



Paul Teutul, Sr. of Orange County Choppers gets a hero's welcome as he weaves between fans aboard the Space Shuttle Tribute Bike at Space Center Houston.

NASA/BHir JSC2005E9495

Around the Center

GRIFFIN BECOMES NEW NASA ADMINISTRATOR

Michael Griffin returned to NASA as the agency's 11th administrator in April. Griffin, who served as NASA's chief engineer earlier in his career, took the helm of the agency as it is charting a new course.

"I have great confidence in the team that will carry out our nation's exciting, outward-focused, destination-oriented program," Griffin said. "I share with the agency a great sense of privilege that we have been given the wonderful opportunity to extend humanity's reach throughout the solar system."

In his first address to NASA employees, Griffin said he would focus immediately on Return to Flight efforts, and noted that the agency has much on its plate right now. "It's going to be difficult, it's going to be hectic, but we will do it together," he said.

NASA NAMES FORMER ASTRONAUT NEW CENTER DIRECTOR

Michael L. Coats was named director of Johnson Space Center in November. Coats is a former astronaut and formerly served as vice president of Lockheed Martin Astronautics in Denver. He will become the ninth person to serve as director in the Center's 44-year history.

"Mike Coats brings a perfect blend of experience to his new role as the head of the nation's primary center for human spaceflight development and operations," Griffin said. "As a former pilot and astronaut and a long-time aerospace industry executive, he knows what our next generation of manned spacecraft must be able to do, and he knows what it takes to produce them. I'm delighted to welcome Mike back home to NASA."

Coats joined NASA in 1978 as a member of the first astronaut class specifically selected to fly the space shuttle. He flew three shuttle missions, the first as pilot for the maiden flight of *Discovery* in 1984. He commanded two subsequent shuttle missions, logging a total of more than 463 hours in space.

Before joining NASA, he was a distinguished U.S. Navy aviator. He logged more than 5,000 hours of flight time in 28 different types of aircraft. He retired from NASA and the Navy in August 1991.

"I look forward to returning to JSC, and I am honored by the trust Mike Griffin has shown in me," Coats said.

"We will embrace the challenge of the new Constellation Program that will take us first to the moon and then on to Mars. At the same time, the contributions of the space shuttle and International Space Station will be critical steps in that journey, and we remain committed to their success."

Coats replaces Jefferson D. Howell Jr., who is on assignment as a visiting professor to the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin.



Diana Norman, administrative officer in the Project Management Building, and Leonard Yowell (center), assistant to JSC Director Michael L. Coats, join in a discussion with the director prior to festivities commemorating the fifth anniversary of continued occupancy of the International Space Station.

NASA/BHir JSC2005E45823

SPACE SHUTTLE TRIBUTE BIKE

JSC teamed up with the Discovery Channel's popular "American Chopper" television show this year to create the Space Shuttle Tribute Bike—a long, lean chopper-style motorcycle that features art work and design that showcases the shuttle. The bike was designed to honor the hands-on, unique American style that is reflected in the work ethic that built the space program.

The idea originated at JSC as a way to honor all those who make the space shuttles fly. Originally conceived as a tribute to the STS-107 crew, the project morphed into one that recognizes all those who work in the space program—from astronauts to program staff to the hands-on workers at various NASA centers.

The motorcycle, built by Orange County Choppers of New York, is funded solely through donations from NASA workers and individual space program supporters.

STARPORT

JSC employees have been enjoying the many improvements that have taken place in employee services across the center. These services, known as Starport, include updates to the two on site cafés, catering, vending services, gift shops and the newly renovated Gilruth Center.

Employees now have a premier food-service company, Sodexo, that offers a signature food program with high-quality products and a wide variety of healthier, trendier dining choices. Both JSC cafeterias were remodeled and now feature up-to-date décor.

Starport Fitness, located at the Gilruth Center, is also getting some attention. A major renovation of the Gilruth, expected to be completed early this year, will give the facility increased square footage, two new exercise rooms, larger men's and women's locker and shower facilities and an expanded weight room.

Also included in the Starport program is the upcoming JSC Wellness Program, which will provide a more integrated focus and delivery on individual health, fitness and wellness for the entire JSC family.

ASTRONAUT QUARANTINE

While most people might not break in anything bigger than a new pair of boots, the crew of STS-114 had the distinct honor of taking the newness out of Building 27, the new Astronaut Quarantine Facility.

May 3, 2004, marked the historic groundbreaking ceremony for Building 27.

A little more than a year later, on June 3, the building was completed and ready to use for the astronauts of NASA's Return to Flight mission. The STS-114 crew occupied the new building during their preflight quarantine.

The new Astronaut Quarantine Facility is one-of-a-kind at JSC in that it was designed and constructed to meet all requirements of sustainability, or the use of environmentally friendly materials. The special materials used include recycled structural steel framing; recycled rubberized flooring; highly efficient heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems; energy monitoring control systems and more.

The 12-bedroom Astronaut Quarantine Facility is equipped with private baths, a kitchen and a fully equipped workout room. It also features a medical exam room where the astronauts will receive their pre- and postflight exams.

No detail has been overlooked for this project, including the landscaping around the building. Landscape features include a retention pond to minimize run-off from heavy rains, use of native trees and vegetation, blackstone gravel driveways and grass-pave parking areas.

The facility is in the process of receiving Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design certification by the United States Green Building Council.



Building 27

NASA/Markowitz JSC2005E27959

The Starport campaign included the remodeling of the cafés into more modern and stylish facilities with enhanced services. Here JSC team members are checking out the newly revamped Building 11 Starport Café.



NASA/Markowitz JSC2005E06203



NASA/Sanchez JSC2005E1536153

Ellington Field served as a staging point for JSC team members as they assisted Hurricane Katrina victims on their way to the Texas Medical Center.



NASA/Markowitz JSC2005E15290

The annual JSC picnic was a lot of fun for families, with festivities including clowns, face-painting, astronaut autograph-signing, Looney Tunes characters, games and an all-you-can-eat buffet.

Community

2005 was a busy year for the JSC family and its role in the Houston community. Employees participated in a wide range of activities including hosting the JSC Open House, aiding in hurricane relief efforts and taking part in the Ballunar Liftoff Festival and Wings Over Houston.

JSC OPEN HOUSE

For the first time in nearly four years, JSC opened its gates to over 30,000 visitors for an Open House in April.

Guests were able to shake hands with astronauts, tour Mission Control and hold pieces of real space hardware in their hands. Visitors also had the opportunity to see the science, engineering and human element behind space exploration as full-size models of spacecraft, space hardware and other exhibits were featured throughout the center.

HURRICANE RELIEF

JSC employees participated in numerous relief efforts for those affected by Hurricane Katrina in August.

More than 350 JSC employees volunteered space in their homes to house NASA and contractor coworkers who were displaced by the storm. An emergency operations center at JSC aided NASA coworkers in those areas seeking shelter by coordinating the placement of evacuees both at JSC and at other NASA centers around the country.

NASA's aircraft Hangar 990 at Ellington Field was a primary triage location through which patients who were evacuated by air pass awaited ground transportation to other facilities in Houston. Aircraft from JSC were also used to airlift a variety of support equipment to the NASA facilities damaged by the storm.

ASTROS BASEBALL

JSC employees supported the Houston Astros during their quest for the National League championship in October by carrying the United States flag onto the field at Minute Maid Park. Forty volunteers participated in the pre-game ceremony that featured the Astros and the St. Louis Cardinals. Also featured in the festivities were singer Clay Walker, who performed the national anthem, and Nolan Ryan, who threw out the first pitch.



NASA/Sowa JSC2005E42338

JSC team members had the opportunity to support their hometown Houston Astros in a National League championship game by carrying the U.S. flag onto the field during pregame ceremonies on Oct. 15.

International Space Station

INVESTIGATING OUR WONDROUS WORLD EACH AND EVERY DAY

The space station, since its inception in 2000, has been a faithful workhorse to NASA. This November, the space program celebrated five years of continuous human presence on the station. With the hard work and dedication of 12 Expedition crews and counting, the station will continue to thrive as the only research laboratory of its kind.

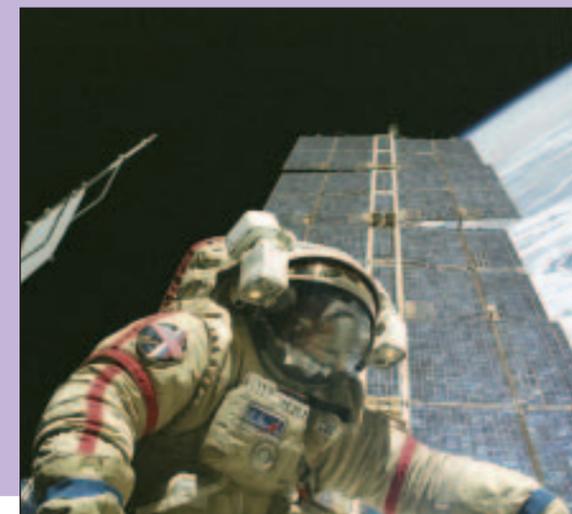
Expedition 10 wrapped up its mission early in 2005, furthering the Vision for Space Exploration with scientific and medical research studies. The Expedition 10 crewmembers also completed two spacewalks designed to continue the external outfitting of the Zvezda Service Module.

The crew of Expedition 11 had the privilege of working with the STS-114 crew during its Return to Flight mission. STS-114 was the first crew to be welcomed to the station since December 2002. The two Expedition 11 crewmembers installed the Human Research Facilities Rack 2 inside the station to enhance its research capabilities. Both station crewmembers also had moments of distinction on the mission: Science Officer and Flight Engineer John Phillips testified before Congress while in space, and Commander Sergei Krikalev amassed a new time-in-space record.

Expedition 12 kicked off its mission on Sept. 30. In addition to maintaining the station's current operational state, this mission will add several thousand hours to the more than 100,000 hours of cumulative experiment operation time. The crew will also complete numerous spacewalks to further space station assembly.

On Sunday, Nov. 13, a delightful surprise awoke the Expedition 12 crewmembers when Paul McCartney sang "Good Day Sunshine" and "English Tea" to both them and an audience in Anaheim, Calif. The performance, which was part of McCartney's "US" Tour, was the first time a live concert was linked to a U.S. spacecraft. The surrealism of the moment was not lost on McCartney.

"I can't believe that we're actually transmitting to space!" McCartney said. "This is sensational. I love it."



NASA ISS010E3563

Astronaut Leroy Chiao, Expedition 10 commander and NASA ISS science officer, wearing a Russian Orlan spacesuit, participates in the first of two spacewalks performed by the Expedition 10 crew during their six-month mission.



NASA ISS011E12410

The STS-114 and Expedition 11 crewmembers gather in the Destiny Laboratory of the International Space Station.



NASA ISS011E12415

Aurora Borealis and lights in Finland, Russia, Estonia and Latvia are featured in this digital still picture taken by the Expedition 12 crew aboard the space station.