

Professional Reading

“Space Notes” excerpts professional articles of interest to Space professionals. The section will attempt to present a broad spectrum of newsworthy items, with references to the full article for those who wish to read further. Suggestions and submissions for this section are solicited, and should be forwarded to the Managing Editor at Space.journal@us.army.mil.

Air Force Seeks Boost in Space Spending

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Air Force is asking Congress for \$9.8 billion for military Space programs in 2007, an increase of \$500 million over the current budget, according to U.S. Defense Department officials.

NASA Seeks 30 Percent Increase for Exploration Program; Overall Budget Would Rise Just One Percent

WASHINGTON — Efforts to replace the Space shuttle fleet with new Moon-bound spacecraft would receive big spending increases under NASA's 2007 budget request, while nearly every other part of the U.S. Space agency's budget would be held flat or decline.

NASA budget: Right vector, time for more thrust

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (Feb. 6, 2006) Space Foundation President and Chief Executive Officer Elliot G. Pulham made the following statement today in response to the release of the President's FY 2007 budget proposal for NASA:

“The Vision for Space Exploration and the President's budget proposal has NASA headed in the right direction. This is the right vector, but it is time for more thrust.

We commend the White House for providing NASA with a budget that demonstrates commitment to Space exploration. The modest 3.2 percent increase over the FY06 baseline means the nation can carry through on its commitments to return the Space shuttle to flight, complete the International Space Station, and pursue renewed exploration of our solar system.

U.S. to deploy radar in Japan

Associated Press

The United States plans to deploy in Japan within the next six months mobile X-band radar for an advanced early warning system against ballistic missiles, a senior U.S. Missile Defense Agency official said Monday.

The Japanese Air Self-Defense Force base in Tsugaru, Aomori Prefecture, is seen as the most likely candidate site to build the ground-based radar chiefly aimed at detecting incoming missiles from North Korea.

22 SOPS supports NASA mission to Pluto

Air Force Space Command News Service

Staff Sgt. Don Branum

50th Space Wing Public Affairs

SCHRIEVER AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.—The 22nd Space Operations Squadron here provided critical support for NASA's New Horizons probe, which launched from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla., Jan. 19.

The Air Force Satellite Control Network relayed booster and upper-stage telemetry data from the Spacecraft to engineers on the ground, said Maj. Karilynne Wallace, 22nd SOPS Detachment 1 commander at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.

When one of NASA's remote tracking stations had problems just prior to the launch, the Diego Garcia tracking station became the primary site for critical telemetry, said CPT Richard Rutowicz, an AFSCN crew commander for 22nd SOPS.

The tracking station provided "good to excellent" telemetry, according to end users.

"As the first of 18 possible launches scheduled for 2006, this successful launch demonstrates the criticality of the network tasking order and AFSCN to launch operations," said Brian Bayless, 22nd SOPS scheduling branch chief.

Journey to the edge of the Solar System

Air Force Space Command News Service

1st Lt Kevin Coffman, 45th SW Public Affairs

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.—The 45th Space Wing supported the successful launch of the NASA Pluto New Horizons Spacecraft on an Atlas V rocket from Space Launch Complex 41 here Jan. 19.

The wing provided Eastern Range and launch base support to Lockheed Martin and International Launch Services, who served as the commercial Spacecraft and booster vehicle provider to NASA.

Launch officials scrubbed the mission twice earlier due to weather issues. This launch marked the first time an Atlas V has flown with five boosters strapped-on. Prior to this mission, three was the most. This was the fastest rocket to leave the Earth's atmosphere with about two and a half million pounds of thrust at launch and ending up traveling to Pluto at 36 thousand mph.

Lockheed Martin Delivers Pac-3 Stockpile Reliability Test Missiles

DALLAS, Texas (SPX) Feb. 06, 2006

Lockheed Martin recently delivered the first Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) Stockpile Reliability Test (SRT) Missiles to the U.S. Army during a ceremony at Lockheed Martin's facility in Camden, Ark. The delivery marked the first major milestone in the Operations and Support (O&S) phase of the PAC-3 Missile program.

Russia To Build New, Anti-Missile Warning System

MOSCOW (AFP) Jan. 31, 2006

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov announced Tuesday that Russia would build a new missile defense warning station in the south of the country, thus decreasing its dependence on radar systems based in nations such as Azerbaijan and Ukraine.

MISSILE DEFENSE

BMD Watch: Trident Subs Will Fight Terror

By Martin Sieff, UPI Senior News Analyst

WASHINGTON (UPI) Jan. 25, 2006

The U.S. Navy is converting some of its prized nuclear strategic submarines to launch precision, conventional munitions strikes against terrorist bases and similar targets.

Four ultra-stealth Ohio-class SSBNs are having their 24 Trident II D-5 nuclear ballistic missiles removed and replaced with up to 154 Tomahawk cruise missiles, Defense Industry Daily reported Jan. 18.

Congress Gives Alaska \$150M Boost With Missile Defense Deployment

WASHINGTON, D.C. (UPI) Feb. 08, 2006

Congress has given the long-troubled Missile Defense Agency's Ground-Based Midcourse-Interceptor program a financial boost, allowing it to deploy planned interceptors more rapidly, the MDA's chief has told an Alaska newspaper.

The new Defense Appropriations Bill contains provisions to shift \$150 million from within the MDA's budget from other programs to fund expanded and accelerated interceptor deployment, Air Force LTG Henry "Trey" Obering III told the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner in an interview published Sunday.