



Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
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Roundup



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roll the dice

FROM THE *director*

A MESSAGE FROM CENTER DIRECTOR MICHAEL L. COATS



After one full year as JSC director, I am more convinced than ever that I have the best job in the world.

The accomplishments of this space team over the last 12 months have been impressive by any standard. The shuttle has returned to flight with two challenging and completely successful missions, STS-121 and STS-115, and STS-116 is on track for a December launch. Three shuttle missions in six months would be a wonderful tribute to the hard work of a great team. The International Space Station is growing once again. We are back up to a crew of three, and a full crew of six is on the horizon. The space station team has made the complex and difficult look easy, and the international space team and international crews have performed magnificently. The space station flight control team now resides in our original Flight Control Room, FCR-1, newly refurbished and re-commissioned as an Space Station Mission Control Center.

The Constellation Program has staffed up and the crew exploration vehicle contract has been awarded right on schedule. We are off to a good start toward a first crewed flight by 2014, and perhaps sooner. Two contracts for the Commercial Orbital Transportation Services program were also awarded, a critical first step toward allowing NASA to eventually focus resources on exploring beyond low-Earth orbit. The Stardust spacecraft returned to Earth carrying samples of a comet and interstellar dust. Those samples were brought here to JSC and the results are stunning. We are rapidly making fascinating discoveries about our solar system, and the more we learn the more exciting and wondrous the universe becomes.

The Joint Leadership Team is working hard to ensure our government and contractor team functions smoothly together. All the NASA centers are coming together much better as a single integrated NASA team. "Governance models" for technical, safety and medical authorities are providing an effective system of checks and balances as we make difficult decisions in an operational space business. I have participated in and observed numerous Flight Readiness Reviews, L-2 and L-1 Reviews, and Mission Management Team meetings, and the highly-structured processes we now follow require full, open and detailed discussions from the whole team. It takes a lot of hard work to make the difficult and complex look easy. It's a privilege to work with such a dedicated and talented team of space professionals.

I've been spending a lot of time explaining to my twin granddaughters they really should consider careers in the space program someday. So far they haven't committed, or even commented much, but they're listening intently and smiling a lot. I think that's an encouraging sign since they're only four months old.

I can't wait for the next 12 months.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Do not pass go...

DO NOT COLLECT \$200. GO DIRECTLY TO JOHNSON SPACE CENTER

by Kendra Phipps



Want to visit Johnson Space Center?

Just wait your turn and roll the dice.

The center is now one of 22 American landmarks featured in Monopoly's new "Here and Now" edition. Earlier this year, an online contest was held by parent company Hasbro to determine which landmarks would become part of the game. JSC was up against two other Houston-area attractions: the Kemah Boardwalk and the Museum District.

Game players from all around the nation decided that JSC deserved a space on that famous board: the center received an overwhelming 79 percent of the Houston votes.

"We are very proud to be selected as one of America's best landmarks by so many Monopoly fans across the country," said Roger Bornstein, marketing director at JSC's visitor center, Space Center Houston (SCH). Bornstein and SCH President Richard Allen represented JSC as the winning locations were unveiled in New York City's Times Square on Sept. 12.

Also on hand for the celebration was Mr. Monopoly, the top hat-wearing, mustachioed mascot of the game, plus an astronaut character from SCH and a few feathered showgirls representing Las Vegas Boulevard.

In most cities, a cast of characters like that would attract plenty of attention. But "it was just another day in New York," said Bornstein with a laugh. Times Square was chosen for the ceremony because it was the top vote-getter in the contest, earning the prestigious Boardwalk slot on the game board.

JSC's spot was formerly occupied by Tennessee Avenue, and features a picture of the Saturn V. Game players wanting to "buy" the space center will have to shell out a cool \$1.8 million. The inflation-adjusted prices and new landmarks aren't the only changes: airports have replaced the railroads, and game pieces such as laptops and cell phones have replaced the old-school thimble and cannon.

The "Here and Now" version is a limited edition and will not replace the original Monopoly, which has been in production since 1935. Bornstein said that he was impressed by the enduring popularity of the game, and that he played it as a kid.

"Who didn't?" he said. "It's one of the few board games my grandkids play. It's nice to see kids playing a board game when the electronic games are so popular."

JSC received a plaque commemorating its spot on the game board, which will be displayed in a conference room at SCH. But the bigger rewards are the awareness and appreciation of the space center that come with JSC's inclusion in the game.

"I think it's awesome," said Bornstein. "We're in some great company: (JSC) is up there with Times Square, the Golden Gate Bridge, South Beach... (It's) just a terrific statement of the public perception of who we are. I think it gets reinforced every time someone plays Monopoly."

Now that JSC has taken over Tennessee Avenue, Bornstein has set his sights on the Peppermint Forest.

"Today, Monopoly; tomorrow, Candy Land!" he said.

FUN FACTS

- The space shuttle is a game token in 2002's "America Edition," along with apple pie and the Liberty Bell.
- More than 250 million copies of Monopoly have been sold in 80 countries and 26 languages.
- There have been more than 200 different editions of the game created, including versions based on TV shows, universities and sports teams.
- The original game is based on the streets of Atlantic City, N.J.
- In 1999, players voted the "Sack of Money" as the newest Monopoly token.
- The longest Monopoly game ever played lasted 1,680 hours.



HOMELAND SECURITY
PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE 12

A new frontier for security

by Catherine E. Borsché