AEROSPACE Orbiter

Print September Article Archive

Article Archive for September 1st to September 30th.
Generated on October 1, 2012, 7:03 pm

Team Wins Award for Assessing Risk to Space Shuttles

Eric Hamburg

From left to right, Matthew Eby, John Brekke, Dr. Brian Hardy, and Randall Williams.

Posted Sept. 28, 2012 · Feature

The team of John Brekke, principal director, Human Exploration and Spaceflight, Civil and Commercial Operations; Matthew Eby, engineering specialist, Mechanical Systems Department; Dr. Brian Hardy, senior MTS, Mechanics Research Department, both of the Engineering and Technology Group; and Randall Williams, systems director, Civil and Commercial Launch Projects, Space Systems Group, was awarded a 2012 President's Achievement Award on Sept. 20 for "outstanding contributions made in characterizing external tank foam debris risk to the shuttle program."

Each member of the team received a stylized crystal eagle's-wings statue representing perfection and achievement, and a check for $7,500.

Investigations following the Columbia accident in 2003 revealed that the release of foam insulation from the shuttle's external tank damaged the leading edge of Columbia's wing during ascent. This resulted in the disintegration of the orbiter and deaths of the crew on reentry.

In March 2005, the primary approach NASA and its primary contractors had pursued for assessing the foam debris risk was rejected by NASA. Instead a probabilistic approach that would require NASA to start afresh was proposed, further delaying the shuttle program's return to flight by at least six months.

Fortunately, the Aerospace team had previously received permission to pursue a probabilistic approach as a backup to the just-rejected primary approach. On the same day the NASA administrator announced the need for an alternate approach, the Aerospace team presented their probabilistic foam debris assessment tool as a more accurate means to characterize the foam debris risk. The Aerospace tool was adopted by NASA, and was used to clear Discovery for its successful launch on June 26, 2005, as well as all subsequent flights throughout the remainder of the program.

The Aerospace team worked tirelessly with NASA engineers and leadership in applying the tool to understand the debris risk, seeking to minimize it or, where possible, eliminate it entirely.

Through their dedication to technical excellence, mission success, and moral courage in the face of customer skepticism, the Aerospace team saved significant cost and time in re-establishing the country's human spaceflight program.

Leadership Series: Rand Fisher on the Team of the Year Award

Posted Sept. 27, 2012 · Article

In this Leadership Series video, Rand Fisher, senior vice president for Systems Planning, Engineering, and Quality, discusses the new Aerospace Team of the Year Award.

Transcript of video:

Steele: Thanks for taking time to tune into our webcast series. I'm Sabrina Steele, Principal Director of Corporate Communications, here at The

Aerospace Corporation. Today we have with us Rand Fisher; he's the Senior Vice President for Systems Planning, Engineering, and Quality. He's also the corporate officer responsible for shepherding and oversight of our corporate awards program. Thanks for joining us today, Rand.

Fisher: My pleasure, thank you.

Steele: Rand, you are going to tell us a little about the new team award.

Fisher: Right.

Steele: What can you tell us about that?

Fisher: Well, the Aerospace Team of the Year Award is aimed at recognizing and celebrating the diversity of skills and talents across Aerospace that form teams that develop great products for our customers, and the key emphasis here is on team.

Steele: Can you tell us how this team award fits in with some of the other corporate awards? I'm thinking the President's and Trustees' Award, the Program Recognition award, and the new OPRA award.

Fisher: Yeah, you bet. Interestingly enough, one of the members of the corporate advisory awards counsel nominated this award: actually thought it up. And it was aimed at filling a gap between the President's and Trustees' award, which usually looks at three to five people, and a program recognition award which is much larger. So this award is focused on a group award of five to 20 people.

Steele: Can you tell me why … we've heard a lot recently about the constrained budgets … why we're having a new team award here at Aerospace and a new award?

Fisher: The executive council thought about this a great deal, but it was not a hard decision. We have a great opportunity to invest in our people and to incentivize the kind of behavior that's consistent with the corporate culture; we want to encourage team work across divisions in delivering superb products.

Steele: So how does a team get nominated?

Fisher: We've just started that process and you'll see on October first, nominations starting to come in. Each level six will nominate teams, and the teams will be comprised of personnel: people below level four; level four and below, and we have a level five team that's going to actually pick the winner.

Steele: Oh, wow, ok. So what are the criteria? What is this level five team of general managers looking for?

Fisher: As with any of our awards, the principal criteria is impact. So we want to be able to recognize solid impact for the corporation or our customers. Beyond that we will be looking for a diverse team, much more credit than other awards, for teaming across the corporation; work that is above and beyond someone's normal job; and it makes a great difference.

Steele: What do the winners receive?

Fisher: We've got a $50,000 award pool, and as I said, between five and 20 folks, so the maximum award for an individual is $5,000. So if there's 20 people, they'll be receiving 2,500 dollars; 10 folks will receive $5,000 apiece, and recognition from Dr. Austin at the quarterly president's report .

Steele: I think that's the one in December, right? It's planned for December, so a nice corporatewide recognition and a nice check to go along with it.

Fisher: So we're starting right now, and we'll see those awards coming in between October and November, and then the level five group will do its job.

Steele: Is there anything else you would like to say about the Team of the Year Award?

Fisher: I'm excited about it. I think it gives an opportunity for those midsize teams that don't get recognized at this level, and I think it will not only deal with technical performance, but also give our Operations and Support folks a much greater opportunity to be recognized.

Steele: Well, Rand, thanks so much taking the time to share with us all the details about this new team award.

Fisher: That's great and we do have an instruction on it, so folks can go to the website and see all the details that are there.

Steele: Is that that corporate awards website on the intranet? So, all you have to do is if you can't find it right of the bat you just search. Thanks so much, Rand.

Fisher: My pleasure.

Steele: And thanks to each of you for joining us in the latest in our webcast series.

Curiosity Has Landed! The Colloquium

Posted Sept. 27, 2012 · Article

The Aerospace Institute Corporate Colloquium series presented “Curiosity Landed! Seven Minutes of Terror Followed by Exhilarating Success,” featuring guest speaker Robert Manning, chief engineer for the Curiosity Mission, JPL, on Monday, Sept. 24.

The well-attended event was popular with the Aerospace audience. Manning’s complete talk is available here.

Curiosity, a nuclear-powered, Mini Cooper-size rover had touched down on Mars. How did JPL ensure this success? How did JPL infuse lessons from its earlier triumphs and setbacks? Manning explains.

Manning is the chief engineer for the Curiosity mission. He is the recipient of two NASA medals and has been inducted into the Aviation Week Magazine Space Laureate Hall of Fame in the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum in recognition of his key roles in several Mars probe programs.

Detecting a Critical Signal Wins Trustees’ Award

Eric Hamburg

Dr. James Hicks is the 2012 recipient of the Trustees' Distinguished Achievement Award.

Posted Sept. 25, 2012 · Feature

Board of trustees member Robert Walker presented the Trustees’ Distinguished Achievement Award to Dr. James Hicks, senior engineering specialist, Communications and Signal Analysis Department, Engineering and Technology Group (ETG), at the 33rd President’s and Trustees’ Distinguished Achievement Awards ceremony on Sept. 20.

Hicks was honored for “sustained technical and programmatic leadership in resolving a critical signal intelligence problem that provides the intelligence community and combat forces a way forward to an integrated, worldwide situational awareness capability.”

He received a stylized crystal eagle’s-wings statue representing perfection and achievement, and a check for $25,000.

Hicks developed a CONOPS and processing algorithm to detect, collect, and process a signal designated as a critical intelligence need and one of the top 10 issues for national security, a significant challenge that the customer’s existing contractors advised was impossible to detect and exploit.

Hicks demonstrated that his algorithm had overcome all obstacles when he was the first to successfully collect and process this critical signal. He also supported the transition of the capability to the customer for production.

After a period of intense, detailed signal analysis and processing design, Hicks deployed to a mission ground station, where he worked tirelessly for up to 21-hour days from a national space platform, achieving unprecedented results. Over the length of his stay, Hicks collected four times more data on a high-value signal of interest using more conventional platforms than had been assembled over the signal’s entire history. He also contributed the first real-time geolocation of this signal.

A Photographic Endeavour

Posted Sept. 24, 2012 · Feature

The space shuttle Endeavour’s last flight was one for the history books as NASA put on a show that enthralled millions of Californians up and down the state.

Strapped on the top of the 747 that was used to ferry shuttles from Edwards AFB to Cape Canaveral, Endeavour took off from Edwards at 8:17 a.m. on Friday morning, Sept. 20, traveling north

Joseph Hidalgo

The 747 carrying Endeavour banks before landing at Los Angeles International Airport.

through the Central Valley for a flyover of the state Capitol building, before heading to San Francisco. Accompanied by two jet fighters, it flew over the Golden Gate bridge as well as other San Francisco landmarks before heading down the coast to Los Angeles.

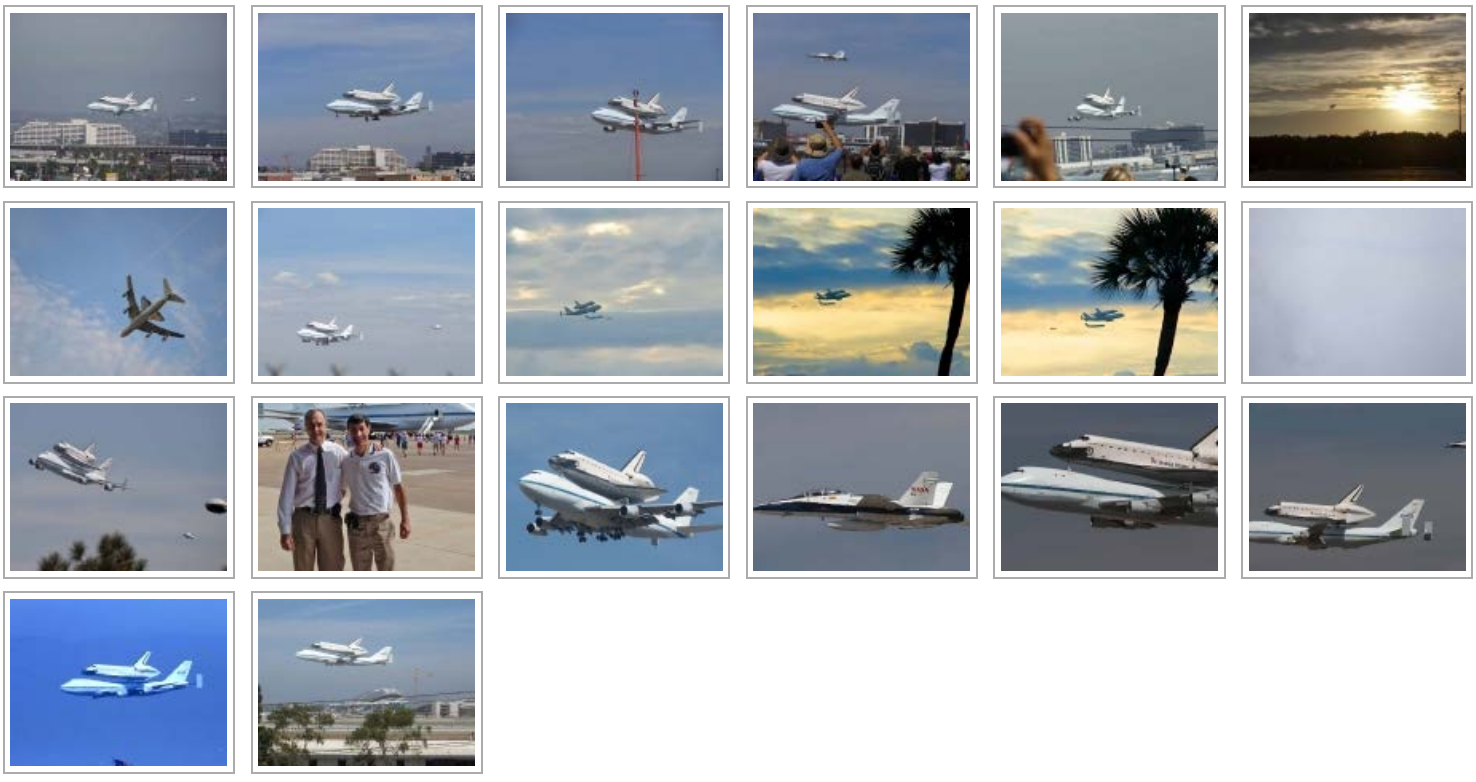
For more than an hour in the Los Angeles area, the shuttle flew past landmarks such as the Santa Monica Pier, Venice Beach, Los Angeles City Hall, the Hollywood sign, Griffith Observatory, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Universal Studios, Disneyland, and the Queen Mary before landing at Los Angeles International Airport.

It will be housed at a United Airlines hangar until Oct. 12, when it will begin a two-day parade through city streets to the California Science Center where it will be on permanent public display.

Enjoy the slideshow below of photos taken by Aerospace employees when Endeavour left Cape Canaveral on Sept. 19 and when it toured California on Sept. 21.

Other employees who took photos of the shuttle are welcome to post them on the Aerospace Facebook page: http://www.facebook.com/AerospaceCorp

Click on any photo to begin the slideshow.



1 2 ►

President’s and Trustees’ Awards Go to 17

Posted Sept. 20, 2012 · Feature · By Gail Kellner

The President's and Trustees' Awards are The Aerospace Corporation's highest honors.

Seventeen employees were presented with the corporation's highest honors at the 33rd annual President's and Trustees' Distinguished Achievement Awards ceremony Sept. 20 in Titan IVA and IVB.

The President's Distinguished Achievement Award was created to recognize an outstanding singular act; a piece of work accomplished over a period of days, weeks, month; or a lengthy sustained effort. The work being recognized must have a very significant, positive impact on national security space or Aerospace corporate goals, and is considered well beyond expected or specified job responsibilities.

The President's and Trustees' Awards screening committee reviewed all of the submissions and made its recommendations to the executive council. From the committee's recommendations, a pool of winners was selected. That pool was then submitted to the board of trustees for consideration. From that group, the board selected the Trustees' Distinguished Achievement Award winner.

Robert Walker, board of trustees member and chair of the awards subcommittee, presented the 2012 Trustees' Distinguished Achievement Award to Dr. James Hicks, senior engineering specialist, Communications and Signal Analysis Department, Engineering and Technology Group (ETG), "for sustained technical and programmatic leadership in resolving a critical signal intelligence problem that provides the intelligence community and combat forces a way forward to an integrated, worldwide situational awareness capability." He received a stylized crystal eagle's-wings statue representing perfection and achievement, and a check for $25,000.

Dr. Wanda Austin, president and CEO, hosted the afternoon event that brought together employees, family members and colleagues to applaud the achievements of three teams and four individual efforts.

Twenty-one nomination packages were reviewed, which comprised 11 individuals and 10 team nominations. The nominations included representation from all six organizational groups. Three teams received a President's Achievement Award — a crystal eagle's-wing statue, and individual checks for $7,500. Three individuals received a crystallized eagle's-wing statue and checks for $12,500.

Austin acknowledged the awards screening committee, which was chaired by Margherita Eastman, principal director, Enterprise Engineering, Systems Engineering, National Systems Group.

The first team to be honored with a President's Distinguished Achievement Award was John Brekke, principal director, Human Exploration and Spaceflight, Civil and Commercial Operations; Matthew Eby, engineering specialist, Mechanical Systems Department; Dr. Brian Hardy, senior MTS, Mechanics Research Department, both of ETG; and Randall Williams, systems director, Civil and Commercial Launch Projects, Space Systems Group, for "outstanding contributions made in characterizing external tank foam debris risk to the shuttle program."

Allen Venancio Compito, principal director, Reconnaissance Systems, National Systems Group, was also honored with a President's Achievement Award for "steadfastly applying the principles of mission assurance, leading to success on a critical national security space mission."

The next team honored was Andrew Dawdy, principal director, EHF Systems, Space Systems Group; Andrew Feistel, senior MTS; Dr. David Garza, engineering specialist; Garrett Teahan, MTS, all of Flight Design and Optimization; and Dr, Wayne Hallman, department director, all of Flight Mechanics Department, ETG; for "developing and implementing an innovative mission plan to recover the Advanced EHF SV1 spacecraft."

The team of Dr. Raymond de Gaston, senior project engineer; Dr. Robert Pan, senior project leader; Ty Rudder, project engineer, all of Directorate L, National Systems Group; and Dr. Brian McCarthy, engineering specialist, Component Analysis and Test Office, ETG, was awarded a President's Achievement Award "for innovative, rapid response and sustained excellence in recovering national security program performance."

Sabrina Steele, principal director, Corporate Communications Directorate, Operations and Support Group, was honored with a President's Achievement Award for "significantly enhancing Aerospace's reputation as the premier technical resource for all space endeavors."

The last President's Achievement Award was presented to Dr. Timothy Graves, laboratory manager, Space Materials Laboratory, ETG, for "identifying root-cause failure mechanisms within RF components critical to customer missions."

Award recipients celebrated with family members and colleagues at a reception in front of A1 before leaving for a private reception and dinner at Verandas in Manhattan Beach.

To view a video of the ceremony, click here.

Watch for upcoming articles in the Orbiter on each recipient or team.

Employee Survey Teams Make Progress

Posted Sept. 19, 2012 · Article · By Kimberly Locke

The cross-functional teams formed to address areas at Aerospace identified for improvement following last September's Aerospace Employee Survey have been working diligently to develop action plans for each of the identified areas of focus.

Briefings to senior management are in progress and once they have concluded, each team's action plan will be shared with employees in late October.

The four survey teams and team leaders are:

- Opportunities for advancement team, led by Harlan Bittner, general manager, Missile Defense and Space Sensors Division, Systems Planning, Engineering, and Quality
- Link between performance and pay team, led by Dr. Dave Bearden, general manager, NASA Programs Division, Civil and Commercial Operations
- Perception of possible retaliation team, led by Dr. Sumner Matsunaga, general manager, Engineering and Integration Division, Space Systems Group
- Corporate attitudes about change team, led by Mark Goodman, principal director, Strategic Planning.

"This is the first all-employee survey we have done in a long time, so over the past year the results and employee comments have been reviewed thoroughly by management and have been taken very seriously," said Char Lazar-Morrison, general manager, Human Resources Division. "Most organizations have heard the results for their individual groups and some have also done a more detailed follow-on analysis, such as holding employee focus groups or staff meeting discussions. These four corporate teams were formed to look into areas of concern and some good recommendations for improvements have come out of their work."

Opportunities for advancement team members are: Dave Albert, Andy Schickling, Richard Waltersheid, Kien Le, Rick Vazquez, Craig Heatwole, Katy Loftus, Bill Crain, Steve Presley, Rick Hann, and Alyssa Risher.

Performance and pay team members are: Bruce Chudoba, Phil Fawcett, Warren Goda, John Brekke, Paul Rousseau, Mark Oleksak, Marty Malarkey, Mui Klein , Joseph Adams, and Rick Hann.

Perception of possible retaliation team members are: Valerie Lang, Jim Kane, Mark Julian, Stephanie Collins, Kathy Westphal, Cedric Mann, Tom Hopp, Denise Macmac, Sam Osofsky, John Burling, and KristaDrew.

Corporate attitudes about change team members are: Helene Skratt, Anne Soukup, Linda Halle, Martin Oetting, Roger Knobbe, Timmie McArthur, Simon Liu, Mike O'Brien, and Jag Soni.

CEO's Report Highlights Budgets and Schedule

Eric Hamburg

Dr. Wanda Austin holds up a copy of the 2013 Strategic Plan, which describes the company's vision, key challenges and opportunities, and initiatives.

Posted Sept. 19, 2012 · Feature · By Lindsay Chaney

In her final CEO's Report to Employees of fiscal year 2012, Dr. Wanda Austin focused on launches and program support during the quarter; the 2013 financial and business outlook, including the effect on merit raises; and followup on results of last year's employee engagement survey.

She opened her report with a tribute to board member Dr. Sally Ride, who died on July 23 of pancreatic cancer, calling the space pioneer and first American woman in space "a hardworking member of our board, and a dedicated, committed role model for the next generation of kids, especially girls."

Austin also announced that former congresswoman Ellen Tauscher has resigned from the board.

The CEO noted that Aerospace supported three launches during quarter, all successful, and all carrying national security primary payloads. The spacecraft from all three launches are operating as expected, she said.

Austin said eight launches are scheduled for fiscal year 2013, with several clustered together in the summer months.

In the area of program support, she reported that the second Advanced Extremely High Frequency (AEHF) spacecraft reached its operational orbit in

early August. On-orbit checkout is continuing. The Wideband Global SATCOM 4 (WGS-4) reached its operational orbit in July and became operational in August.

The Space Based Infrared System GEO-1 is performing as expected and is scheduled to be certified for its missile-warning function later this year. In addition to missile-warning, SBIRS supports several missions including missile defense and technical intelligence.

Eric Hamburg

The audience applauds during the CEO's Report to Employees.

Austin reported that the Air Force Space Command has declared initial operational capability for the Space Based Surveillance System (SBSS), which detects and tracks space objects considered to be potential threats.

In the area of civil and commercial work, Austin noted two significant projects: a five-year $10 million contract with the FBI for follow-on work with its Sentinel computerized case management system; and a $3.6 million CubeSat technology demonstration for NASA that will involve building and flying an AeroCube satellite that will demonstrate a laser communication system and low-cost radar and optical sensors.

Austin said Aerospace is continuing and expanding support in the field of new entrant commercial launches. As part of this effort, the company will modify its Spacelift Telemetry Acquisition and Reporting System (STARS) to provide real-time access to SpaceX Falcon 9 launch telemetry.

On the matter of the financial and business outlook for next year, Austin explained that much depends on whether “sequestration” takes effect. Sequestration refers to the automatic federal budget cuts that are scheduled to go into effect on Jan. 2 if Congress cannot agree on a deficit reduction plan by then. The automatic cuts will be about $1.2 trillion over 10 years, with half of that taken from the Department of Defense. Since defense work comprises the majority of what Aerospace does, this would present serious budget challenges for the company.

However, Austin said, the company has made plans for operating through significant budget cuts, should they occur. Whether sequestration will happen is not likely to be known until after the November elections, she said.

Austin noted that the company hopes to provide merit raises, but any raises will depend on our final budget for 2013, which will probably not be known until next March. Merit raises, if they occur, will therefore be off-cycle, not in December.

Austin reported that four corporate-level teams were assembled to address concerns expressed in last year’s employee engagement survey. The team topics and leaders are: opportunities for advancement, led by Harlan Bittner, general manager, Missile Defense and Space Sensors Division; link between performance and pay, led by Dr. Dave Bearden, general manager, NASA Programs Division; perception of possible retaliation, led by Dr. Sumner Matsunaga, general manager, Engineering and Integration Division; and corporate attitudes about change, led by Mark Goodman, principal director, Strategic Planning. Click here for a separate story about the teams.

At the end of her speech, Austin responded to several questions that had been emailed ahead of time and one that was asked from the floor. Click here to read all questions submitted for the CEO and the answers. Duplicate questions have been combined and all have been edited, if necessary, for clarity.

See a video of the complete CEO’s Report to Employees.

General Assembly at Board Meeting

Posted Sept. 18, 2012 · Feature

For the first time since 2009, The Aerospace Corporation board of trustees held its quarterly meeting in Colorado Springs. The meeting was held Sept. 12-14.

Coinciding with the board meeting, the Air Force on Sept.13 dedicated the Moorman Space Education and Training Center on Peterson AFB in honor of Aerospace board of trustees vice chairman and former commander of Air Force Space Command Thomas Moorman Jr.

Aerospace Chairman of the Board Peter Teets and Dr. Wanda Austin, president and CEO, met during the recent board of trustees meeting with, from left to right, Brig. Gen. Kevin Wooton, Maj. Gen. Jack Weinstein, Lt. Gen. John Hyten, Maj. Gen. Martin Whelan, and Andrew Cox, deputy program executive officer, Space Systems.

The Moorman Space Education and Training Center on Peterson AFB was dedicated on Sept. 13.

Atlas V Delivers Picosats to Orbit

Photo courtesy United Launch Alliance, LLC

An Atlas V lifts off from Vandenberg AFB under gray skies on Thursday, Sept. 13.

Posted Sept. 14, 2012 · Feature

An Atlas V rocket lifted off from Vandenberg AFB on Thursday afternoon carrying a national security satellite as well as 11 CubeSat satellites. Three of them, each weighing 1.3 kg in a 1U form factor, were built by The Aerospace Corporation.

The rocket flew in the 401 vehicle configuration with a four-meter fairing, no solid rocket motors, and a single engine in the Centaur upper stage.

The launch, originally planned for June, was delayed multiple times for various reasons.

“On Thursday afternoon at 2:39 p.m. Pacific Time, we successfully launched Atlas V,” Ray Johnson, Aerospace vice president of Space Launch Operations, reported from Vandenberg. “The vehicle lifted off of Space Launch Complex 3 at Vandenberg Air Force Base right at the opening of the launch window. It was a very smooth countdown and flight with no significant issues.”

Johnson explained that “after deploying the primary satellite, there was a third burn of the Centaur upper stage, changing to a proper orbit for deploying 11 CubeSats from the aft bulkhead carrier that is mounted on the aft end of the Centaur. All CubeSats, including the three built by The Aerospace Corporation, were successfully deployed.”

Johnson added his congratulations and thanks to everyone involved “on this fantastic success.”

Two of the Aerospace CubeSats aboard the Atlas V were built for a national security agency. The third was built for the Space and Missile Systems Center/Development Planning Directorate (SMC/XR). SMC/XR builds, plans, and conducts demonstrations of new technologies and architectures that can be applied to the different SMC mission areas.

The SMC/XR AeroCube-4 is a 1U CubeSat (10 x 10 x 10 cm in dimension) that contains various “first of a kind” mission technologies, including solar panel wings that close and open to tune the ballistic coefficient enabling efficient formation flying, three-axis attitude control to 1 degree absolute accuracy, a 0.3-square-meter deployable deorbit device, sub-miniature reaction wheels, and a launch environment data logger that records ascent accelerations, pressure and temperature. Also for this mission, in order to efficiently manage three CubeSats in orbit at one time, a new three-node automated ground system network has been developed with antennas in California (The Aerospace Corporation, El Segundo), Texas (Texas A&M, College Station) and Florida (University of Florida, Gainesville).

SMC/XR satellites are pathfinders that demonstrate miniature satellite potential for all SMC programs. Past SMC/XR miniature satellites that have flown are MEPSI (2006), AeroCube-1 (2006), AeroCube-2 (2007), PSSCT-1 (2008), and PSSCT-2 (2011). Each showcased ever-increasing capability enabling SMC program offices to plan with confidence the use of miniature satellites in their specific mission area.

The term picosatellite refers to a miniature satellite that is approximately 1 kilogram in weight. A nanosatellite is larger and weighs approximately between 1 and 10 kg. A CubeSat is a picosatellite or nanosatellite that conforms to the CubeSat Standard of California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo and is launched from a Poly-Picosatellite Orbital Deployer (P-POD) — the predominant interface with all American launch vehicles. An AeroCube is a CubeSat specifically designed, developed, and built by The Aerospace Corporation.

Continuing Learning with TLC

Posted Sept. 13, 2012 · Article

You can access the Talent and Learning Center from General Tools on the right side of Inside Aerospace.

Leadership Series: Recasting Value for GPS

Posted Sept. 13, 2012 · Article

Susan Jones, principal director for the Learning Systems Center and John Langer, principal director in the Navigation Division, discuss recasting the value of Aerospace.

Ripping Into Regional Coverage Research

Frank Rohmer

Posted Sept. 10, 2012 · Feature

Four undergraduate students in mathematics and physics collaborated with members of the Systems Engineering Division this summer on a research project related to regional coverage for space systems. The four students are participants in the Research in Industrial Projects for Students (RIPS) program that is coordinated through the Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics at UCLA.

The RIPS program, now in its 12th year, matches teams of high-performing undergraduate math and science students from around the country with projects submitted by industry sponsors. The students on the Aerospace RIPS 2012 team were: Louis Bohorquez, Cal Poly Pomona; Iain Carmichael, Cornell University;

Lisa Plucinski explains some issues involved with steerable sensors aboard spacecraft.

Lisa Plucinski (project manager), Carlton College; and, Jason Xu, University of Arizona.

The students presented results of their research and analysis at a seminar for Aerospace employees on Aug. 21.

Regional coverage from space systems is a field encompassing a variety of problems relating to line-of-sight interactions between an orbiting object and point sets on the surface of Earth. During the eight-week joint study with The Aerospace Corporation, the RIPS team worked to examine and mathematically justify current techniques available in the field, as well as to develop algorithms to solve problems beyond the limitations of current techniques.

Frank Rohmer

Louis Bohorquez presents research results from the RIPS summer program at Aerospace.

Previous RIPS teams have received further recognition for their work. Members of the 2011 RIPS team won an Outstanding Presentation award at a Joint Math Meetings poster session in Boston earlier this year for their project “Calculating Call Blocking, Preemption Probabilities, and Bandwidth Utilization for Satellite Communication Systems.”

For more information on the RIPS program, click here.

Recasting the Value of Aerospace: Ranwa Haddad

Posted Sept. 6, 2012 · Article

Susan Jones, principal director of the Learning Systems Center and Ranwa Haddad, principal director for Systems Engineering in the Navigation Division, discuss recasting the value of Aerospace.

Time to Go Big … with eTime

Posted Sept. 4, 2012 · Article

Doug Fitzpatrick discusses how eTime can Go Big.

September Obituaries

Posted Sept. 1, 2012 · In Memoriam

Sincere sympathy is extended to the families of:

- **Joseph Alekshun,** member of the technical staff, hired Aug. 31, 1981, retired Feb. 1, 1994, died June 29.
- **Frank Belina,** project engineer, hired June 19, 1962, retired Oct. 1, 1993, died July 23.
- **Richard Bitgood,** project enginer, hired Sept. 27, 1980, retired Nov. 1, 1984, died March 12.
- **Mary Ellen Boockfor,** secretary, hired March 10, 1978, retired Sept. 1, 1990, died July 17.
- **Carl Ellis,** driver/mover, hired June 20, 1966, died July 15.
- **Melvin Epstein,** member of the technical staff, hired Nov. 2, 1970, retired Aug. 1, 1995, died Aug. 9.

Elmer Erfurth, member of the technical staff, hired Feb. 21, 1966, retired April 1, 2001, died July 29.
- **Nancy Fuller,** office support, hired Oct. 1, 1962, retired Feb. 1, 1987, died July 8.
- **Wilbur Garber,** member of the technical staff, hired March 28, 1963, retired Oct. 1, 1989, died Aug. 13.
- **Roy Hammerand,** project engineer, hired Jan. 30, 1961, retired May 1, 1986, died Aug. 3.
- **Van Ho,** member of the technical staff, hired April 1, 1963, retired Dec. 1, 1986, died Aug. 5.
- **Morris Katzman,** project engineer, hired May 21, 1979, retired Sept. 1, 1985, died July 7.
- **Eugene Lee,** senior engineer specialist, hired April 4, 1966, retired May 1, 2005, died July 27.
- **James Matzenauer,** project engineer, hired Jan. 13, 1979, retired Nov. 1, 1991, died July 23.
- **Edwin Mitoma,** member of the technical staff, hired June 13, 1966, retired Nov. 1, 1991, died July 8.
- **Homer Owens,** systems director, hired June 19, 1962, retired Oct. 1, 1996, died July 24.
- **Robert Wilson,** member of the technical staff, hired Dec. 3, 1962, retired July 1, 1975, died Aug. 5.

To notify Aerospace of a death and have it included in the Orbiter, please contact Cynthia Evans in Human Resources at 310-336-5806.

September Notes

Posted Sept. 1, 2012 · In Appreciation

Notes of appreciation to fellow employees and Aerospace for thoughtfulness and sympathy have been received from:

- **James Cowan,** for the recent passing of his father-in-law, Raymond Shahin.
- **Nelson Ho,** for the recent passing of his father, Van Ho.
- **J. Michelle Jones,** for the recent passing of her mother-in-law, Rozener Jones.

To submit a note of appreciation to Aerospace, please contact Valerie Jackson in Human Resources at 310-336-0891.

September Anniversaries

Posted Sept. 14, 2012 · Anniversaries

A PREVIOUS VERSION OF THIS COLUMN WAS INACCURATE DUE TO A DATABASE EXTRACTION ERROR. THE COLUMN WAS UPDATED ON SEPT. 14.

50 YEARS

Engineering and Technology Group: J Bernard Blake

40 YEARS

Engineering and Technology Group: Richard Rodriguez

35 YEARS

Engineering and Technology Group: Charles Garcia, Roger Metzler, Erwin Perl

National Systems Group: John Collins

30 YEARS

Engineering and Technology Group: James Roeder

Operations and Support Group: Belinda Holguin, Julie Nishime

25 YEARS

Engineering and Technology Group: Ronald Lacoe, Norman Lao, William Wang

Executive Offices: Mabel Oshiro

National Systems Group: Mark Chatelain

Operations and Support Group: James Gadioma, Dolores Miller

Space Systems Group: Jorge Encalada

Systems Planning, Engineering, and Quality: Cynthia Cresswell, Gayla Walden

20 YEARS

Engineering and Technology Group: Yum Lee, Vu Tung

National Systems Group: James Callison, John Galanti

Space Systems Group: Rita Rios, Paul Russell

15 YEARS

Civil and Commercial Operations: Frank Donivan, John Skratt, Deborah Vigare-Benefield

Engineering and Technology Group: Robert Chismar, James Clemmons, Cheauling Hwang, Penelope Kell, Tammy Patera, Glenn Peterson, David Ping, Michael Weaver

National Systems Group: Norman Weinberg

Operations and Support Group: Becky Madison

Space Systems Group: Howell Jaynes, Paul Utecht

Systems Planning, Engineering, and Quality: Eleni Sims

10 YEARS

Engineering and Technology Group: Adam Chandler, Warren Goda, Jeffrey Lipeles, Yongkun Sin, Ryan Tuttle, Linda Vandergriff

National Systems Group: Allan Tubbs, Jamie Varni

Operations and Support Group: Steven Gonek, Theodore Powers

Space Systems Group: Jerome Snowiss

5 YEARS

Engineering and Technology Group: Naoki Hemmi, John Hill, Deborah Howell, Scott Isara, Ryan Kelly, Jeanette Ratcliff, Filip Rysanek, Ronald Scrofano, James Tuck-Lee

Executive Offices: Andrew Overton

National Systems Group: Michael Loomis

Operations and Support Group: Mary Wong

Space Systems Group: Nina Faustino, Elena Viscarra, David Wang, Soon Yi

Systems Planning, Engineering, and Quality: David Cross, Arnold West

End of Archive