



Boeing's construction of RS-68 to move from California to Stennis

For the first time ever at Stennis Space Center, a rocket engine will be assembled and tested on site, once construction on assembly and test facilities is complete.

Modifications to the B-1 test stand at Stennis Space Center to accommodate the RS-68 engine test program are approximately 80 to 85 percent complete, according to NASA's Jim Taylor Jr., RS-68 project manager at Stennis.

"For the most part we've completed most of the structural modifications, but are still working on some minor platforms and structural details," Taylor said.

The facility's hydraulic system that will be used to gimbal the engine and control valves is complete, with start-up operations of that system under way. The construction of the liquid oxygen piping has also been finished.

The B-1 test stand will be used to conduct development, certification and flight acceptance testing of Boeing's new RS-68 engine.

The RS-68 will provide propulsion for Boeing's expendable Delta IV launch vehicles that will be used to launch commercial and government payloads into orbit. The RS-68 engine will be assembled by Boeing personnel at the deactivated Mississippi Army Ammunition Plant at Stennis.

The Boeing assembly team will move into permanent offices in the assembly center by the end of the year.

Modification of the Army plant facility by Boeing is also progressing. The Mississippi Legislature recently approved a \$4 million grant for Boeing to complete modifications to the plant.

"The monies will be applied to the assembly facility to offset the costs we have to incur to modify that facility and get into assembly," Dave Geiger, site director for Boeing Rocketdyne Propulsion and Power at Stennis, said. "This is really a big deal for Mississippi, NASA, Stennis



Pictured above, construction continues on the Boeing assembly facility for the RS-68 engine at the Mississippi Army Ammunition Plant. The facility will assemble the new engine for testing on Stennis Space Center's B-1 stand. Inset, a welder works on the B-1 test stand.



Dr. Ghassem Asrar, Associate Administrator for NASA's Office of Earth Science at NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C., visited Stennis Space Center April 26 through 28 to receive an update on Earth Science activities at the center and to conduct a NASA Town Meeting with companies participating in the Mississippi Space Commerce Initiative. Pictured front row from left is Kern Witcher, deputy program manager for operations of NASA's Commercial Remote Sensing Program (CRSP) Office at Stennis; David Brannon, CRSP program manager at Stennis; Asrar; and Stennis Space Center Director Roy Estess. Pictured back row from left is Dr. Richard Miller, chief of NASA's Earth System Science Office at Stennis; Alexander Tuyahov, manager of the Earth Science Applications Research program at Headquarters; Susan Curley, program planning specialist for the Office of Earth Science at Headquarters; and Dr. Bruce Davis, chief scientist of the CRSP Office at Stennis.

LAGNIAPPE Commentary

Oh, what a dream...

I had just turned the history office upside down looking for an old, 1962 artist's concept map of Pearlington drawn up at Marshall Space Flight Center. My young friend, Patrick Scheuermann, up in Washington, D.C., wanted it for some reason or another.

I was exhausted looking through hundreds of archive boxes where we had stored the research materials from our book *Way Station to Space*.

I thought I would take a break and maybe a little nap. That usually helps my old brain function when I'm trying to find the many articles I lose around this place. So, I settled in my favorite easy chair. It wasn't long before I was off to dreamland, sawing them *ZZZZZZZZZZ*...

That's strange, in my dream-state I saw a "Lagniappe" on my desk. Where did it come from?

Look at that headline: "New remote sensing laboratory to be built on Upper Gainesville Road." The story read: "A remote sensing laboratory designed to serve Stennis Space Center's regional outlets all over the United States will be constructed on Laboratory Row next to the recently completed Propulsion and Vehicle Engineering Laboratory." Umm, I thought, must be near the new Space, Oceans and Earth Complex above the old cemetery. Things are getting kinda crowded along the Gainesville Strip.

The dream continued with another interesting story on page one. "Stennis to Launch another mission to Mars," the headline read. The story stated that "The SSC Launch Operations Directorate announced today that it would launch an X-39 manned spaceship from Clermont Harbor Launch Complex 49. The mission will travel to the vicinity of Mars to perform further studies of the red planet. A crew of 12 astronauts, who have been training at the Devil's Swamp Space Institute, will crew the Mars Mission. The new spaceship was assembled at the industrial complex in the northwest part of Stennis and barged through the upper Mike's Bayou Canal and down the Pearl River to the Clermont launch site."

And, over on page two of this most newsy "Lagniappe" is another big story: "Stennis scientists find old mummies in ancient civilization while conducting archaeological dig in Tibet." That story stated the location data came from sensors on the International Space Station.

And, over on page three is another interesting story: "SSC population to hit 10,000." The story read: "The director's office announced that the population of Stennis will reach 10,000 when employees arrive to assemble the Saturn VI spaceship. The Saturn VI will be used as a workhorse in NASA's explorations for the next 25-50 years."

My gosh, what news! I wonder what the date of this paper is? Here it is right at the top of the page — 2020! What on Earth? How did this bizarre "Lagniappe" get on my desk?

"Wake up Rip! Wake up before I give you the old hot foot," Gator said as he punched me in the side with his cane. I was glad Gator rescued me from that strange dream.

We'll just have to wait and see what the new millennium brings...

M.R.H.



NASA NEWSCLIPS

McClain to leave NASA; Hawes named acting chief of space station—Gretchen McClain, a senior space station official at NASA Headquarters, has announced that she will leave the Agency to return to private industry later this month.

Michael Hawes, NASA's chief engineer for the space station, will replace McClain in an acting role.

"Gretchen's vision, technical expertise and leadership was a key factor in bringing the station to reality," said Joseph Rothenberg, Associate Administrator for Space Flight. "I along with the entire NASA team will miss her. Michael will ensure that we maintain that leadership and expertise until a permanent selection is made."

NASA partners with USDA—A new partnership between NASA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) could result in updated maps of Yellowstone National Park, a better understanding of wildfires and improved management of California vineyards.

Under the partnership, NASA has selected 13 research proposals that will apply remote-sensing data — images of the Earth taken by satellites — to issues on the ground: forest mapping, soil studies, wildfires, range management, flood plain drainage and crop monitoring.

The award value for the 13 projects, which involve 11 universities, 11 private companies, 17 federal agency facilities and four state and local governments, is \$7 million over three years. NASA selected the 13 projects from 180 proposals.

Researchers will use a variety of public and private spaceborne and aircraft-mounted Earth-observing instruments, along with ground observations, in their studies.

NASA works to help fight crime—Watch out, America's most wanted. NASA scientists are developing promising new software technologies and instruments to help law enforcement agencies catch criminals by improving the analysis of crime-scene evidence.

NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., has demonstrated software that enhances and improves dark, blurry videotape — technology used by law enforcement to study video of the bombing at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. And, NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md., is working with the National Institute of Justice to develop remote crime-scene analysis.

New 250k hybrid rockets to begin testing at Stennis

A new sound will soon be rumbling through Stennis Space Center and its surrounding communities — a 250,000-pound thrust hybrid rocket motor.

The Hybrid Propulsion Demonstration Program will begin testing the new motors this month.

“These larger hybrid rocket motors will definitely let you know they’re being tested. We’re always trying to think ahead and solve a problem before we’re confronted with it,” said NASA’s Robert Bruce, project manager for the 250k Test Project at Stennis. “If we can mitigate a concern by design, by operations, or by procedure, then we, of course, will.”

The series of tests will be conducted at Stennis’ E-1 test facility on two separate rocket motors this year. These will be the largest hybrid motors tested at Stennis to date. Because of the size and tremendous amount of thrust, noise levels will be higher than during tests of other propulsion systems, such as the Space Shuttle Main Engine.

At the Test Control Center for the E Complex, the weighted sound levels (which allow comparisons of different sound levels) will be about the same as live music concerts.

Much of the sound generated by the testing will be absorbed or lessened by the test facility itself—buildings, trees and vegetation within the center’s grounds and buffer zone—and distance between the center and surrounding communities.

“We’ve been working for 11 months to get to this point. The consortium has been waiting for longer than that, since earlier in calendar year 1998, for a test,” Bruce said. “Everyone wants to get to that first test, and we’re looking forward to getting there safely—step-by-step.”

The Hybrid Propulsion Demonstration Program’s 250k hybrid rocket motor was designed and constructed by a consortium of aerospace corporations. Companies involved in the program’s consortium are: Lockheed Martin Astronautics, Boeing-Rocketdyne, Lockheed Martin Michoud Space Systems, Thiokol Corporation and United Technologies Chemical Systems Division.



Five Stennis employees were honored this month with NASA’s Space Flight Awareness Award. They will attend the launch of STS-96. Pictured from left are Tom Knight with Johnson Controls World Services, Billie Faye Miller with NASA, Matthew Scardino with Boeing, Caroline Necaise with Cimarron and Richard Gilbrech with NASA. The Space Flight Awareness program was established to prevent human error by instilling in civil service and contractor employees an awareness of personal responsibility for shuttle mission success and motivating the exemplary performance necessary to achieve this mission.

NASA informs employees and public

NASA’s Environmental Office staff hosted two information sessions April 20 concerning clean up of two sites located in the buffer zone. The sessions, held on site and at the Bay St. Louis Branch of the Hancock County Library, provided employees and the public information on the extent of contamination and the procedures to be used in the cleanup process.



Top, Ron Magee, NASA’s Environmental officer, discusses details with reporter John McMullan of the Picayune Item. Johnson Controls World Services environmental engineer Wendy Robinson, right, fields questions from Sheila Webster of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command at Stennis. The sessions are part of an ongoing study by NASA into the feasibility of cleanup efforts in areas where NASA conducted past operations.



Stennis plays part in national town meeting

NASA's Commercial Remote Sensing Program at Stennis Space Center recently sponsored an exhibit and a learning session on remote sensing at the National Town Meeting for a Sustainable America, sponsored by the President's Council on Sustainable Development.

The keynote speaker for the event was Vice President Al Gore.

The National Town Meeting was held May 2 through May 5 in Detroit, Mich., to "engage all Americans in charting a course for prosperity in the years ahead." At the meeting, concepts such as "sustainability" and "smart growth" were introduced as necessary components for improving the quality of life for all citizens, both in present and future generations. The meeting also showcased practices that promote sustainability across the country and emphasized building individual and institutional capacity so that the practices can be replicated elsewhere.

More than 3,000 delegates attended the National Town Meeting, with more than 60,000 people joining the meeting by satellite from more than 100 locations nationwide.

During his speech, Gore made two personal commitments and announced 50 federal government commitments to sustainability. Among the federal commitments are new steps to ease traffic congestion in American cities, new tax credits for state and local bonds to build more livable communities, and new regulations to make our air even cleaner.

"Working together, we can create an America that's not just better off, but better in

See NATIONAL MEETING, Page 5

Director's Dialogue

from Center Director
Roy Estess



'Improve it'

This issue of the "Lagniappe" initiates a new column titled "Director's Dialogue." With all that's happening here at Stennis and around NASA, it's very important that we each stay informed, despite the press of everyday activity. The intent of "Director's Dialogue" is to share the bigger Stennis picture, whether it be technical, managerial, political, administrative, institutional or human interest. To that end, in this column, I will give my perspective or ask others, both inside and outside of the Stennis community, to do the same. I hope that you find it informative and useful.

To begin this column, I think it appropriate to start with our ISO 9001 certification. What a wonderful testament to the competence and commitment of the Stennis team! "Say it, do it, prove it" is so simple and yet so profound. It will increase our ability to win work in the marketplace—and winning work is what we must be about. It will also serve as the platform to add the fourth leg, "improve it." Last year, we formed Diversity Dialogue Groups to address employee concerns identified in both NASA and Stennis surveys. The groups studied the top issues and made recommendations to senior management that have been translated into specific actions. These are the first "improve it" steps. The first action, by the way, is to institutionalize an effective and continuing "improve it" process that involves each of us.

The second activity appropriate to mention in this issue is the so-called N2Y or "next-two-year" activity. Our assigned mission has expanded significantly in the last five years from base operator to lead center for all of NASA in propulsion test and commercial remote sensing. We're very busy, and that is good! The purpose of N2Y is to make sure that, in the rush, we're not losing sight of significant needs and opportunities. N2Y will spend the next two years focused on strengthening the center by consolidating and improving our capabilities while accomplishing our assignments and meeting our commitments. We have identified several areas to receive attention: business management, staffing levels, process improvement, other center assignments, and a new Visitors Center concept. Specific actions have been assigned to address each, and results will be reported in future "Lagniappe" issues. You are a great team to work with—keep going!

During a recent Space Day program, John Fourcade, coach of the Mississippi Firedogs and former New Orleans Saints quarterback, speaks to a group of students at Bay Middle School in Bay St. Louis about the importance of staying in school and receiving a good education. The program featured presentations from Lockheed Martin Stennis Operations senior engineer at Stennis, Tom McCormick and Mike Reader, a meteorologist with WLOX-TV. Space Day is a nationwide program dedicated to the extraordinary achievements, benefits and opportunities in the exploration and use of space.



Richard King, left, NASA's project manager for the Low Cost Technologies project at Stennis Space Center, and Larry Ellis, right, Stennis Propulsion Test Directorate deputy director, congratulate Danny Davis, center, project manager for the Low Cost Technologies project at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. The Fastrac rocket engine being tested at Stennis as part of the project was selected for the Continual Improvement Award at the 14th Annual Continual Improvement and Reinvention Conference at NASA Headquarters. Davis visited Stennis April 28 to share the award-winning presentation with Stennis employees. The Marshall and Stennis team was one of five competing for the award.



U.S. Savings Bond Campaign begins at Stennis Space Center

Stennis kicked off its 1999 U.S. Savings Bond Campaign April 29 with a concert by members of the Marine Corps Band from New Orleans. The campaign will run through June 15.

Nancy Sullivan, an education specialist with NASA's Education and University Affairs Office at Stennis, is the 1999 campaign coordinator.

"For many years savings bonds were sold as a patriotic investment in America — with the implication that the purchaser was sacrificing some financial benefit for the good of the country," Sullivan said. "Today, bonds pay a competitive, market-based interest rate that changes every six months to keep up with the general level of interest rates. So, investing in U.S. Savings Bonds is still every bit as patriotic as it ever was, however, the sacrifice of some

financial benefit on our part is less."

The interest rate paid on savings bonds is currently 90 percent of the rate paid on five-year U.S. Treasury notes. However, Sullivan explained, Treasury notes require a minimum \$1,000 purchase.

"Savings bonds can be bought through a payroll deduction plan for just a few dollars every week. Interest earned, unlike interest on Treasury notes, is not subject to federal income taxes until you cash the bonds, and you never pay state or local income taxes on savings bond earnings," she said.

Center Director Roy Estess stated in a letter to NASA and contractor chiefs that he would like to see the number of employees enrolled in the payroll savings plan increase this year.

"Currently 45 percent of employees at Stennis are enrolled in the payroll deduction savings plan. I would like to see that number increased by 5 percent," Estess said.

"We should also aim at trying to persuade at least 10 percent of those employees currently enrolled to increase their amounts of savings. Most people know they are not saving enough. Savings bonds offer a way to complement current savings or investments by allowing a small contribution each pay period. By participating in the savings bond program, we help employees, NASA and our country."

Sullivan said support has always been strong from departments and resident agencies. For information on how to enroll, contact your agency coordinator, department canvasser or call Sullivan at Ext. 1883.

NATIONAL MEETING...

(continued from Page 4)

every way," Gore said. "First, I will do all I can to make the federal government a better partner in creating livable communities across America. Second, I will carry the message across the country, to create a new prosperity for all Americans."

NASA's David Brannon, program manager of the Commercial Remote Sensing Program Office at Stennis, and Dr. Bruce Davis, chief scientist of the Commercial Remote Sensing Program, represented NASA and Stennis Space Center at the meeting.

"We are working in partnerships with state and city officials and industry leaders to

apply remote sensing technology to meet the challenges of sustainable development," Brannon said.

Remote sensing is a technology that uses highly sensitive instruments on aircraft or satellites to take detailed images of the surface of the Earth. These images can be used to construct very accurate maps for such applications as disaster management and assessment, crop assessment or road planning.

Numerous learning sessions were held for participants of the National Town Meeting. These sessions were designed to highlight the diverse challenges to making a community livable, and possible solutions to these challenges. "Remote Sensing: Seeing Our Earth's Opportunities" was a learning session conducted by Brannon and Davis.

Brannon and Davis, along with presentations from state agencies and private compa-

nies, demonstrated to attendees how remote-sensing technologies and applications are helping communities, businesses and citizens make more accurate, timely and cost-effective resource use and management decisions.

"Maintaining a balance between economic development and natural resource conservation is a key issue facing our country in the next decade. NASA's Earth Science Enterprise is making strategic investments in applied remote-sensing technology to help sustain economic prosperity," Brannon said.

The session explained how, with orbiting satellites, specially designed aircraft and new sensors, NASA and industry are learning new ways to work with the Earth to improve farming, forestry management, urban planning and transportation infrastructure design. Participants were also treated to some remarkable, rarely seen video footage of Earth and Mars.

Burnett moves more than furniture; he moves people

Every Sunday, he delivers a sermon to the congregation of the Reveal Holiness Church of God in Picayune. Monday through Friday, he delivers whatever needs to be moved from here to there at Stennis. Wardell Burnett, a mover for USAI, has been delivering on the job for Stennis since 1962.

"When I first came here, the land and site had to be made," he said. "I couldn't imagine all that they were going to do. So, I just did what they told me. I started working with the engineers."

Burnett has been a fundamental part of Stennis' development. He can be seen in historical photographs of the test stands under construction. He was here when the lights were turned on to the facility. He was the second person in line at the first meal served in the Main Cafeteria. He has dug out footings for numerous buildings, and he will always be recognized with the mule driver in the classic photograph of workmen terracing the site of the B test stand.

"I have been just an all-around-man," he said smiling his trademark grin. "You name it, I did it. I've been in it, and you can name it today, and I am still willing to do it."

Burnett was a single man when he started to work at Stennis. He married Annie Pearl Arrington in 1964. She works for Johnson Controls in the Main Cafeteria. They had four children and two grandchildren. "My baby son worked out here with us, too, for a while," Burnett said, "But, he died in an accident last June on his way to work. It broke our hearts, but the people here were real supportive and helped us through that bad time."

It is the work around the Space Shuttle Main Engine testing that intrigues Burnett the most. "There had never been



"When I first came here... I couldn't imagine all they were going to do."

Wardell Burnett

SSC Employee Profile



anything like that in this part of the world," he said recalling the first time he saw a shuttle main engine test. "It was great. I watch the Space Shuttle launches on television and feel like I have a part in all of it. It makes me proud."

Burnett plans to retire next year. He will continue his work with the church and help with the Sunday schools. The Reveal Holiness

Church of God is growing. Right now, the congregation meets in a doublewide trailer. "But we plan on expanding and going on and doing the job," Burnett said. The church will begin its building program soon. Undoubtedly, Burnett will be among the movers and the shakers in that project as well.



Burnett is pictured here to the left terracing the site for the B test stand. This is one of the most popular photos taken at Stennis Space Center. It was released by the Associated Press to the media worldwide.

Walker is honored for work with Navy education programs

On April 13, the Navy honored Dr. Sharon Walker, director of the J.L. Scott Marine Education Center and Aquarium and deputy of the Institute of Marine Science, University of Southern Mississippi, for her many contributions to the Navy's science education programs on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The Institute of Marine Science is a Stennis-based extension of

the university's emphasis on naval oceanography issues.

Walker's Navy education projects include the following: The JASON Project, which uses telecommunications to excite and engage students in science and technology and to motivate and provide professional development opportunities to teachers; COAST, or the Consortium for

Oceanographic Activities for Students and Teachers, which is a working collaborative designed to deliver oceanographic and coastal processes education to teachers from kindergarten through 12th-grade; and the Secretary of the Navy's Engineering and Science Residential Program, which is an academic model built around a six-week program for 11th-grade students.

May is Asian/Pacific American month

In designating the month of May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, President Bill Clinton cited the accomplishments and contributions of such men and women as astronaut Kalpana Chawla, scientist David Ho and human rights activist Dith Pran. Stennis Space Center will mark Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month with an exhibit displayed in front of the Main Cafeteria saluting the accomplishments of Chawla and her fellow Asian/Pacific American astronauts, Leroy Chiao, Edward Tsang Lu, Mark Polansky and David Tani.

In conjunction with the observance, this year themed "Celebrating Our Legacy," the Association for Cultural Awareness at Stennis hosted a food tasting May 20.

For additional information, contact Evelyn Johnson, NASA Equal Opportunity Office, at Ext. 2079.

Educator Resource Center workshops

Don't Be Afraid of Poetry!

June 9

For teachers of grades K-5

Join other educators for an informative session that will offer ideas and activities to instill a love of poetry in both the teacher and the student.

Home Page Development

June 10

For teachers of grades K-12

Learn how to create a home page using Web development tools.

Dynamic Dinosaurs!

June 11

For teachers of grades K-4

Teachers are invited to explore the exciting world of dinosaurs through hands-on activities. Ideas will be offered to incorporate material in cross-curricular lessons.

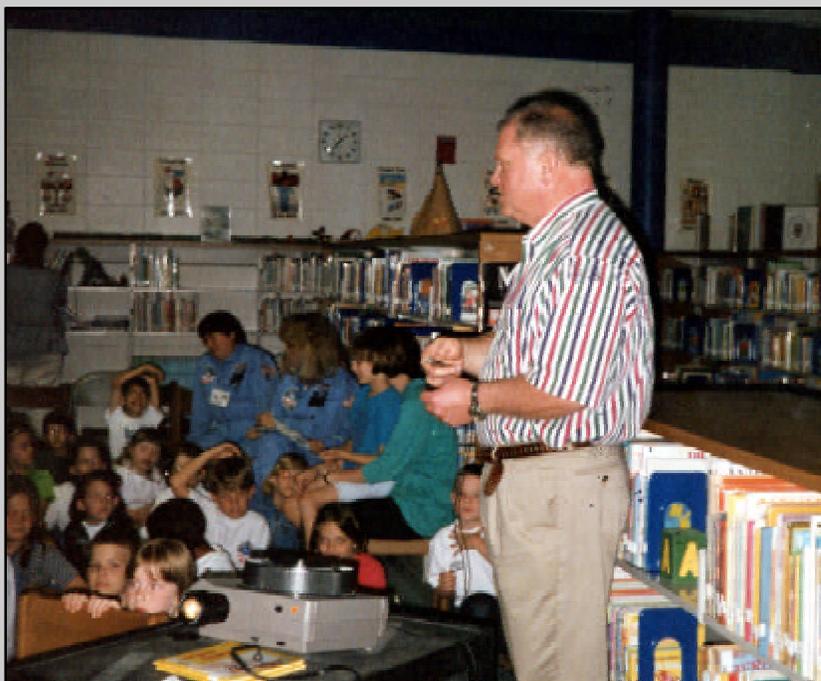
GLOBE

June 16, 17 & 18

For teachers of grades K-12

As participants in GLOBE training, teachers will learn methods of collecting measurements in atmosphere/climate, hydrology, landcover/biology and soils.

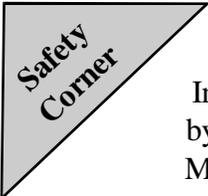
For reservations, call the NASA Educator Resource Center at 1-800-237-1821 (select option 2) or (228) 688-3338 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Mark Craig, Stennis Space Center deputy director, was invited to speak to a group of second- and fifth-grade students at Madison Avenue Elementary School in Madison, Miss., about what it's like to be an astronaut on the shuttle, the International Space Station, the Moon and Mars.



NASA's Federal Women's Program Manager, Ronda Foley, third from right, takes a moment with a group of participants from the more than 200 taking part in the annual Take Our Daughters to Work program held April 22. The focus of the program is to provide young women with an awareness of the diversity of careers available to them. Participants toured Stennis Space Center, heard from NASA experts, shadowed their parents and sponsors on the job, and took part in an electronic strategic planning session. Foley's group included from left, Robyn Cobb, Holly Park, Vicky Carter, Kristen Kaye, Autumn Huk, Foley, Mindy Ladner and Jessica Pucheu. NASA and more than 10 resident agencies and contractors participated in the sixth annual event.



Information provided by the Federal Energy Management Program

Save your energy

10 simple things you can do

1. Stress less—carpool to work or take mass transit.
2. Start up your computer, not your car—telecommute when possible.
3. Faucet aerators reduce water and energy—go with low-flow to save money.
4. Save time, energy and money—send messages by e-mail.
5. Shoot for stars—Energy Star appliances, computers and windows cut pollution, save energy and reduce costs.
6. Keep the elements at bay—caulk and weather-strip around windows and doors.
7. Shield your electric bills from the heat of summer—plant shade trees on the west and south sides of your home.
8. Go blue—gas appliances with yellow flames indicate poor efficiency.
9. Take your refrigerator’s temperature—freezers should be set at 5 degrees, fresh foods at 37-40 degrees.
10. A full dishwasher uses less water than washing dishes by hand—and they don’t get wrinkles.

QUICK LOOK

■ **For the annual Old Timers’ celebration at Stennis**, NASA and contractor retirees are invited to join current NASA employees for a shrimp boil. It will be held at 4:30 p.m. June 11 at the Cypress House pavilion. Old Timers planning to attend should contact Virginia Butler in the NASA History Office at Ext. 2643, no later than June 4, to reserve a seat.

■ **The NASA Exchange at Stennis is** offering discount tickets to various theme parks and attractions including Disney World, Sea World, Universal Studios, Busch Gardens, AstroWorld in Houston, Six Flags over Georgia and more. Discounts typically run from 12 to 25 percent with several ranging from 44 to 50 percent. For additional information and details on destinations, contact Alyce Moran in Room 330, Building 1100 or call, Ext. 7227.

■ **The Naval Research Laboratory (NRL)** invites all Stennis employees to view two exhibits depicting NRL history and its science. The 75th Anniversary Exhibit travels through NRL’s history, highlighting moments in communications, rocket programs, solar and lunar studies, astronomy, oceans and the environment, and materials. Special recognition is given to the various awards and prizes NRL has received throughout the years, including the Nobel Prize for chemistry in 1985. The exhibits will be on display for general Stennis viewing from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. daily, June 22-25 in Building 1005. For more information, call Becky Rotundo at Ext. 5328.

RS-68...

(continued from Page 1)

Space Center and Boeing. It positions us for the next millennium to go compete internationally for access to space.”

Once testing is complete, the engine will be moved to the assembly facility for final checkouts and shipment to Decatur, Ala., for integration into the Delta IV Common Booster Core.

Until construction is complete at the plant, the engine assembly is being performed at a Boeing Rocketdyne Propulsion and Power facility in Canoga Park, Calif.

Only a few systems remain to be finished on B-1. Taylor said the remaining 15 to 20 percent is primarily cleanup work with the exception of a section of fuel piping that is expected to be delivered very soon.

Overall, Taylor feels that the modification process has gone according to plan.

“We’ve made phenomenal progress with the construction. We’ve done a massive amount of construction in a very short time—roughly four months,” Taylor said. “I would say that type of construction, if it were done on a ‘normal’ schedule, would have easily taken eight months. We’ve done it with multiple shifts and the expediting of material. It’s been a very well coordinated effort between NASA, Boeing and the contractors to make it happen. We’re excited and are looking forward to the first test.”

LAGNIAPPE

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