



LAGNIAPPE

Rudolphi updates civic leaders on Stennis mission

Stennis Space Center Interim Director Michael Rudolphi held an informal breakfast meeting June 10 with local civic, community and business leaders representing Hancock and Pearl River counties in Mississippi, and St. Tammany Parish, La.

Among the participants were members of Partners for Stennis, comprised of community leaders representing area chambers of commerce, economic development foundations, businesses, educational institutions and local governments.

The group exists to promote the economic, technical and academic growth and stability of Stennis Space Center through projects that ensure citizens, government decision makers and businesses are aware of the center's value to the South Mississippi and Southeast Louisiana region.

At the gathering in the Atrium of Building 1100, Rudolphi spoke to the approximately 40 communi-

ty representatives about his vision for Stennis and the goals he hopes to help Stennis reach within NASA.

In addition to Stennis' two main lines of business, Propulsion Testing and Earth Science Applications, Rudolphi said he also felt the importance of Stennis' education initiative couldn't be overplayed.

"There are two things that capture children's imaginations," Rudolphi said. "One is spaceships; the other is dinosaurs.

"We need to inspire the next generation of explorers as only NASA can. The fire and smoke of rockets and engine testing entice them."

Rudolphi told the crowd he wanted to add another leg to Stennis' mission: that of developing leaders. "I'd like to incubate future leaders, not only for this agency, but for other agencies in this country."

He also told attendees he wanted Stennis to maintain its reputation



Stennis Space Center Interim Director Michael Rudolphi addresses approximately 40 community leaders who attended a get-acquainted breakfast held in the Atrium of Building 1100 on June 10.

as a good neighbor and to maintain its tradition of cooperation.

Among the region's businesses and organizations represented at the meeting were United Way of South Mississippi, city of Picayune, St. Tammany Economic

Development Foundation, Partners for Pearl River County, Sam's Wholesale Club, University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Park Campus, Whitney National Bank, Hancock County Port and Harbor and Keenan Staffing.



Journalists learn about Stennis missions during Media Roundtable Event

Stennis Space Center (SSC) Interim Director Michael Rudolphi, right, addresses about 20 local and regional representatives of broadcast and print journalists during a Media Roundtable held June 11. Also giving presentations on the main lines of business at SSC were Dr. David Powe, director of the Earth Science Applications Directorate, and Dr. Shamim Rahman, chief engineer of the Propulsion Test Directorate. The roundtable was held to provide the media an opportunity to meet Rudolphi and to learn more about the numerous programs and activities at SSC.

*From the desk of
Michael Rudolphi*

Stennis Space Center Interim Director



Summer is here, and children throughout the Gulf Coast region are enjoying a long-awaited break from school. However, NASA continues to inspire the next generation of explorers year-round.

Through the workforce pipeline concept, a research and development environment is pro-

I applaud these programs for doing a great job in inspiring our next generation of explorers and helping them see learning in a whole new light.

vided for educators and students so they may gain an understanding of how science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines relate to NASA. The program also helps identify potential employee recruitment opportunities for NASA.

This summer, Stennis had the largest involvement ever in a variety of summer student and faculty programs. I am very proud of our NASA employees and contractors who continue to do a tremendous job as mentors to students and colleagues to the faculty. Per capita, Stennis has one of the best ratios of summer students and faculty to number of employees.

Through the NASA Explorer School (NES) program, teams of teachers and administrators in diverse, underserved geographic locations applied for a unique three-year partnership between NASA and schools across the country. Here in Mississippi, five teams were selected to participate.

The NES teams will work with NASA personnel and other partners to develop and implement action plans for staff and students that promote and support the teams' local needs in mathematics, science and technology achievement. A \$10,000 grant to each school will support the integration of technology tools that support student engagement.

Astro Camp at StenniSphere is also doing a great job helping to inspire our youths. Seven weeklong day camps are scheduled this summer for children ages 7 through 12. Registration for these camps, themed "From First Flight to Space Flight," was tremendous, and each is booked to capacity this summer.

I applaud these programs for doing a great job in inspiring our next generation of explorers and helping them see learning in a whole new light.

IFMP 'Goes Live' on schedule

Stennis Space Center (SSC) successfully initiated the Core Financial Module of the Integrated Financial Management Program (IFMP) on Monday, June 23.

This project, the culmination of two years of hard work by a dedicated team of NASA and support-service contract personnel, exemplifies the SSC spirit, professionalism and dedication the Agency has come to expect.

The change-management team delivered over 150 communications events, held 4,500 hours of training and mapped 225 users to over 750 IFMP roles.

The conversion team translated 31 financial files containing thousands of records, which were checked for errors and loaded into the IFMP system with 100 percent accuracy five days ahead of an already tight schedule.

The SSC team developed unique IFMP interfaces to four external systems, and tested them in three different testing environments.

Members of the financial offices will gradually rotate back to their pre-IFMP jobs as the center becomes used to the new financial system. Terry Jackson, SSC Chief Information Officer, and many members of the IFMP project team will remain to deal with the budget formulation module and the integrated asset management module, the next steps in IFMP implementation.

Budget formulation will "Go Live" in two phases, the first one for the financial community in October and the second one for SSC programs in February.

Integrated Asset Management is currently in the planning stages and will kick off its activities this fall. Financial subject-matter experts currently on IFMP will be replaced by members from Center Operations and from other areas concerned with SSC asset management.

With the Core Financial module initiated, the IFMP team looks forward to improved productivity from the addition of more modules.

NEWSCLIPS

Veteran long-duration space flier to lead NASA undersea crew. For the first time, an astronaut with months of experience in space will compare that time to life underwater. Peggy Whitson, who called the Space Station home for six months last year, joined astronauts Clay Anderson and Garret Reisman and scientist Emma Hwang for a NASA Extreme Environment Mission Operations mission June 16-29.

The quartet is serving as the NASA members of a crew living in the Aquarius Underwater Research Facility off the coast of Key Largo, Fla.

The crew is using the undersea habitat as practice for long-duration space habitation, while conducting scientific research on the human body and coral reef environment. They are also building undersea structures to simulate Space Station assembly activities.

Coastal cities turn up the heat on rainfall. According to new NASA-funded research, urban heat islands, created from pavement and buildings in big coastal cities like Houston, cause warm air to rise and interact with sea breezes to create heavier and more frequent rainfall in and downwind of the cities.

Analysis of Houston-area rain-gauge data, both prior to and since urbanization, also suggests there have been observed increases in rainfall as more heat islands were created. The Houston-area study used data from the world's only space-based rain radar on NASA's Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission satellite, and dense clusters of rain gauges.

NASA's Earth Science Enterprise, which supported this study, is dedicated to applying Earth System Science to improve prediction of climate, weather and natural hazards using the unique vantage point of space.

NASA and USDA launch partnership to help agriculture and the environment. USDA Secretary Ann M. Veneman and NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe recently launched a partnership that will use Earth Science technologies to enhance the competitiveness of American farmers and ranchers and help protect the environment.

O'Keefe and Veneman signed a Memorandum of Understanding that enables the USDA to draw on the best scientific and technical information available from NASA research in Earth observation and systems engineering.

The primary purpose of this new cooperative effort is to help increase the production efficiency of farmers while continuing to reduce the cost of production.



International Space Station Status Report

Two cornerstone components for future research and operations aboard the International Space Station are ready to begin integrated testing at the Kennedy Space Center (KSC).

The European-built, NASA-owned "Node 2" and the Japanese Experiment Module (JEM) Pressurized Module will be linked up on the ground for a trial run before they are launched to join the orbiting Space Station complex.

"We were all very pleased to see the two modules together in the Space Station Processing Facility today," said Bill Gerstenmaier, NASA's Station Program Manager. "Our teamwork and dedication to continuing the assembly of the Station shines through when a key milestone such as this is realized."

International Space Station Partner Program managers and representatives met at KSC June 18 to welcome the modules to the United States and to officially sign over ownership of Node 2 from the European Space Agency (ESA) to NASA.

Node 2 was built for NASA under a barter agreement with ESA. In exchange for Node 2, NASA will launch the European Columbus Laboratory on board a future Space Shuttle mission to the Space Station.

The arrival at KSC of the JEM and its lifeline to the Space Station, Node 2, coincided, so NASA can conduct multi-element, integrated testing of the modules in the Space Station Processing Facility before they are prepared for launch.

The ground tests will validate the compatibility of the modules in distributing power and system resources between the research facilities.

The installation of NASA's Node 2 will signify the completion of the American portion of the International Space Station, known as U.S. Core Complete.

Stars show Spirit the way to Mars

NASA's Spirit spacecraft, the first of twin Mars Exploration Rovers, has successfully reduced its spin rate as planned and switched to celestial navigation using a star scanner.

All systems on the spacecraft are in good health. As of 48 hours after the June 10 launch, Spirit had traveled 5,630,000 kilometers (3,500,000 miles) and was at a distance of 610,000 kilometers (380,000 miles) from Earth.

After separation from the third stage of its Delta II launch vehicle, Spirit was spinning 12.03 rotations per minute. Onboard thrusters were used June 11 to reduce the spin rate to approximately 2 rotations per minute, the designed rate for the cruise to Mars. After the spinning slowed, Spirit's star scanner found stars that are being used as reference points for spacecraft attitude.

Navigators and other flight team members at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif., will decide soon when to perform the first of several trajectory-correction maneuvers planned during the seven-month trip between Earth and Mars.

Spirit will arrive at Mars on Jan. 4, 2004, Universal Time (evening of Jan. 3, 2004, Eastern



Workers watch as the Mars Exploration Rover-2 (MER-2) rolls over ramps to test its mobility and maneuverability. It is one of two identical rovers designed to cover roughly 110 yards each Martian day over various terrain. Each will carry five scientific instruments to search for evidence of liquid water that may have been present in the planet's past.

and Pacific times). The rover will examine its landing area in Mars' Gusev Crater for geological evidence about the history of water on Mars.

JPL, a division of the California Institute of Technology, manages the Mars Exploration Rover project for NASA's Office of Space Science, Washington, D.C.



Milestone phase of testing completed in NASA-Air Force joint venture

Teams at Stennis Space Center's E-Complex successfully completed an oxidizer pump hot fire test April 30. The test was one of eight in the final phase of testing for the Integrated Powerhead Demonstrator (IPD) Liquid Oxygen Turbopump, completed June 6. The IPD program is a joint venture between NASA and the U.S. Air Force to develop future propulsion systems.



Transfer of power

A Space Shuttle Main Engine (SSME) was hot-fire tested June 19 on the A-1 Test Stand. The A-1 Test Facility has been serving the SSME Test Program while the A-2 Test Stand was undergoing refurbishment. SSME test operations, for now, will be conducted on the A-2 Test Stand. On A-2, Stennis engineers use a diffuser to simulate engine operation at altitude, while tests performed on A-1 simulate engine operation at sea level. Engineers with the Propulsion Test Directorate anticipate SSME testing to resume on A-2 in late July.

E-mails will alert employees about high ozone level days

Employees at Stennis Space Center soon may receive e-mail notifications of predicted Ozone Action Days. These e-mails, generated by NASA's Environmental Management Office, will let workers know when the next day's ozone levels are expected to contribute to poor air quality.

Ozone is a natural element in the Earth's upper atmosphere, where it shields the Earth from the sun's ultraviolet rays. However, with the help of car exhaust, industrial emissions and gasoline vapors, it can form near the Earth's surface when weather conditions are just right: light winds, little cloud cover, high temperatures. It then becomes a major element of smog and a harmful pollutant.

Ozone can limit the ability to take a deep breath. It can cause coughing, throat irritation and breathing discomfort. There is evidence it can damage lung tissue, lower the body's resistance to respiratory diseases such as pneumonia and aggravate chronic conditions such as asthma.

Environmental Specialist Carolyn Kennedy said the high ozone season runs from March 1 through Oct. 1 in Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties. "We've already had two days this season - one in May, the other in the first part of June - when ozone levels were high."

Hancock County has, so far, fallen within the air quality standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency's guidelines, Kennedy said. "But the new, stricter National Ambient Air Quality Standards are kicking in," reducing acceptable levels of ozone concentrations. That will put the coastal counties on the verge of being unacceptable.

Ozone Action Day notification e-mails will be sent when the next day's ozone levels are predicted to reach or exceed levels deemed unhealthy for sensitive groups, such as people with heart or lung disease, the elderly and young children. On Ozone Action Days, these groups should limit exertion.

Everyone can help reduce ozone on Ozone Action Days by:

- Conserving electricity, setting home air conditioners at higher temperatures.
- Carpooling to work.
- Bicycling or walking to errands.
- Combining errands, reducing trips.
- Delaying the use of gasoline-powered equipment.
- Refueling cars after dusk.
- Limiting engine idle time.
- Delaying the use of household, workshop and garden chemicals.

For more information, call Kennedy at 8-1445 or visit the EPA Web site at: www.epa.gov/airnow/consumer.html.



Wishing Parsons a fond farewell

General Jefferson D. Howell Jr., director of the Johnson Space Center in Houston, takes his turn at the microphone at the farewell party for former Stennis Center Director Bill Parsons, who looks on, center. Howell was one of hundreds of NASA employees, retirees and their families attending the event at the Cypress House on June 13. Parsons assumed his new duties as manager of the Space Shuttle Program on June 1. Michael Rudolphi, deputy center director under Parsons, serves as SSC interim center director until a permanent successor to Parsons is named.

Trying to reason with ...

Hurricane season

As the 2003 hurricane season gets under way, it's important to review safety procedures and preparations for home and work.

"We really want to emphasize to all employees at the beginning of hurricane season, which was June 1, that this is the time to dust off the emergency plans and refresh them," said NASA's Clyde Dease of Support Services Administration at Stennis. "The one thing we can count on every year is having to respond to some type of severe weather condition."

He notes that information addressing the most common questions his office receives during storm threats can be found on Page 112 in the Stennis Telephone Directory. The information explains storm warning conditions, site closure and shelter information, and lists of television and radio stations that air updates on site information. It also lists the number for site status, 24 hours a day: (228) 688-3777. A hurricane tracking map is printed on Page 113.

Take precautions before leaving work

Mississippi Space Services' Mike McKinion, chief operator, Energy Management and Control Systems, offers these tips:

- Back up your data files using established procedures.
- If you plan to seek shelter at SSC, you may want to keep your equipment online to check the storm's progress. Utilize security measures to prevent unauthorized use.
- If you don't plan to shelter in your office, turn off your equipment and unplug it.
- Preplan by covering your electronic gear and paper files with plastic sheets. Fold and store the plastic along with some sturdy tape for quick use. Keep in mind this is intended only as protection from a roof leak, not gale-force winds or flooding. Make sure equipment is unplugged before covering with sheeting.
- Lock the office and leave as directed.
- Upon returning to work, inspect for signs of water damage prior to powering up any equipment. If you suspect water damage, advise personnel responsible for the equipment, ODIN where applicable, before powering up.

During a Hurricane Watch

- Listen to a battery-operated radio or television for hurricane progress reports.
- Check emergency supplies.
- Fuel car.
- Bring in outdoor objects such as lawn furniture, and anchor objects that cannot be brought inside.
- Secure buildings by closing and boarding

- up windows. Remove outside antennas.
- Turn refrigerator and freezer to coldest settings. Open only when absolutely necessary and close quickly.
- Store drinking water.
- Review evacuation plan.
- Moor boat securely or move it to a designated safe place.

If evacuation is necessary

You do not have to wait for an evacuation order to leave. If you live in a low-lying area or a mobile home, be sure to head north or to a shelter. The following are tips the Department of Civil Defense recommends if you are evacuating:

- Avoid flooded roads and watch for washed-out bridges.
- Call and make hotel or motel reservations before you leave.
- Leave as soon as possible.
- Tell someone outside the storm area where

you are going.

- Check with your vet or the humane society to find a place for pets. Most hotels do not allow pets.
- If time permits, and you live in an identified surge zone, elevate furniture to protect it from flooding, or move it to a higher floor.
- Take pre-assembled emergency supplies and warm, protective clothing.
- Take blankets and sleeping bags to shelter.
- Lock up home and leave.

If you must shelter

Take:

- First-aid kit, manual and prescription medications.
- Baby food and diapers.
- Cards, games and books.
- Toiletries.

- Battery-powered radio and extra batteries.
- Flashlight (one per person) and extra batteries.
- Blankets or sleeping bags.
- Identification.
- Valuable papers (copies of insurance papers, passports and other essential documents).

After the storm

- Do not go out of your home – or leave the shelter – until emergency officials on the radio or television tell you to do so.
- If you are not at home, do not return until you get the all-clear.
- Go straight home.
- Driving can be extremely dangerous. After a hurricane, roads can flood; murky water and dark skies can conceal deep puddles that may nearly submerge your car.
- If your neighborhood floods, listen to the radio for instructions. Rising water may require you to leave after the storm has passed.
- Don't call police, emergency or utility officials unless you have a real emergency.

- Don't touch power lines. Assume all lines are live.
- Be careful letting your pet outdoors. Familiar landmarks and scents may be gone and your pet may get lost.

To purify water

Use household bleach that contains hypochlorite as its only active ingredient. Never use bleach containing soap, lemon or other additives. Use eight drops per gallon of clear water or 16 drops per gallon of cloudy water. Mix thoroughly and let stand 30 minutes. The water should have a slight chlorine smell; if it doesn't, repeat the dose and let it stand another 15 minutes.

Important numbers

SSC site status: (228) 688-3777
Hancock Co.: (228) 467-9226
Pearl River Co.: (601) 795-3058
St. Tammany Parish, La.: (985) 645-2492

Harrison Co. Civil Defense: (228) 865-4002
D'Iberville: (228) 392-7966 or (228) 392-3473
Jackson Co. Civil Defense: (228) 769-3111
Ocean Springs: (228) 875-4063

One NASA alive and well at JPL

Editor's note: This is one in a series of stories from other NASA centers on the One NASA concept. This month's story is from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

In 2000, specific technology leadership within NASA was consolidated at various centers, with little overlap.

Art Murphy was managing Space Mission Technology Development at the time at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, Calif. Looking at the changes going on within the Agency he realized it would be very difficult to develop mission-needed technology in this new environment.

There were also more pressures on JPL to not do everything itself. In addition, revolutionary technology infusion was being demanded in JPL missions at no greater overall risk or cost. He saw a need to start

collaborating with other centers to develop the needed complete technology package for JPL missions.

Murphy identified Langley Research Center (LaRC), Ames Research Center, Glenn Research Center, and Marshall Space Flight Center as having the best immediate potential for joint activities with JPL. His idea was to build an interdependent relationship with each of these centers to use their research and technology development capabilities in JPL's space and Earth science flight missions.

He put together a proposal and, on Jan. 24, 2001, met with the JPL Executive Council. If JPL more actively collaborated with these centers to do research and development for technology, it would enable JPL to do better science. The council was sold.

Murphy was asked to establish these four collaborative alliances. LaRC signed the first alliance



Art Murphy points out four framed documents on the JPL director's conference room wall. 'The goal is to have JPL and the other centers interact as One NASA,' he said. 'Where we used to compete with each other we now work together.' Murphy manages Intercenter Alliance Development at JPL. The four documents illustrate the collaborative agreements he helped develop between JPL and Langley Research Center, Ames Research Center, Glenn Research Center and Marshall Space Flight Center.

agreement on Feb. 21, 2002. The other agreements were finalized by the end of that year.

These alliances require minimal formal reporting. "This is a center See ONE NASA, next page

Star Scene at



A 'SOX' fan visits

Matt Bowersox, left, of Clear Lake, Texas, points out the STS-61 Space Shuttle mission patch on display at StenniSphere. Matt's father, astronaut Ken Bowersox, served as pilot on the 1993 mission. The crew serviced and repaired the Hubble Space Telescope through a record five space walks. Matt visited StenniSphere with his friend, Pierce Marquette, of Houston, right. Matt sports a T-shirt that incorporates the letters, 'SOX,' made by his aunt for family members in support of Matt's father, who commanded International Space Station Expedition 6. The Expedition 6 crew landed in Kazakhstan on May 3, 2003, marking the first time a NASA astronaut crew returned to Earth aboard a Russian Soyuz spacecraft.



O'Keefe counts down model rocket launch

NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe stands with his nephew, Lucas Bourgeois, of Slidell, La., as Lucas launches his model rocket June 13, the last day of his Astro Camp week. O'Keefe took the opportunity to watch the launch while visiting Stennis to attend the farewell reception for former Center Director Bill Parsons, now serving as manager of NASA's Space Shuttle Program.



On a 'grand' tour

Myrtice Carpenter, left, helps her granddaughter, Baileigh Peloke, 3, launch an air rocket Baileigh made while visiting StenniSphere. Assisting them is Tammy Estapa, an Astro Camp counselor. Carpenter and Baileigh, both of Milton, Fla., were part of a group of 21 children and 18 grandparents who recently visited as part of a group tour from Pensacola, Fla.

Homegrown values serve Rudolphi well

Farm fields, basketball courts were fertile learning ground for interim center director

The values Michael Rudolphi learned growing up in the agricultural world of southern Illinois in the late '50s and early '60s still work well for him as interim center director of NASA's Stennis Space Center (SSC) in South Mississippi.

One of 10 children, Rudolphi grew up on a 450-acre farm in northeast Clay County, Ill., where there were no paved roads until he was in junior high school and where hard work was a necessity of life.

Throw a rack of basketballs into the mix, and the result is a man focused on leadership, discipline, practice and people.

Working the wheat harvest during summers after high school, Rudolphi had a crew leader, Clyde Stephens, who was a stickler for organization. "He taught me that if you take care of things, things will take care of you," Rudolphi said. "Whenever there was a paint scratch on his combine, Stephens fixed it," he said.

Odds are, you won't find any scratches on Rudolphi's collection of restored antique tractors similar to the model he used on the family farm.

After a stellar basketball career at Clay City High School, the future civil engineer was set to attend Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, intent on becoming a high school math teacher.

That's when the University of Tennessee at Martin called, and

Rudolphi accepted the offer of a basketball scholarship.

He thought he wanted to be a mechanical engineer but wasn't sure until he got a job with the school grounds and engineering department.

Map-making and surveying suited him, and with the encouragement of co-workers, Rudolphi went on to the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, then earned his master's in the same field.

After joining the Tennessee Valley Authority as a design engineer, he became a field engineering manager, instrumental in nuclear power plant construction.



Mike Rudolphi: Interim SSC director applies lessons of youth to NASA center leadership.

In 1988 he got another chance to step to the line when he attended a job fair in Huntsville, Ala., home of the Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC). At the NASA booth he learned about new construction starting on an Advanced Solid Rocket Motor (ASRM) project.

Two days later he was hired and on his way to Iuka, Miss., to oversee the conversion of a nuclear

power plant into an ultra-modern rocket manufacturing facility. When the ASRM project in Iuka wound down, Rudolphi accepted the job of chief engineer at Kennedy Space Center (KSC) in Florida. Rudolphi couldn't have known at the time, but he was on a direct track to Stennis.

It was at KSC he met SSC Director Bill Parsons, who asked Rudolphi to become his deputy

tude," Murphy remarked. "Our relationships are also much better with Langley, Glenn and Marshall. We are working together like we didn't always do in the past. In some ways the only time we saw another center was when we competed for technology work against them. The center directors have been magnificent, very positive about working together."

These alliances are paving the



Stennis Mini Mart stocks wide variety

Stennis Mini Mart clerk Jennifer Hughes completes a transaction with customer Nick Pitalo recently. Branch Exchange Manager Pattie Ferguson said the store stocks 'almost everything you can think of: uniforms, socks, paper towels, dairy, beer and wine, and frozen foods.' It even stocks emergency items such as Coleman lanterns, tarps, batteries and water. At the corner of 'H' Road and Trent Lott Parkway, the store opened for business May 27 and held its grand opening June 18. Hours are 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call the Mini Mart at 8-3725.

center director. "How could I turn that down?" Rudolphi asked.

Of course, he'd been practicing for the bigger job all along, telling himself as he tells others, especially young people, "You have to be ready when the coach looks down the bench, because you never know if you'll be the one he wants. Practice, and be ready."

After becoming SSC deputy center director in November 2002, Rudolphi would need all the leadership and people skills he had honed for so long, when he served as one of NASA's senior leads in Space Shuttle Columbia recovery efforts in Texas.

The effort involved numerous government agencies and volunteers from all walks of life, all feeling the loss in the NASA family. And none more so than Mike Rudolphi. "The work in Texas involved extreme highs and extreme lows," he said. "In a way, it was reinvigorating, because it put

a personal touch on your work. It made you want to come back and do that much better."

Consequently, in March Rudolphi served as chair of the Safety Panel of NASA's Space Shuttle Life Extension Program (SLEP). SLEP works to assure that all critical assets are in place to fly the Space Shuttle effectively and safely into the next decade.

Talk with Rudolphi a while, and his concern for people is obvious. At Stennis he wants to provide opportunity and security. "The key is to provide an emotionally, professionally and physically safe environment," he said. "And, we need to offer people greater opportunity for growth in leadership roles."

Rudolphi no doubt still believes, as he learned so many years ago during those summer wheat harvests, "If you take care of things, things will take care of you."

ONE NASA . . .

(Continued from previous page)

grass-roots-up effort to show that centers have the right ideas and attitude," Murphy said. A joint center review is held about every six months for each alliance. The last one was held at JPL with Ames on Jan. 23, 2003.

"Our relationship with Ames has improved an order of magni-

way for future missions such as Jupiter Icy Moons Orbiter by providing technology for them. They will continue to pay off in developing research and development technology for future missions that are about five to 15, or more, years out.

JPL's director, Charles Elachi, summed up the importance of these efforts. "I believe we owe it to American taxpayers to be as efficient as possible in developing

these potentially high-payoff, bold missions, by using the best technologies from all NASA centers to generate the most exciting and productive science possible.

"I'm pleased that our alliances contribute to the One NASA initiative, and I'm grateful to Art Murphy and his colleagues at our partner centers for being so persistent and effective in constructing these alliances."



Take care of your protective gear

Sometimes, all that stands between an employee and an injury is Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

In order for PPE to do its job, a worker must wear it properly and consistently and take good care of it so it will work properly in a crisis.

An employer's responsibility is to remove as many hazards as possible, to have the correct PPE on hand and instruct workers in its use and care.

Caring for PPE:

- Inspect the PPE before each use. Replace it if there are any defects.
- PPE should be cleaned according to the manufacturer's instructions before and after each use.
- Properly store PPE. Incorrect storage of certain types of PPE can result in damage or failure of the equipment.
- Dry PPE before storing to prevent mold and rot.
- Keep stored PPE away from objects that can puncture, cut or damage the equipment.
- Do not store PPE that has been contaminated. Clean it according to directions.
- Do not wear or take chemically contaminated PPE or clothing home. Do not mix this clothing and streetwear.
- Fall-arrest equipment is critical to protecting those who work at heights. This equipment deserves special attention and should be kept free of dirt and dust, cleaned according to manufacturer's directions, stored properly and inspected each time before it is used. Anyone involved in a fall should not use the equipment again until it has been inspected by the equipment manufacturer.

QUICKLOOK

Child Development Center has new director, new program emphasis. Rose Pouriraji, new director of the Stennis Child Development Center (SCDC), is introducing preschool and pre-K developmentally appropriate readiness programs. The preschool curriculum is a unit-based whole-language program that places emphasis on skills necessary for kindergarten. The SCDC, now managed by the University of Southern Mississippi, also offers summer camp taught by certified instructors who teach unit-based topics on environment and earth science. For more information call Pouriraji at 8-3224.

Give the gift of life. The Blood Center will conduct a blood drive Aug. 26-27, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day, in the NASA Convention Center, Building 1100. The Blood Center is a non-profit community service organization and is the regional provider of blood and blood components to over 40 hospitals in South Louisiana and parts of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. For more information call Sheila Wilson at 8-1815.

Employees can help plan the International Festival. The Stennis International Festival will be held Oct. 23 with the theme "Embracing One World, Many Cultures." Employees are encouraged to participate in planning the festival, which is being sponsored by site agencies and contractors. If you have an idea for a cultural performance, would like to donate an ethnic dish or be willing to set up a cultural display or artifacts, please contact your agency or contractor representative. For more information call the NASA Office of Equal Opportunity at 8-2079.



Wilbur and Orville Wright made their historic first flight Dec. 17, 1903. In support of NASA Quest's Centennial of Flight Project, LAGNIAPPE offers trivia questions about NASA's role in flight each issue during the yearlong celebration.

Q. What was the first spacecraft to photograph the Earth from the Moon?

A. Lunar Orbiter 1. Designed to accurately map the lunar surface down to 1-meter resolution, the five Lunar Orbiters, launched between August 1966 and August 1967, mapped about 99 percent of the lunar surface in total. The program's main goal was to enable mission planners to choose the safest, most scientifically interesting landing sites for Apollo missions. The last two orbiters also mapped the lunar gravitational field.

LAGNIAPPE

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