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In this issue



Pathfinder data analysis offers surprises on Mars water and rocks.

Page 2



JSC's Sue Leibert is recognized for job performance, community effort.

Page 3



STS-91 winds up U.S. presence on Mir; crew says it was worth doing.

Page 4-5



Total Health physicals at JSC Clinic offer good medical value.

Page 6



Thirty-six at JSC win Space Flight Awareness Honoree Awards.

Page 7



Space Center Houston summer IMAX schedule called "best of the best."

Page 8

Neutral Buoyancy Lab wins engineers' award

JSC's new Sonny Carter Training Facility Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory, used by astronauts to train for space walks, has won the American Society of Civil Engineers' 1997 Texas Outstanding Civil Engineering Award.

In presenting the award, the American Society of Civil Engineers cited the complexity of constructing the facility and noted that the pool was built inside of an already-existing building not originally designed

for such use. The excavation for the pool removed almost 28,000 cubic yards of dirt; the hole was 28.5 feet deep, 112 feet wide and 212 feet long.

The pool floor is concrete 6 feet thick; the floor and walls include more than 1,300 tons of reinforcing steel, including 319 miles of steel tie wire; and almost 7,000 tons of concrete was used in construction. The pool extends 20 feet below ground and 20 feet above, and a 28,000

square-foot pool deck was built to house training offices, control rooms and mechanical equipment.

Construction of the facility was a project of the structural engineering firm Haynes Whaley Associates Inc. and began in 1995.

"The ability to successfully revamp an existing building for another, drastically different use is a substantial accomplishment that reflects well on the engineering profession," the ASCE said. "The complex engi-

neering plan required to make this challenging feat a reality serves as an important reference for any engineers faced with comparably difficult projects."

David Schnurbusch, ASCE president, presented the award.

Training began in the 202-foot long, 102-foot wide and 40-foot deep pool in 1997. The facility is used in training for the space walks that will assemble and maintain the International Space Station.



NASA photo by Mark Sowa

Astronaut Andy Thomas, left, explains to reporters that his 4½ months aboard Mir have yielded valuable lessons, both in terms of how personally to deal with long-duration space flight and what lessons Mir offers for the International Space Station. James Van Laak, deputy manager of the Phase 1 Program, said the contract with Russian space agency was worth the money. Please see details, Page 2

JSC awards USA shuttle projects

New contract modification worth \$900 million-plus

JSC has modified its contract with United Space Alliance of Houston to include more than \$900 million in work on the space shuttle's solid rocket booster and other shuttle elements. USA is the prime contractor for the space shuttle fleet operations.

This \$919.5 million cost-plus-award-fee/incentive-fee contract modification includes work previously performed under three separate NASA contracts: work on the boosters performed by USBI at Kennedy Space Center in Florida; design and production of primary shuttle avionics software by Lockheed Martin in Houston; and processing of flight crew equip-

ment, including space suits, personal equipment and tools, performed by Boeing Aerospace Operations in Houston.

The new work comes under Phase 2 of NASA's Space Flight Operations Contract with USA. Under Phase 1 of the contract, NASA consolidated operations of 12 separate contracts under USA.

Phase 2 will consolidate an additional 16 contracts as part of a continuing NASA effort to transfer day-to-day shuttle operations from government employees to private companies.

The performance period under Phase 2 runs through Sept. 30, 2002.

Awards ceremony honors JSC individuals, teams

Individual JSC employees and teams Tuesday received NASA's highest honorary awards in Teague Auditorium.

Recipients of the NASA Honor and Presidential Rank Awards were nominated by JSC management and selected by the Incentive Awards Board at NASA Headquarters. Also to be recognized were recipients of the Senior Executive Service Rank Awards.

Each honoree also received a framed certificate signed by NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin. Individuals selected to receive Group Achievement Awards on their teams' behalf get a framed certificate. Certificates for individual participants of teams will be forwarded to the nominating organizations.

NASA Deputy Administrator John

R. Dailey assisted JSC Director George Abbey in presenting the awards. Winners included:

SES Distinguished Executive: Tommy W. Holloway, Leonard S. Nicholson.

SES Meritorious Executive: Jack C. Boykin, Randolph H. Brinkley, Brock R. Stone.

NASA Distinguished Service Medal: Michael A. Baker, John E. Blaha, Kenneth D. Bowersox, Curtis L. Brown, Jr.; C. Michael Foale, Ph.D.; James D. Halsell, Jr.; Gregory J. Harbaugh, Steven A. Hawley, Ph.D.; Marsha S. Ivins, Mark C. Lee, Donald A. Thomas, Ph.D.; Janice Voss, Ph.D., and James D. Wetherbee.

NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal: Frank J. Benz, Robert D. Cabana, N. Jan Davis, Ph.D.; Walter

M. Guy, James D. Halsell, Jr.; James R. Jaax, Kevin R. Kregel, John E. Petersen, Jr.; Charles J. Precourt, Richard N. Richards, John C. Stencil, Janice Voss, Ph.D., and James B. Waddell.

NASA Exceptional Engineering Achievement Medal: Ying-Ming Kuo, Ph.D.

NASA Exceptional Service Medal: Thomas A. Baugh, Chester E. Bennett, William C. Boyd, Frank T. Buzzard, Jean-Francois Clervoy, Eileen M. Collins, Henry L. Davis, Carroll T. Dawson, Gregory J. Della Longa, Diane D. DeTroye, Thomas C. Duncavage, Marybeth A. Edeen, Philip L. Engelauf, Mark D. Erminger, Anna L. Fisher, M.D.; Michael L. Gernhardt, Ph.D. (2 awards); Estella Hernandez Gillette, John M. Grunsfeld, Ph.D.; Linda J. Ham, Scott

J. Horowitz, Ph.D.; George A. Jarrell, Brent W. Jett, Jr.; Wendy B. Lawrence, Jerry M. Linenger, M.D., Ph.D.; Allen L. Manson; Thomas M. McPherson, Melanie J. Miller, Richard W. Nygren, Scott E. Parazynski, M.D.; Keith A. Reiley, Daniel R. Remington, Kent V. Rominger, Clarence F. Sams, Ph.D.; William C. Schneider, Ph.D.; Winston E. Scott, Steven L. Smith, Susan L. Still, Michael T. Suffredini, Joseph R. Tanner, Donald A. Thomas, Ph.D.; Clifford D. Thompson, Vladimir G. Titov, Rodney O. Wallace, Kellye B. Welch, and Peter J. K. Wisoff, Ph.D.

NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal: Donna J. Bartoe, Timothy J. Briscoe, Jeffery A. Cardenas, Quinn L. Carelock, J. Russell Carpenter, Ph.D.; Joseph T. Chang, Elizabeth A.

Page 9 JSC Page 9