

Girl Scouts from across Alabama visiting the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville Nov. 18 prepare to launch model rockets during Alabama's Place in Space Day. The girls were among 240 scouts from 33 troops attending the event. Alabama's Place in Space Day is a joint venture among the Marshall Center, the Space & Rocket Center and the Girl Scouts of North Alabama to educate scouts about the history and

mission of the Marshall Center and encourage them to pursue careers with the space program by studying math and science. Workshops at the event included the rocket launch and two engineering design challenges: water filtration and thermal protection systems. On Nov. 17, 25 scouts spent the day with women engineers at the Marshall Center to learn more about their NASA careers.

## Discovery

*Continued from page 1*

in stages so that the astronauts can reconfigure the power system and make the P4 solar arrays delivered during the last mission fully operational. This complex operation has never been done before. Part of an existing solar panel will be retracted to allow the P4 arrays to track the sun for a full 360 degrees and provide power to the rest of the

station.

As part of these operations, the station's temporary cooling system will be deactivated and a permanent system will become operational.

The station's newest resident will also be traveling on board Discovery. Astronaut Sunita Williams joins the Expedition 14 crew. Thomas Reiter, a European Space Agency astronaut who has been on board the station since July, will return to

Earth with the Discovery crew. Williams is scheduled to spend six months on the station.

Discovery's crew includes Polansky, pilot Bill Oefelein and mission specialists Bob Curbeam, Joan Higginbotham, Nicholas Patrick, Williams, and Christer Fuglesang, a European Space Agency astronaut.

For the latest information about the STS-116 mission and its crew, visit <http://www.nasa.gov/shuttle>.

# Marshall Center's Tony Lavoie to speak about lunar exploration at NSSTC on Dec. 19

By Sherrie Super

Tony Lavoie, manager of the Lunar Program and Projects Office at the Marshall Center, will speak Tuesday, Dec. 19, at the National Space Science and Technology Center in Huntsville. The talk is part of the center's Distinguished Lecturer Series.

Lavoie will speak at 11 a.m. in NSSTC Room 4078 about lunar architecture — NASA's plans for exploring the moon and paving the way to sustain human and robotic exploration of Mars and more distant destinations in the solar system



Tony Lavoie

His presentation will also include an overview of NASA's Lunar Precursor Robotic Program. Managed at the Marshall Center, this program is responsible for a series of robotic missions to the moon.

The lecture is free and open to employees and contractors at the NSSTC and the Marshall Center, commercial partners, and university students and instructors.

On Monday, Dec. 4, NASA unveiled the initial elements of the Global Exploration Strategy and a proposed U.S. lunar architecture, two critical tools for achieving the nation's vision of returning humans to the moon.

The Global Exploration Strategy focuses on two overarching issues: why we are returning to the moon and what we plan to do

when we get there. The strategy includes a comprehensive set of reasons for embarking upon human and robotic exploration of the moon. NASA's proposed lunar architecture focuses on a third issue: how humans might accomplish the mission of exploring the moon.

Since May of this year, Lavoie has served on detail at NASA Headquarters, where he has been spearheading the first phase of development of NASA's Human and Robotic Lunar Architecture being developed within NASA's Exploration Systems Mission Directorate.

In a NASA career spanning more than 20 years, Lavoie has provided expertise and leadership to a wide array of NASA programs. Before moving to the Lunar Programs and Projects Office, he was director of Marshall's Space Systems Programs/Projects Office, responsible for the execution of programs and projects supporting science and exploration activities at the Marshall Center.

He also has served as director of Marshall's Flight Projects Directorate, responsible for project management, design, development, integration, testing and operations of ground and flight systems for the International Space Station, NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory and other programs. Other previous positions include deputy director of Flight Projects, program manager of NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory and chief engineer for the Tethered Satellite System Project.

The Distinguished Lecturer Series, hosted monthly by the NSSTC and its participating organizations, brings speakers to Huntsville from industry, academia, private research facilities and government agencies around the nation.

For more information, call the NSSTC at 961-7000.

Beginning Friday, Dec. 22, Lavoie's lecture will be available on the Web from <http://www.nsstc.org/lectures/>.

*The writer, an ASRI employee, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis and Communications.*

## Marshall Center migrates to NASA's new electronic mail service

Communicating with people from other NASA centers will now be easier. Beginning January 2007, Marshall Center employees with Marshall e-mail accounts will begin using NASA's new electronic mail service called NOMAD, short for NASA Operational Messaging and Directory Services.

When implementation is complete, the new NASA e-mail system will allow access to all agency employees using the service. NOMAD uses the same Microsoft and anti-spam architecture now in use at Marshall and includes several enhancements.

The Global Address List is being expanded to include all NASA users;

users will be able to share calendars and schedule meetings across centers; file attachment sizes will be increased to 20 megabytes from 10 megabytes; fewer file attachments will be blocked with NOMAD; online training and materials for self-paced training will be offered; and no Virtual Private Network will be required to reach e-mail.

Marshall's migration to NOMAD is scheduled to occur in several phases. Specific organizations and customers will be slated for migration based on a five-week schedule. The NOMAD Outreach team will provide direct communication to users as

their scheduled migration approaches.

The migration impact to users will be minimal. Employees are asked to make sure mailbox size is 80 megabytes or less, not to use e-mail on the evening of their scheduled migration and to read the instructions they receive thoroughly. Any employee who has a Treo or BlackBerry mobile device will have to temporarily surrender the device to complete the migration to NOMAD. It is estimated that users will be without their devices for at least 24 hours, but the process could take longer.

*For more information, go to <http://nomad.msfc.nasa.gov>.*

# 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

Compaq Presario computer, Window XP Home Edition w/ 17" LCD monitor, built-in speakers, \$300; Window XP Professional upgrade software, \$80. 541-1788

Murray riding lawnmower, 42" cut, \$150. 684-6217

Tuxedo w/blue shirt; boy's American Field Hunting outfit; cast iron fireplace grate; firewood rack. 881-6040

Pentax SF1N Multi-Program auto focus 35mm SLR camera, additional lens, 28-80mm and 70-200mm. 797-7829

Bowling bag, three ball, \$40; ceiling fan/light, 52", make offer. 837-1774

Circular dinette table w/4 swivel chairs, Chromcraft, \$225. 881-1249

Engagement ring, 14K, approx. 1-CT TW, round center stone w/baguette accents, appraised, \$2,360, asking \$1,200. 852-2219

Intel 875PBZ Motherboard, P4 socket 478, DDR memory slots, Gigabit Ethernet, \$30. 850-4185

4-wheeler tires, new ITP MudLites, wheels, lug nuts, centerpieces, fit Honda 450 up. Price negotiable.

Gravely 1740 zero-turn mower, 15 hours, mulching kit included, \$2,700. 651-3064

AKC Lab puppies, 4 females, 2 black/2 blond, and 8 black males. 425-0830

Pool table, 7-1/2', all accessories, \$150. 256-655-3631/Darla or Matt

Refrigerator, 21 cu. ft. w/ice maker, \$150; Hulk power wheels w/battery pack, \$45. 682-7165

Hardware cloth, 1/8", 36" wide, approx. 75' in sections, mostly 12' lengths, \$40. 931-427-8205

C. A. King, wood and iron bed w/select comfort mattress, \$800. 489-4894

2002 Snapper commercial lawn mower, 17HP, zero-turn, just serviced, has riding sulky, \$1,000. 256-326-0918

Sherwin-Williams paint, Classic 99 satin, indoor, color latte, 3 gallons, \$75. 882-3983

Pioneer rear projection television, 55", Model SK-P5565, \$500; Viewsonic 17" CRT display, Model G773, \$55. 325-5646

White Forest convertible crib/white changing table. 859-1188

Victory scooter, never used, red, \$1,600. 755-4000

Single-wide house trailer, 2 bedrooms, must be moved, \$2,000. 751-0999

Celestron C8S-GT XLT telescope, computerized, 8" aperture, additional eye-piece kit, 12V power tank. 721-3935

Thick black leather, quilted lining, men's motorcycle jacket, size 40, purchased May 27, \$20. 508-2660

Kasson-Auburn pool table, 8', fruitwood, Queen Anne feet, leather pockets, all accessories, \$2,500. 880-6563

Microsoft X-Box game system, controllers, games, extras, \$225. 539-0399

Frigidaire refrigerator/freezer, 18 cu. ft., white, \$150. 772-7845

Kenmore heavy-duty super capacity washer and dryer, \$250. 601-670-3277

Nordic Track C2050 treadmill, 1 yr. old, used little, \$500. 726-1132

Hobart 230 stick welder, used less than 10 hours, some rods included, \$200. 651-3064

iPod remote interactive dock DS-Ai, works with Onko stereo/.home theater systems, new, \$45. 256-828-1234

New 51" wide-screen HDTV with HD tuner, HDMI, \$799. 489-0136

Trailer, fits canoe John boat, wench, lights, 1-7/8 ball, \$200. 534-8414

## Vehicles

1995 Toyota 4-Runner, loaded, black, leather,

sunroof, 4WD, owner purchased new, \$4,000. 256-506-2334

2006 Honda CRF230F dirt bike, \$2,700. 256-776-4741

2005 Mustang GT, 11K miles, loaded, leather, redfire/charcoal, mycolor, garage kept, \$23,500. 541-2435

Motorcycle 110cc 4-stroke, 4 speed, semi-automatic, \$400. 256-858-5552

Fiberpro 2000 duck/fish boat, camo, trailer, 10HP motor, used twice, extras, \$1,900. 350-1292

2001 Yamaha PW50 mini motorcycle, training wheels available, can store until 12/25/06 and deliver, \$600. 527-8116

2001 Honda Odyssey EX, power doors, quad seating, 106K miles, \$9,950. 256-830-0851

1992 Mercedes-Benz 600SEL, white, V12/389HP, loaded, VIN WDBGA57E8NA028252, 79.3K miles, \$15,000. 256-797-8505

1997 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo, red, leather, 6 cyl., 4.0L, 185K highway miles, 23mpg, \$3,700. 256-228-9513

2002 Chevy Tahoe, 4WD, 74K miles, leather, 3rd row, heated seats, tow package, \$15,900. 337-1364

1996 CAD Deville, loaded, \$3200, 1995 Deville, loaded, \$2400, 1993 Nissan Altima, loaded, \$1200. 520-2802

2002 Chevy Tahoe LS, white, 4WD, V8, automatic, all power, 45K miles, \$17,000. 852-6548

## Wanted

Weight set and bench. 658-8645

Cherry armoire or center stand/cabinet for 50" big screen TV. 256-318-5372

## Free

Electric dryer, will need new belt soon, you pick up. 527-5595

## Found

U.S. currency found on covered sidewalk to Bldg. 4200, south parking lot on 11/28/06. 544-4680 to identify/claim

U.S. currency found in lobby of Bldg. 4200, Dec. 4. Call 544-4680 to identify/claim

# Marshall hosts NASA Human Capital conference



The Marshall Center's Office of Human Capital recently hosted the NASA Human Capital conference. Human Capital directors and managers from NASA Headquarters and NASA centers attended the conference. The three-day function consisted of meetings and center sharing about strategic workforce planning and development and best practices. Guests were also treated to a tour of Marshall, which included the National Center for Advanced Manufacturing, the Automated Rendezvous and Docking facility, test areas and the Wellness Center. At left, NASA Human Capital managers listen as Bill Mayo, manager of the NASA Exchange in the Office of Human Capital, explains health and fitness programs that benefit the Marshall workforce at the Wellness Center.

David Higginbotham/MSFC

At right, Linda Brewster, deputy chief of the Avionics Systems Test Branch in the Engineering Directorate, lets guests experience the sensation of floating in space at the Automated Rendezvous and Docking flat floor facility in Building 4619.



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