

DCMA HARTFORD'S JIM QUENNEVILLE RECEIVES ONE OF THE HIGHEST NASA AWARDS

By Ann Jensis-Dale, DCMA Public Affairs

DCMA Hartford Quality Assurance Representative Jim Quenneville is the recipient of the NASA Space Flight Awareness Honoree award for his monitoring work at the Aerospace Testing Lab, a nondestructive testing facility located in South Windsor, Conn.

The prestigious NASA Space Flight Awareness Honoree award is given to employees for their dedication to quality work and flight safety. According to Quenneville, to qualify for this award, eligible candidates will have made contributions toward enhancing the probability of mission success. At the Aerospace Testing Labs, Quenneville's role is to monitor the nondestructive testing facility for the military services and NASA programs.

"There are various parts that are nondestructively tested at my facility that go on the space shuttle's main engine," stated Quenneville. "Various parts are tested to ensure there are no quality deficiencies or other issues that could cause a problem during space flight."

At the Aerospace Testing Labs nondestructive facility, Quenneville monitors testing that exerts tremendous amounts of load, pressure and extreme temperature generated by the NASA space shuttles main engines. "A lot of little details go into testing for the space shuttle mission," said Quenneville. "Everyone performing the tasks and testing wants to ensure a safe launch, mission and return for the space shuttle crew and craft."

Other than the prestige of winning the NASA Space Flight Awareness Honoree award, Quenneville received a tour of the Kennedy Space Center and witnessed live the launch of STS 129, Space Shuttle Atlantis. The space

shuttle is launched from the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla. Cape Canaveral is a detachment of Patrick Air Force Base and is the East Coast space launch facility for the Department of Defense.

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Standing outside the Vehicle Assembly Building, Jim Quenneville, Defense Contract Management Agency Hartford quality assurance representative, continues to support NASA even on his visit to Kennedy Space Center. (Photo by Anita Quenneville)

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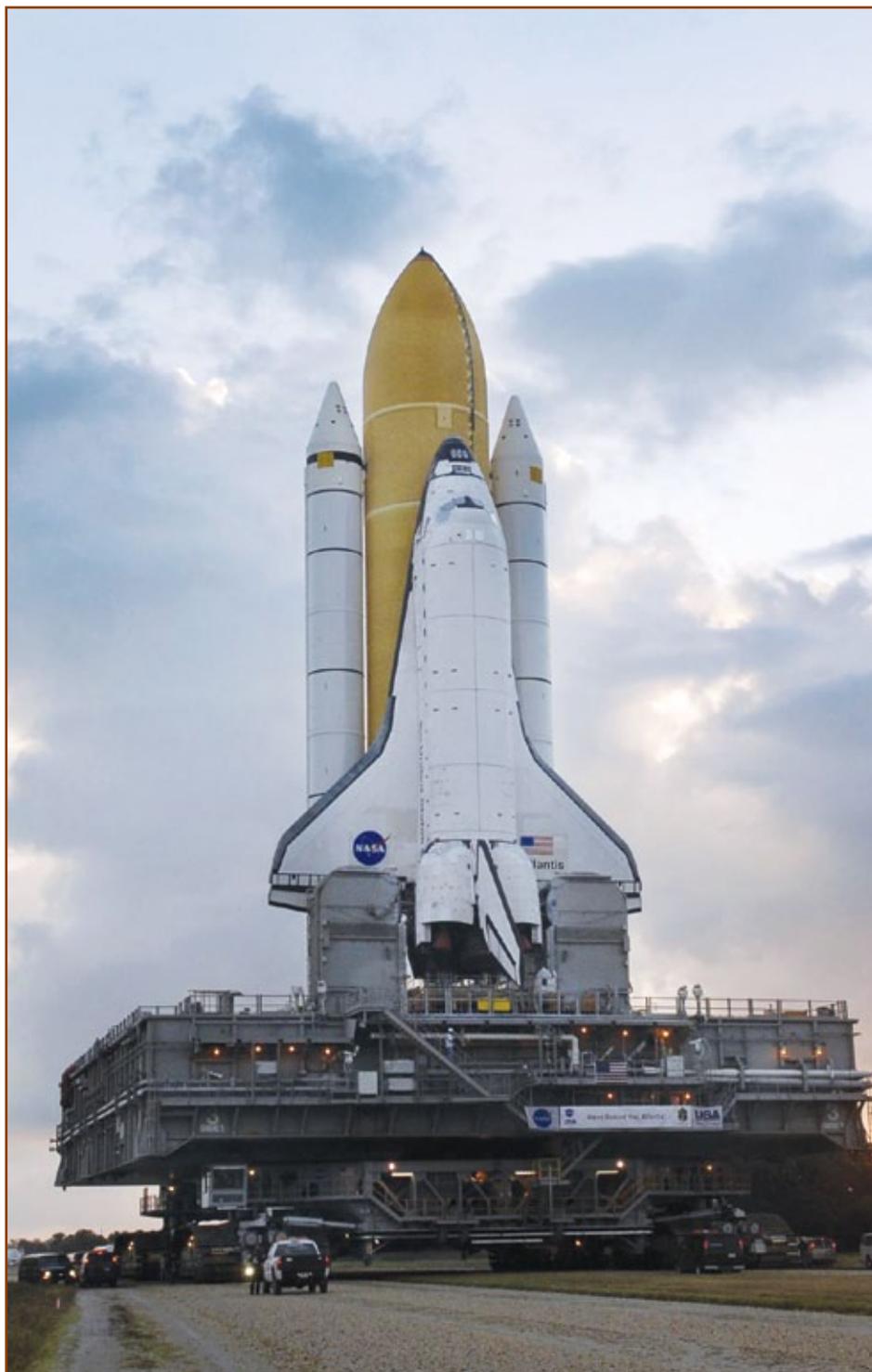
The Kennedy Space Center tour included a visit at the Shuttle Launch Pad 39-A and the Vehicle Assembly Building where all the components are married together prior to the launch.

“The Statue of Liberty can fit inside the VAB [Vehicle Assembly Building] with room to spare,” said Quenneville. “The flag painted on the building is 209 feet by 111 feet and required 6,000 gallons of paint.”

Other areas viewed during the tour included the space shuttle landing runway and the Saturn V center with displays of the Apollo and Saturn missions. Quenneville also witnessed the shuttle “crawler” in action when it transported the shuttle from the VAB to the launch pad. The distance traveled is 3.5 miles and takes six to eight hours. “Shuttle security and alligators were seen numerous times on the tour,” said Quenneville.

The final day of the visit included the viewing of the live launch of STS-129A Space Shuttle Atlantis from a designated special viewing area about three miles away from the launch pad. “That was quite a sight to witness live. I have watched previous launches broadcasted on television or the Internet, but to witness a space shuttle launch live was quite a sight,” concluded Quenneville.

Some information and story idea provided by Edward A. Marshall, DCMA Hartford 🍷



As the sun rises over NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, workers accompany the crawler-transporter as it carries space shuttle Atlantis to Launch Pad 39A in preparation for its STS-129 mission to the International Space Station. Defense Contract Management Agency Hartford Quality Assurance Representative Jim Quenneville witnessed the crawler-transporter in action when it transported the shuttle from the Vehicle Assembly Building to the launch pad, a 3.5-mile trip that takes six to eight hours. (NASA photo by Kim Shiflett)