

Roundup

SPACE CENTER ROUNDUP

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center



Expedition 9 crew returns home safely

Cosmonaut Gennady I. Padalka, Russia's Federal Space Agency Expedition 9 commander, smiles after the safe landing of the Soyuz spacecraft with fellow crewmembers Astronaut Edward M. (Mike) Fincke, NASA International Space Station science officer and flight engineer, and Russian Space Forces Cosmonaut Yuri Shargin. The crew landed approximately 85 kilometers northeast of Arkalyk in northern Kazakhstan on Oct. 24.

Astronaut Mike Fincke shows his happiness with the successful landing of the Soyuz spacecraft.

Renita Fincke awaits the arrival of her husband, Astronaut Mike Fincke, while holding their 4-month-old baby, Tarali Fincke. Astronaut Terry Virts helps by holding Chandra Fincke.



Space Center Roundup

The Roundup is an official publication of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas, and is published by the Public Affairs Office for all Space Center employees. The Roundup office is in Bldg. 2, Rm. 166A. The mail code is AP121. Visit our Web site at: www.jsc.nasa.gov/roundup/weekly/ For distribution questions or to suggest a story idea, please call 281/244-6397 or send an e-mail to roundup@ems.jsc.nasa.gov.

Joanne Hale Editor
Kendra Phipps Assistant Editor
Marshall Mellard Graphic Designer



PRSRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WEBSTER, TX
Permit No. G27



A galaxy of services just for you

Starport recently landed at Johnson Space Center. Formerly known as the JSC Exchange, Starport encompasses the JSC Cafés, Gift Shops, Starport Fitness at the Gilruth Center and more. JSC employees can count on Starport for food, fitness and fun.

Read more on pages 3-5.

December
2004
Houston, Texas

Beak sends...

A MESSAGE FROM CENTER DIRECTOR
LT. GEN. JEFFERSON D. HOWELL JR.



A holiday request

It's December again and time for the myriad of activities that seem to overwhelm us at this time of year. Talk about stress! Add the incredible demands imposed upon us by the holiday hubbub to all the tugs on our attention and time that we already have in our lives. The pressure cooker we live in just added some more steam!

With that in mind, I would like to make one request to everyone reading this note. First, let me provide some background.

Having served almost 40 years in the Marine Corps, I've spent the Christmas season in places all over the world as well as at various spots in the United States. Because of different customs, climes and situations, many of these experiences were quite unique. In Oslo, Norway, for instance, on Christmas Eve candles are placed at the headstones of all the graves in the church graveyards. This creates a very beautiful and moving effect on a dark night with freshly fallen snow.

I recall that in Hawaii one had to concentrate to get into the 'Christmas spirit' because of continual warm, sunny days with flowers in bloom. Everyone tracked the progress of the 'Christmas Tree Boat' that brought the load of trees to the island. You wanted to be at the dock on the day it arrived so that you could get a good pick. You also learned to shake the tree real good to get the mosquitoes out of it before taking it into the house.

In muddy Nam Phong, Thailand, which we Marines named 'The Rose Garden,' decorations were made out of tin cans and other odds and ends. There were various macho high jinks as we tried to forget how much we missed home. Combat does not take a holiday break. We kept flying into North and South Vietnam.

I could recount several other uncommon Christmas experiences, but the point I want to make is this: I have discovered that it is not the circumstances I find myself in that make this time of year so special. On the contrary, it is the celebration of the gift of love and the manifestation of that gift through sharing it with my family and friends that makes this time of year so extraordinary.

My request: Don't let the holiday activities overwhelm you. Please try to set aside as much time as possible to enjoy the company of those dearest to you. Take it from an old guy, time spent with family and friends is the most precious there is.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



JSC employees are invited to dock, refuel and relax

Starport offers a galaxy of services

by Tiffany Travis



NASA/Artist's concept

STARPORT, formerly known as the Johnson Space Center Exchange, is an umbrella of services including the two on-site cafeterias, catering, vending services, gift shops and the Gilruth Center.

"We developed the name 'Starport' to represent the idea of a place where JSC employees can come to dock and replenish," Deborah Conder, manager of Starport operations, said. But Starport brings with it more than just a new name; many improvements are being made at various Starport facilities.

One major change is the awarding of the food services contract to Sodexo, a premier food-service company. The outsourcing of food services brings in high-quality products and a wide variety of healthier, trendier dining choices.

The Building 3 and 11 Cafés are getting major face-lifts as part of the Starport improvements. The Bldg. 3 Café received a fresh coat of paint and new food stations with an array of new dishes. Additions to the breakfast menu, along with seven new dining stations, now offer a wide range of cuisines. JSC

Once the Bldg. 11 renovation project is complete, café customers will be able to come into one large open area and select anything they wish from the grill, soup line, entrées and more.

employees are able to select items from the Selona Grill, La Vincita, All that Jazz Salads, Chef's Features, Copper Pot, Deli Signatures and Simply-to-Go.

For those looking for a caffeine fix, the new Beverage Station, also located in the Bldg. 3 Café, serves Starbucks coffees and Tazo teas in addition to sodas, juices and bottled waters. As an added bonus, nutritional information is now provided, and point-of-sale systems have been installed so that customers can pay by credit card.

Construction, which will result in a complete transformation of the serving area, began in October on the Bldg. 11 Café. The new café will be a tremendous improvement from the old set-up, both in its functionality and its attractiveness. Another big improvement employees will enjoy is the enhanced delivery option, which will include entrées, hamburgers and hot grill specials – even the 3-2-1 salads.

continued on page 4