

# NEWS RELEASE



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## UNITED SPACE ALLIANCE PRESENTS SUPERIOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS TO FLORIDA EMPLOYEES

KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, Fla. (March 2, 2005) -- United Space Alliance recently presented six individual employees and two teams with its highest company recognition and honored David Sprecacener of Palm Bay as Employee of the Year at its annual "Quest for Excellence" Awards ceremony.

Each month, USA presents Quest for Excellence awards in the categories of Outstanding Safety, Quality, Leadership, Administrative Excellence, Technical Achievement, Community Service and Teamwork. The monthly winners are then candidates for the Superior Achievement Recognition Awards (SARA) in each category

A Senior Aerospace Technician, Sprecacener also received a SARA for Quality. The honors were bestowed for his efforts during an inspection of a gaseous hydrogen vent line umbilical at Launch Pad 39-A where he noticed some suspect nuts and bolts. Donning a body harness allowing him to closely inspect the difficult to reach area, he found that only three of eight nuts had the proper structural integrity. Sprecacener's close inspection averted a possible failure of the pad umbilical arm.

Storekeeper-Expediter Phillip McLeran, of Rockledge, received the SARA for Safety. His attention to detail led him to call a "Time Out" when he suspected that non flight-certified wire was designated for use on the Orbiter Endeavour. Research confirmed that the wire provided was not certified for use on a Shuttle vehicle and this discovery resulted in checks on other Orbiters. Similar non flight-

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certified wires were found already installed on the Shuttle Discovery. The deficient wire was subsequently removed, possibly averting an in-flight failure.

Manager of Ground Systems Support In-Place Calibration, Jamie Verano of Melbourne, was honored with the SARA for Quality for leading a team that provides engineering and calibration support for numerous facilities at the Kennedy Space Center and off-site locations such as the NASA Shuttle Logistics Depot (NSLD) and the Dryden Flight Research Facility in California. Among his many achievements, Verano led in developing five new mobile calibration vans that are outfitted with the necessary test measurement and diagnostic equipment required to perform any calibration task at a moment's notice.

The SARA for Administrative Excellence went to Debra Moye, an administrative assistant in USA's Launch Processing System Software Development Department where she is responsible for a variety of administrative and clerical duties. One of her many achievements was the creation of rosters to be utilized in the event department personnel in the KSC Processing Control Center (PCC) had to be evacuated. The contact list, which included cell phone numbers not typically recorded in standard databases, became critical in the aftermath of last year's hurricanes. Because of roof damage, PCC employees were displaced for three weeks. Debra's contact lists enabled management and department members to stay in touch during that trying time.

The Technical Achievement Award went to the Rudder Speed Brake Engineering Team. This 10-member group was responsible for a yearlong project to completely overhaul the Space Shuttle Discovery's Rudder Speed Brake because of suspected actuator corrosion. Since the Rudder Speed Brake hardware removal had never been performed, the engineers had no baseline data or work steps to follow. Their efforts included designing and fabricating new tools, saving time and approximately \$100,000 by not using outside sources. Additionally, the engineers developed their own processes of repairing and testing existing hardware and replacing damaged parts. All the techniques and tools developed are now being used to perform these tasks on both the Orbiters Atlantis and Endeavour.

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Members of the Rudder Speed Brake Engineering Team are: Christian Bechtold and Christal Jolly of Oviedo; Dwayne Conklin of Cocoa; Robert Emerson, Jeffery Lembeck, Michael McClure, Stephen Seberger and Jack Strieter of Merritt Island; James Keen of Orlando; and Carlos Vollenweider of Rockledge

The SARA for Community Service was a tie with the award presented to Louise Kleba of Cape Canaveral and Kirk Baird of Merritt Island.

Kleba of Integrated Landing/Site Operations has been an active volunteer through many public speaking opportunities on her own time on topics related to the nation's Space Program and also on Native American Heritage. The NASA Speaker's Bureau frequently asks Kleba to speak at forums such as the Michigan Technical University regarding the contribution of women pilots in the first 50 years of aviation and the Westercon Conference in Seattle, where she spoke on space history, current space achievements and future goals.

In addition to his job in USA's Integrated Logistics Business and Resource Management Department, Baird volunteers as a member of the Merritt Island Volunteer Fire Department and as a leader with the Boy Scouts of America. Baird voluntarily completed over 200 hours of firefighter and first responder training in order to receive State certifications. He volunteers countless hours responding to structure fires, medical emergencies, motor vehicle accidents and brush fires while meeting on-going training requirements. Additionally, Baird provides exemplary training for young men in his community, serving as an assistant scoutmaster for a local Boy Scout troop.

The SARA for Teamwork was presented to the 25-member Thermal Protection System Facility (TPSF) Hurricane Recovery Team. On Sept. 6 last year, Hurricane Frances tore through Florida and inflicted significant damage to several key buildings at KSC, including the TPSF. Over 8,000 square feet of the second floor roof was lost, causing serious damage to the thermal protection softgoods manufacturing area. Over the next four days this team prevented further damage and salvaged

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usable items. The team rapidly formulated and implemented a plan to establish the softgoods manufacturing operations in the Shuttle Landing Facility hangar. In the following days, the entire contents of the destroyed softgoods area were relocated to the hangar and the new facility was established.

Members of the TPSF Hurricane Recovery Team are: Tammy Alderman, Harvey Baker, Terrence White and Martin Wilson of Merritt Island; Jeffrey Andress of St. Cloud; Burlen Burke of Scottsmoor; Katherine Evans of Mims; Amy Farmer, Katherine Laufenberg, Janet Mills, Alix Peck, Amy Petitt and Lewis Wolf of Rockledge; Michael Fowler, Kevin Harrington, Linda Haskins, Charles Hollmann, Jarrod Lancaster, Christine Raub, Richard Seevers, David Sheets, Dennis Stanifer and Lino Uy of Titusville; Michael Gurtner of Cocoa and Ismael Medina of Orlando.

United Space Alliance is a space operations business offering products and services in space flight training, space hardware processing, launch and return operations and on-orbit operations. USA serves as NASA's prime contractor for the Space Shuttle and employs more than 10,000 people in Texas, Florida, Alabama, Washington, D.C., and Russia.

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