

**GOOD NEWS****2001 NASA HONOR AND PRESIDENTIAL RANK AWARDS CEREMONY**

The NASA Honor and Presidential Rank Awards Ceremony will be held in the Teague Auditorium on Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2001, at 3 p.m. At this year's ceremony, individuals and groups nominated by Center management and selected by the Incentive Awards Board at NASA Headquarters will receive NASA's highest honorary awards. Also recognized will be those selected to receive Senior Executive Service (SES) rank awards.

Each recipient of a NASA medal will also be presented with a framed certificate signed by NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin. Individuals selected to receive Group Achievement Awards on their teams' behalf will receive a framed certificate at the ceremony. Certificates for individual participants of teams will be forwarded to the nominating organizations at a later date.

Recipients are encouraged to invite family members, friends and coworkers to attend the ceremony with them. Following the ceremony, a reception will be held in the lobby of the auditorium for award recipients and their guests. Supervisors are encouraged to allow employees to attend as their workloads permit. For further information about the ceremony, contact Shelia Collins at x30936.

The following is a list of the honorees, some of whom may have received their awards at earlier ceremonies:

**SES Distinguished Executive****SES Meritorious Executive**

**Brock R. Stone**  
**George W. S. Abbey**  
**Robert J. Naughton**  
**Michael G. Winchell, J.D.**

**NASA Distinguished Service Medal**  
(some were presented at NASA Headquarters on June 21)

**Curtis L. Brown, Jr.**  
**Kevin R. Kregel**  
**Brian Duffy**  
**Claude Nicollier**  
**C. Michael Foale, Ph.D.**  
**James S. Voss**  
**James D. Halsell, Jr.**  
**Janice E. Voss, Ph.D.**  
**Susan J. Helms**  
**Terrence W. Wilcutt**  
**Tommy W. Holloway**  
**Peter J. K. Wisoff, Ph.D.**

**NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal**

**Warren L. Brasher**  
**Robert M. Kelso**  
**William H. Gerstenmaier**  
**Steven L. Smith**  
**Gregory W. Hayes**  
**Brock R. Stone**  
**Brent W. Jett, Jr.**  
**Dave R. Williams, M.D.**

**NASA Exceptional Engineering Achievement Medal**

**Bernard J. Rosenbaum**

**NASA Exceptional Bravery Medal**

**Marjorie M. Johnson,**  
**Brown and Root Services Pioneer**

**NASA Exceptional Service Medal**

**Scott D. Altman**  
**Scott J. Horowitz, Ph.D.**  
**Connie B. Poole**  
**Bryan P. Austin**  
**Janet L. Kavandi, Ph.D.**  
**Reagan S. Redman**  
**Michael J. Bloomfield**  
**Michael A. Kincaid**  
**Lisa F. Roberts**  
**Michael A. Brieden**  
**Henry L. Littlejohn**  
**Larry C. Shaw**  
**Leroy Chiao, Ph.D.**  
**Michael E. Lopez-Alegria**  
**Robert O. Shelton, Ph.D.**

**Cliff L. Farmer**  
**Ed T. Lu, Ph.D.**  
**Joseph R. Tanner**  
**Ven C. Feng**  
**William S. McArthur, Jr.**  
**Koichi Wakata**  
**Jean-Francois Clervoy**  
**Gordon A. McKay, Ph.D.**  
**Mary Ellen Weber, Ph.D.**  
**Scott D. Gahring**  
**Herbert K. Mitchell**  
**John F. Whiteley**  
**Marc Garneau, Ph.D.**  
**Mamoru Mohri**  
**Jeffrey A. Williams**  
**Virginia L. Gibson**  
**Lisa A. Navy**  
**Michael G. Winchell, J.D.**  
**Dominic L. Gorie**  
**Carlos I. Noriega**  
**John W. Griffin**  
**Frederick A. Ouellette**  
**John M. Grunsfeld, Ph.D.**  
**Duane L. Pierson, Ph.D.**

**NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal**

**Mark A. Chavez**  
**Walter J. Lueke**  
**Mindy J. Cohen**  
**Huyen-Anh V. Ly**  
**Horacio M. De La Fuente**  
**James E. Ratliff**  
**Vanessa S. Ellerbe**  
**Kirk A. Shireman**  
**George A. Flynt**  
**Jenny M. Stein**  
**Camille C. Goodwin**  
**Kimberly K. Ulrich**  
**Ginger Kerrick**  
**Timothy J. Woeste**

**NASA Public Service Medal**

**David Carr, DDS, Texas**  
**Aerospace Commission**  
**Christos E. Dantos,**  
**Hamilton Sunstrand Space Systems**

**International, Inc.**

**Andrew G. Eng, Lockheed Martin Corporation**  
**Raymond W. Flumerfelt, Ph.D., University of Houston**  
**Paul M. Frison, Houston Technology Center**  
**Israel J. Galvan, GHG Corporation**  
**Eckart D. Graf, European Space Agency**  
**Michael H. Hillman, Hillman International Brands, Ltd.**  
**James F. Horton, Jr., Ph.D., San Jacinto College District**  
**Oleg Lvovsky, Ph.D., Muniz Engineering**

**NASA Group Achievement Award**

**Astronaut Ascent/Entry Trainer Team**  
**EMU Oxygen Contamination Recovery Team**  
**Genesis Contamination Control and Curation Team**  
**Hypervelocity Impact Test and Analysis Team**  
**Multifunction Electronic Display Subsystem Team**  
**NASA Employee Benefits System Development Team**  
**Process Control Focus Group**  
**Service Module Team**  
**Space Shuttle Program Year 2000 Integrated End-to-End Test Team**  
**Space-to-Space Communications System Project Team**  
**X-38 Parachute Team**

**NASA Public Service Group Achievement Award**

**Universal Trunnion Attachment System Design Team**

# Congratulations!

## White Sands Space Harbor celebrates 25 years

On the fringe of White Sands National Monument is one of the primary training areas for Space Shuttle pilots—White Sands Space Harbor (WSSH). WSSH, a Shuttle runway set in a dry sea of gypsum, is a portion of NASA's White Sands Test Facility (WSTF), part of Johnson Space Center.

WSSH is on the Army's White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) in an area known as the Alkalai Flats. Northrop Aviation Corporation originally built the runway in the late 1940s as a landing area for target drones.

It became known as "Northrup Strip" after an early press release error resulted in the widespread incorrect spelling of the name. WSMR acquired the strip in 1952.

NASA selected the site as a Shuttle pilot training area in early 1975. The first Shuttle training flight at the runway was on August 13, 1976. Shortly afterwards

WSSH became an alternate Shuttle landing site with the addition of a second runway and the lengthening of both runways to 35,000 feet.

WSSH is used everyday, often at night, by Shuttle pilots flying practice landings in the Shuttle Training Aircraft (STA). The STA is a Gulfstream II aircraft that has been modified to mimic the flight characteristics and instrumentation of the Shuttle. The STA provides a realistic simulation of the Shuttle's landing from an altitude of about 35,000 feet through touchdown.

The WSSH was chosen as a backup landing site in case

of rain at the primary landing site during the first few flights of the Shuttle. The orbiter Columbia landed at WSSH on March 30, 1982.

After that landing, Senator and former Apollo astronaut Jack Schmitt introduced legislation to change the name to "White Sands Space Harbor."

During the lapse in Shuttle flights following the Challenger accident, the WSSH runways were laser-leveled, widened from 300 feet to 900 feet, and had a new concrete mating area and tow way added to move future opera-

tions out of areas that previously had problems with blowing gypsum. A full set of convoy equipment specially designed to "safe" the Shuttle after landing is kept at WSSH.

Crash and rescue emergency personnel from nearby Holloman Air Force Base are at WSSH for STA practice sessions and for any landings. The runways include all landing aids necessary for a Shuttle landing.

Runway equipment includes Precision Approach Path Indicator lights, distance-to-go lights, strobe lights, reflectors and xenon spotlights that total more than 11 billion candlepower.

In 1989, a third practice runway was constructed to allow pilots to simulate landings on the narrow and shorter runways at transatlantic abort landing sites. The runway duplicates the site at Ben Guerir, Morocco. ■

