

# Team takes pride in SV-1 successful launch

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## Members of the Defense Contract Management Agency Mobile User Objective System program

support team watched Feb. 24 as the first MUOS satellite, known as SV-1, blasted into orbit from Cape Canaveral, Fla.

The launch marks the end of a long delivery process started in California. “We were there to witness and inspect the packaging and loading of the satellite onto a C-5C transport aircraft,” said Monte Spotti, PST quality assurance specialist. “SV-1 launching represents a significant program milestone and was the culmination of a long process.”

The MUOS program support team at the Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company campus, and DCMA team members across all main subcontractors, played a key role in the overall success of the integration, test and delivery of the first system. “Behind the scenes making this all come together was a hardworking and dedicated DCMA team of professionals,” said Lyle Batema, MUOS program integrator.

Once at Cape Canaveral, SV-1 underwent post shipment testing, fueling, and payload fairing encapsulation and finally mating to the Atlas V launch vehicle. The mission of SV-1 is to support the Navy’s satellite communications program.

Designed to replace the aging fleet of communication satellites, the MUOS satellite program is a key component of the nation’s UHF Military Satellite Communications system. It supports military users with greater mobility, higher data rates and improved operational availability. With Third Generation Wideband Code Division Multiple Access cell phone network architecture, the constellation of multiple satellites and ground stations will provide more than 10 times the capacity of the current UFO constellation.

With the first satellite in orbit and a successful launch conducted, the team now focuses on duplicating the process. “We are continuing our progress on the subsequent satellites. The next MUOS space vehicle is undergoing environmental testing which will validate its performance in a simulated space environment,” said Bill Owens, PST quality assurance specialist. “Other MUOS satellites are also steadily progressing in the production flow.” 

*The Mobile User Objective System-1 satellite is inspected before shipment to Cape Canaveral, Fla., where it will be processed and mated to an ATLAS-V 551 rocket. Employees from the Defense Contract Management Agency witnessed the packaging and loading process. (Courtesy photo)*