

NEWS RELEASE



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UNITED SPACE ALLIANCE PRESENTS SUPERIOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS TO TEXAS EMPLOYEES

HOUSTON, Texas (March 5, 2007) -- United Space Alliance recently presented its highest employee recognition to several outstanding employees and honored Michael Snyder as "Employee of the Year" at its annual Quest for Excellence Awards ceremony.

As an Orbiter Subsystem Area Manager, Snyder also received a Superior Achievement Recognition Award (SARA) for Technical Achievement. With the heightened focus on all Space Shuttle debris sources, Snyder led the re-design of the Forward Reactant Control System, thruster protective covers. Understanding the requirement to design a cover that would not shred into pieces during ascent, he pulled together a group that was able to design covers made from a stronger material that would release at low, repeatable velocities. Snyder's creativity, leadership, technical proficiency and a high abundance of energy kept his team on track, and they delivered a product in time to meet flight milestones.

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 best candidates in each category then receive the annual SARA Awards.

The SARA for Safety honor was given to senior robotics expert in Crew Engineering and Operations

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James Tinch. When the use of the Remote Manipulator System (RSC) Sideview Camera was required for installation of trusses on the International Space Station, Tinch developed a process that used the End Effector camera instead of the RSC, enabling both the inspections and the installation to be accomplished while maintaining a safe operational environment. Tinch's meticulous attention to detail and commitment to safety on this and other projects has allowed the Astronaut Office to make significant improvements in Robotics and training operations.

The SARA for Quality was presented to lead Vehicle Integration and Test Engineer Jennifer Goldsmith. Goldsmith is frequently recognized for her expertise in quality assurance and process integrity for testing and evaluation of the Japanese Experiment Module (JEM) hardware. While performing evaluations in Japan, she noticed the similarity between two ventilation valves. Goldsmith ensured proper labeling of the valves, preventing any confusion to crewmembers while on orbit on the International Space Station. She also educated astronauts on all significant issues related to the operations and organization of the JEM, assuring safety and quality.

The SARA for Leadership was presented to Larry Wheeler. As lead for the Flight Software CMMI Level 5 Project, Wheeler's consistent and pervasive "Can Do" attitude became contagious to team members. Wheeler implemented textbook project management practices and showed compassion for the individuals working on the project. His leadership and commitment to accomplishing this goal reflects a substantial portion of the success of the USA team.

The SARA for Administrative Excellence was presented to the 5-member Wireless Emergency Management Application Team consisting of Reggie George, Andrea Hollman, Jon Kocen, Catherine McDonald, and Lisa Wells. In a response to USA's goal to provide timely and coordinated response in emergency situations, this team of representatives from Risk Management and Information Management developed an electronic emergency management checklist application that will interface with Blackberry handheld devices and the USA intranet. Recognizing the need to manage information related to particular crisis situations, the team further created an administrative

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feature within the Wireless Emergency Management Application that pushes the appropriate checklists and the latest information to the users' handheld devices. The improvements made to USA's crisis response processes as a result of this team's efforts will better prepare USA for responding to a crisis in the future.

The SARA for Community Service went to United Space Alliance photographer Tom Murray. Over the past nine years Murray has contributed countless hours to USA's Habitat for Humanity Project. As construction lead, he gives his time to everything from pre-construction planning, detailed task assignments, material lists and training to completion and house dedication. Murray's efforts have directly contributed to 13 families achieving life long dreams of owning their own home. Murray is also frequently approached to assist employees with special needs. When heavy flooding damaged several homes, he led volunteers in removing wet furniture, tearing out sheet rock and making emergency repairs. His efforts have placed USA in the forefront of companies contributing to the local communities.

The SARA award for Teamwork went to the 11-member Space Station Training Facility Stability Team. When concerns arose over training availability within the facility, a team of engineers, maintenance technicians, and operations personal was formed to isolate the root cause of the high failure rate that was leading to a less than 80 percent availability of the facility. After a complete analysis of the system, team members identified that one problem was a complex architecture of clustered PC's that made up the host simulation computer. As a result, a long-term improvement plan was implemented resulting in significant improvements in overall facility maintainability, recovery times and availability to the users. By August 2006, the overall facility availability had reached over 99 percent. The team members are: Bruce Bohnert, Jerol Bowie, James Cassidy, Carl Franklin, Kenneth Hamala, Richard Jasso, Michael Keeler, James Lodden, Robert Mercado, Doc Pepper, Orlando Soliz.

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United Space Alliance is a world leader in space operations with extensive experience in virtually all aspects of the field. Headquartered in Houston and employing 10,000 people in Texas, Florida and Alabama, USA is applying its broad range of capabilities to NASA's Space Shuttle, International Space Station and Constellation programs as well as to space operations customers in the commercial and international space industry sectors.

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