

Space News ROUNDUP!

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Collins first female shuttle commander

Two flights as pilot prepare her for STS-93 assignment

Astronaut Eileen Collins will become the first woman to command a space shuttle when *Columbia* launches on the STS-93 mission in December 1998.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton made the announcement March 5 from the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

The Air Force lieutenant colonel will be joined on the flight deck by

Pilot Jeffrey Ashby, a Navy commander. Mission Specialists Steven Hawley and Catherine "Cady" Coleman, an Air Force major, and Michel Tognini, a CNES astronaut and French Air Force colonel, round out the crew.

Selected as an astronaut in 1990, Collins has served as a pilot on her two previous space flights. Her first space flight was STS-63 in February

1995 as *Discovery* approached to within 30 feet of Mir, in a dress rehearsal for the first shuttle-Mir docking. In May 1997, she visited the Mir space station as pilot on board *Atlantis* for the sixth shuttle-Mir docking mission, delivering Astronaut Mike Foale and returning Jerry Linenger to Earth.

STS-93 will be the first flight for Please see **COLLINS**, Page 8



Eileen Collins

JSC passes final ISO 9001 quality audit

JSC successfully passed its final ISO 9001 Quality Management System audit at the end of February, and has been recommended for registration—the first NASA center to achieve the distinction.

JSC's formal ISO 9001 registration, which builds upon the previous success of its White Sands Test Facility, is expected in about eight weeks after certifying bodies in the United States and Europe have validated the results of the audit performed by National Quality Assurance, USA.

According to JSC Director George Abbey, this is a significant testimonial to the excellence of our quality system at JSC, but also a starting point for continuing improvement of our overall technical and management processes.

ISO 9000 Office Director Lee Norbraten said JSC always has been at the forefront in scientific and engineering achievement, and that ISO 9001 registration proves the center is at the forefront in the overall excellence of its technical and management processes.

"ISO 9001 registration is significant not just in what it stands for, but in that it required the active participation of a huge number of people from every corner of the center, and every level of the organizational structure," Norbraten said. "We have proved that our quality management structure complies with the highest known standard for quality; the challenge now is to use that framework to improve the effectiveness of how we operate."

Norbraten said a presentation ceremony will be scheduled sometime in April, and that the auditor will return May 11-13 to follow up on the results of the February audit. At that time, JSC must be able to prove that its corrective action systems are in full and effective operation.

Thousands of hours of work were required to make this a reality, he added. In some cases, this meant for

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Reply to Attn of: AA

CONGRATULATIONS ON SUCCESSFUL AUDIT

Dear Fellow Employees:

I would like to congratulate the JSC team for successfully completing the registration of the center's quality system to the ISO 9001 standard. Through your efforts, JSC is now the first NASA center and the largest Federal organization ever registered. Our effort required much hard work and dedication on the part of the entire team, and represents an important milestone for the center.

The agency set a goal for all centers to achieve registration, and JSC has done that. However, it is important to keep in mind that registration, though an important achievement, is not where we gain the most value from our efforts. The real benefit comes from increasing discipline in our processes and using our system to improve the work we do every day. That is our challenge as we go forward. With your help, I'm confident that we'll further strengthen JSC's Quality System and realize even greater benefits for the center and our customers.

We can be proud of our achievements, while recognizing that we still have much to do. JSC is a complex organization with many dynamic and diverse activities—characteristics that made implementation a challenging task. The coming year will continue to present opportunities for improvement, and I know we are up to meeting the challenge. Again, I extend my congratulations and appreciation for a job well done.

George W. S. Abbey

George W. S. Abbey
Director

Bush accepts Rotary's National Space Trophy

Former President George Bush, who was instrumental in launching a new era in human and robotic space exploration during his administration, received the National Space Trophy at a March 6 black-tie celebration at Space Center Houston.

Several JSC employees were among 16 recipients of Stellar Awards from the non-profit Rotary National Award for Space Achievement Foundation, established in 1985 by the Space Center Rotary Club to recognize individuals who have made outstanding achievements in space, creating a greater public awareness of the benefits of space exploration.

The theme for the annual space industry awards banquet was "Dreams to Destiny," celebrating the accomplishments and contributions of individuals in making the dream of space exploration a practical reality.

Bush was cited for his "excep-

tional leadership in providing the nation with the vision and means to accomplish its goals in space for the 21st Century."

In 1989, under the Bush administration, the world entered into a new era of space science as NASA dispatched the Magellan spacecraft to map Venus, Galileo to Jupiter, and the Cosmic Background Explorer to study the origins of the universe. In addition, Bush committed this country to further pursue the human exploration of space when on July 20, 1989, the 20th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing, he announced the goal to establish a permanent human presence on the Moon and to use that experience to begin human space exploration of Mars. Two years later, in 1991, the U.S. and the Soviet Union agreed to exchange astronauts and cosmonauts on the Mir and the space

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Photo courtesy Rotary International

Former President George Bush of Houston enjoys the limelight at the gala dinner in which he received Rotary International's National Space Trophy at Space Center Houston. Joining Bush are Rep. Nick Lampson, D-Texas, NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin and JSC Director George Abbey. Several JSC workers received Stellar Awards for their accomplishments at the banquet.