

Neutral Buoyancy Lab medical director receives Legion of Merit



Shown, from left, are Lindsey, Fitzpatrick and wife, Julia.

Astronaut Steven Lindsey recently presented the Legion of Merit, awarded by the Secretary of the Army, to Kelsey/Seybold physician Dr. Dan Fitzpatrick, medical director of the Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory-Sonny Carter Training Facility. Fitzpatrick received the Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service in various positions of great responsibility as a specialist in aerospace medicine

during the period from July 1, 1988, to June 30, 2000. This culminated with his management and direction of the only hyperbaric medicine program in the United States Army from July 1, 1994 to June 30, 2000 while assigned to Lyster Army Hospital, Fort Rucker, Ala., and then Eisenhower Army Medical Center, Fort Gordon, Ga. During this time he also served as the consultant on hyperbaric medicine to the Army surgeon general. ■

JSC energy manager receives award for conservation efforts

JSC Energy Manager Dennis Klekar has received the Alternative Financing Award (in the category of individual recipients) from the Department of Energy's Federal Energy Management Program in conjunction with the Federal Interagency Energy Policy Committee. The award was presented during the 2000 Federal Energy and Water Management Awards ceremony held in Washington, D.C.

Klekar was given the award in recognition of his efforts in securing the Energy Savings Performance Contract for NASA/JSC, the first of its kind within NASA. The contract uses documented energy savings to finance new equipment and improvements for the center.

The awards were given to employees of all federal agencies. Klekar was one of two NASA recipients.

"I'm the representative of a lot of people who worked to secure this contract," said Klekar, who has served as the center's energy manager since 1993. "This award belongs to everyone involved in the project. Civil service personnel who played a vital role in the contract development include Chuck Gieck, Melissa McKinley, Dennis Hehir, Pat Kolkmeier, Jo Kines, Charley Moore, Harry Hart and Ron Stone, all from the Center Operations Directorate, Rich Wickman from Headquarters and Jeff Dominick from FEMP at DOE. We should also remember that we did have a very good contractor in Honeywell incorporated which added greatly to the project with their previous ESPC experience."

Klekar's efforts to implement an ESPC at the center began in 1994, finally leading to a contract award in February 1999. The contract, valued at approximately \$43 million over its 23-year term, was issued to Honeywell, Inc. Contract scope included installing energy-efficient lighting and compressed air systems, variable speed pumping systems and cooling tower control systems. It also called for installing water conservation devices and improving temperature controls in buildings at JSC, the Sonny Carter Training Facility and Ellington Field.

Additionally, under the terms of the contract, an advanced energy management system was installed that will further enhance the center's ability to monitor and manage the indoor environment and improve comfort for personnel. The savings reaped from this project will pay for the cost of all energy and water efficiency improvements, about \$20 million, at no cost to the taxpayer.

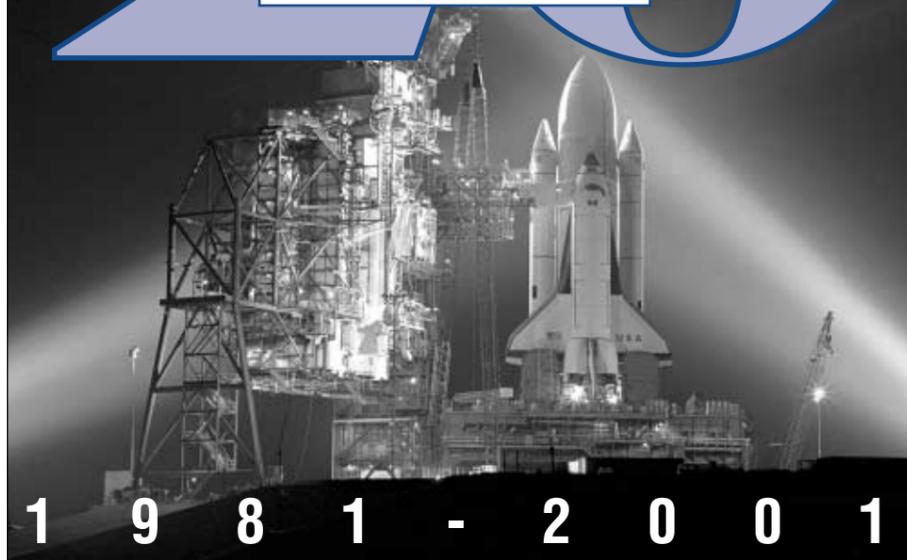
During the construction period in fiscal year 1999, JSC saved some \$500,000 in energy costs and 40 billion Btu. With the completion of the project last May, JSC is guaranteed to save more than \$1.7 million in energy and water costs and \$340,000 in maintenance savings per year.

Many plans are under consideration to further enhance energy efficiency across the center, according to Klekar. Potential future improvements include replacing steam-turbine-driven chillers with new natural gas turbine chillers, the addition of a waste heat steam boiler, a cold water storage system and using solar energy to heat the Neutral Buoyancy Lab, the 6.2-million-gallon pool at the Sonny Carter Training Facility. Also under consideration is a plan to install an energy management system at Ellington Field that can be read remotely from JSC's Operational Control Center. ■



Dennis Klekar

20 YEARS



Celebrating Women of Courage and Vision

Because so many women and men grew up without reading about the accomplishments and contributions of women in their history books, Women's History Month is a great opportunity to fill in some of the gaps. And it's especially important for girls today to read about women in technology fields, so that they can learn about the interesting, challenging careers available to them if they are willing to study and work hard.

-Ellen Ochoa



The National Women's History Project is honoring Astronaut Dr. Ellen Ochoa during Women's History Month. Ochoa is being recognized as the first Hispanic woman in space.

Ochoa and the five other honorees can be found on the National Women's History Project Website:

<http://www.nwhp.org/whm/themes/themes.html>

In observance of Women's History Month, JSC is having a Web cast on Wednesday, March 28, from 1-2 p.m. The Web cast will feature Vanessa Ellerbe.

Vanessa Ellerbe is a Space Shuttle Program Flight Manager. She manages

a team of engineers who plan, develop and implement space shuttle missions. A native of Conway, South Carolina, she received her bachelor's degree in Materials Engineering, as well as her master's in Bioengineering from Clemson University. Ellerbe has been working at JSC for 12 years.

Ellerbe will have five to ten minutes to introduce themselves and give a brief background of why she chose the science field. She will then answer questions from people who log on to <http://quest.arc.nasa.gov/space/events/jsc/>