AEROSPACE

ORBITER NEWS

News, announcements, and more.

April Fools: Aerospace Locations Considered for Upcoming Blockbuster Film

April 1, 2024

From left to right: Filmakers Jerry Bruckheimer, Joe Kosinski, Chris McQuarrie and actor Tom Cruise. [Photo: MC2 Olympia McCoy/DVIDS]

Update: April Fools! We know you want the truth, so here it is. While there have been no talks of Tom Cruise filming his upcoming space movie at Aerospace—as of yet, anyway—the company's facilities actually have served as a film set before. The A8 lobby in AGO and building façade was used for the 1996 action flick *Eraser*, though special effects were used to make the building look taller. In 2008, the movie *Race to Witch Mountain* filmed a scene in the old STARS lab located in A3. The facility has also been used as a backdrop for documentaries and educational videos.

Furthermore, Aerospace experts have lent their expertise to the entertainment industry via movies, books, documentaries and TV shows as well.

With the recent announcement that Aerospace has shifted its headquarters to Chantilly to be closer to key customers and stakeholders, along with a $100 million investment to its main engineering and technology campus in El Segundo, perhaps the Circle-A could be poised for another big role in show business in the future.

A blockbuster film crew could be coming soon to an Aerospace campus near you. Recent media reports have revealed that megastar actor Tom Cruise is in pre-production for an upcoming space movie and Aerospace campuses are currently under consideration as filming locations. The corporation has been contacted by location scouts who have expressed interest in Aerospace's facilities, and casting directors are hoping Aerospace employees can join the film as extras.

"When I first heard about this, I thought how awesome it would be to see our facilities on the big screen," said Steve Isakowitz, President and CEO of Aerospace. "This will be great if we can slip in the Circle-A into the filming. It will be loads of fun for our employees as extras!"

As the space domain grows faster than ever before, there is renewed interest from the general public in all things space. It comes as no surprise that this interest is being noticed by Hollywood executives and film studios. In 2020, an unnamed space movie was announced with Cruise in the lead role. Since then, news outlets have reported that Cruise hopes to become the first civilian to perform an extravehicular activity (EVA), or spacewalk, outside of the International Space Station as part of the filming for this upcoming movie.

"It truly is such an exciting time for the space industry, and films like this help show the world the incredible technologies and complex problems we get to work on every day," said Sabrina Steele, Executive Director of Corporate Affairs and Communications. "We are always looking for new ways to highlight the work we do and opportunities like this don't come around very often."

As you may know, Aerospace's experts are no stranger to the silver screen. Employees have been consulted and featured in a variety of film and television projects, including the IMAX documentary *Asteroid Hunters* and the 2013 critically acclaimed film *Gravity.*

Celebrating Inspirational Women at Aerospace

March 28, 2024

Uplifting others and celebrating success together is an important aspect of Aerospace's culture. For nearly 52 years, the Aerospace Women's Committee (AWC) has been dedicated to creating an empowering community that supports women across the corporation. To commemorate Women's History Month and this year's theme of "Celebrating Aerospace Women," AWC hosted several events that honored the many inspiring women at Aerospace.

(Top) Vicky Gomez, Kaitlyn Fields, Shawné Raiford, (bottom) Kim Withers, Kristin St. Peter and Dr. Wendy Chiado were some of the women who spoke during AWC's panels which took place throughout Women's History Month.

First recognized in 1981, what began as Women's History Week grew to become Women's History Month in March 1995. This month promotes recognition and appreciation of the significant role women have played throughout American history, along with the achievements of women across various fields.

Celebrating Inspiring Women

Every day, women from across the corporation are positively impacting others in meaningful ways. In February, AWC invited employees to share stories about women at Aerospace who inspire them and have made a difference in their lives. As the replies poured in, AWC leadership said they were moved by the responses and stories shared.

"One of my favorite parts of conducting this survey was seeing the wide variety of women who were recognized," said Manzar Chaudhry, National Vice President of AWC. "From admins to the former CEO, Dr. Wanda Austin, each of these amazing women have helped to inspire their colleagues. It shows that no matter your role in the company, someone looks up to you."

The stories received touched on many shared themes, including inspiring others, overcoming barriers, mentorship and the importance of boldly pursuing opportunities. One woman was inspired to pursue an MBA while balancing working full-time, another to return to her job as an engineer after taking a few years o to take care of her young child, utilizing the support and guidance of colleagues to facilitate a smooth transition. Others named specific women across the corporation who have had a particularly large impact on those around them.

> *"Dewanne Phillips is an amazing role model for Aerospace women. She consistently demonstrates leadership through her ability to navigate challenging situations with grace and poise. Always making time to develop others, her door is always open for a quick drop-by or a mentoring session. Not only is her technical expertise and experience inspiring, her kind but candid demeanor represents an aspirational example for all."*

"Liz Davison's exceptional leadership skills and her ability to bring out the best in her team, has inspired me to focus on inclusivity and building a positive team culture within my team. Throughout her career she continued to inspire me and her team to push the boundaries of what is possible in data science by integrating multiple disciplines and teams across the company. She also encouraged me to think outside the box both in management and technical projects and focus on leveraging the skill sets that I am strong in. She inspires me to feel more comfortable speaking up and contributed to my confidence in myself and in my skills."

"Rita Lollock is a GPS lifer! She has devoted her career to the development of the GPS product, has indelibly added her name to the lifetime of GPS, and continued the mission of GPS architecture excellence from The Aerospace Corporation. The GPS architecture was conceived at Aerospace, but she helped carry the torch through the modernization of GPS and developed a strong team of experts to keep the mission propelling into the future that the entire world depends on."

AWC also hosted two virtual panels this month – one technical and one non-technical – where women at Aerospace shared their experiences and lessons learned throughout their careers. During the first technical panel, Dr. Wendy Chiado of Enterprise Engineering & Tech Futures; Kaitlyn Fields of the System Analysis & Simulation Subdivision; Vicky Gomez of Business Development; Dr. Angela Triplett of U.S. Defense Partnerships; and Lois Yu of the Risk and Reliability Engineering Department talked about their own personal journeys, the importance of mentorship, and taking the necessary steps to excel.

"When you take a risk, it is energizing," said Yu. "If we take responsible risks, they can lead to breakthroughs."

The non-technical panel was moderated by Tammy Choy, Vice President and Chief Information Officer of Aerospace. The featured speakers included Rory Boston of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer; Kristin St. Peter of the Office of General Counsel; Shawné Raiford of the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Office; Joyce Lew of Environmental Health and Safety; and Kim Withers of People Operations. The panelists spoke about their career journeys, mastering effective communication, excelling and adapting under managerial changes, and taking hold of opportunities.

"We have to be more open minded about opportunities and we have to look outside of what we are doing today," said Boston. "As Tammy said, opportunities aren't going to come when you want them to come, and they aren't going to look like what you thought they were going to look like."

Employees also had the opportunity to attend the Women's History Month Leadership Panel at the Los Angeles Air Force Base (LAAFB)/Space Base Delta 3. They heard from Col. Mia Walsh, Commander of Space Base Delta 3, along with other SSC leaders, including Col. Michele Idle, Joy White, Shannon Pallone and Col. Heather Bogstie. The panel explored the diverse experiences of the women at the LAAFB, who so many at Aerospace work and collaborate with every day.

“It’s always amazing to see how many important inventions, innovations, and ideas have come from women, and having a month to commemorate how far we’ve come is great,” said Erin Hong, National President of AWC. “There’s still more work to do, but I’m happy to celebrate Women’s History Month in and outside of Aerospace.”

There were a variety of events Aerospace employees could attend to celebrate this year’s Women’s History Month.

Press Release: Aerospace Shifts Corporate HQ to DC Area; Investing $100M in El Segundo campus

March 21, 2024

Announcement Comes with $100 Million Investment in California Technology Campus

CHANTILLY, Va., March 21, 2024 – At a time of significant change in the space domain’s strategic environment, The Aerospace Corporation (Aerospace) announced it will relocate its corporate headquarters to Chantilly, Va., from El Segundo, Calif., effective March 21, 2024.

The shift will bring Aerospace’s CEO and corporate functions closer to key customers and stakeholders in the Washington D.C. area. The company will maintain its nationwide employee presence, including its workforce of 2,800 people in El Segundo. Aerospace plans to invest $100 million at its El Segundo campus to advance the state-of-the-art engineering, research, and laboratory capabilities based there. There are no plans for the significant relocation of current employees as a result of this change.

“The space domain has transformed over the last decade, reshaped by rapidly advancing threats, cutting edge technologies and a fast-growing commercial sector,” said Steve Isakowitz, president and CEO of The Aerospace Corporation.

“Aerospace has taken a leading position navigating through this change as we accelerate our efforts to outpace the threats we face in space. By shifting our headquarters to the Washington, D.C. metro region, we will deepen our ties with key decision makers and stakeholders, and reaffirm our commitment to working side-by-side with our partners as they carry out our nation’s critical missions.”

The space domain has undergone profound change in recent years, including dramatic growth in U.S. government and commercial space investment, the establishment of the U.S. Space Force, the re-creation of U.S. Space Command, and the need for greater technical support to integrate diverse capabilities. This has resulted in a shift of Aerospace’s technical support from traditional functions to emerging needs, as well as a growing nationwide presence to work alongside an increasingly diverse customer base, including the Department of Defense, the Intelligence Community, NASA, and other civil agencies.

Along with the announced shift of corporate functions, Aerospace reinforced the company’s commitment to Southern California with the announcement of a $100 million investment at its main engineering and technology campus in El Segundo. This investment will further Aerospace’s unmatched innovation and technical expertise, while strengthening ties with the region’s leading technical workforce, talent base, and universities. Aerospace’s national customer base will continue to rely heavily on the engineering and research expertise based in El Segundo, and Aerospace is investing in its technical infrastructure to drive greater connectivity and collaboration across all of the company’s locations.

Press Release: Former NASA JPL Deputy Director Elected to Board of Trustees

March 21, 2024

CHANTILLY, Va., March 21, 2024 – The Aerospace Corporation (Aerospace) elected Lt. Gen. Larry D. James, USAF (Ret.), former deputy director and chief operating officer of NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), to its Board of Trustees on March 14, 2024.

Lt. Gen. James has a distinguished military career working in large-scale operations, intelligence and acquisition assignments. In the civil sector, he also contributed significantly to the advancement of space exploration projects.

“At this time of rising threats and rapid technological advancement in space, Larry brings extensive expertise and leadership experience across the national security and civil sectors that will greatly benefit our board,” said Steve Isakowitz, Aerospace president and chief executive officer. “Larry’s deep familiarity with our customers and their missions will help Aerospace continue to lead during this pivotal time in space.”

Lt. Gen. James was the deputy director and chief operating officer for 11 years before retiring from JPL. As the Laboratory’s chief operating officer, he oversaw the day-to-day management of JPL’s resources and activities, which included solar system exploration, Mars, astronomy, physics, Earth science, interplanetary network programs, and all business operations.

Prior to his retirement from active duty in 2013, Lt. Gen. James was the Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance at the Pentagon. He was responsible to the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Air Force for policy formulation, planning, evaluation, oversight, and leadership of Air Force intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities and led more than 20,000 Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) officers, enlisted and civilians across the Air Force ISR Enterprise.

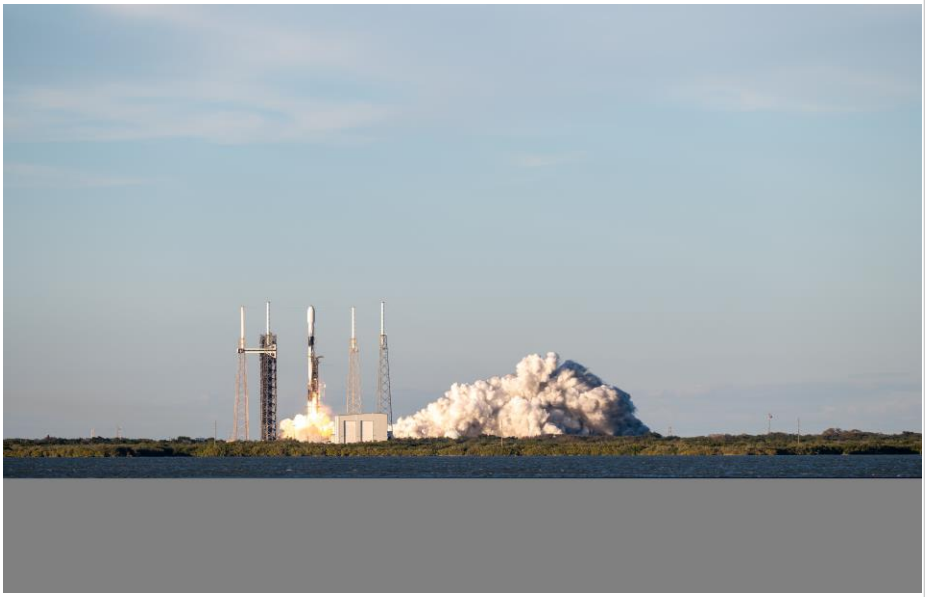
Lt. Gen. James received his bachelor’s degree in astronautical engineering from the U.S. Air Force Academy (Distinguished Graduate) and his master’s degree in aeronautics and astronautics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Mass. He was also a Draper Fellow at the Charles Stark Draper Laboratory in Cambridge, Mass.

Aerospace’s Board of Trustees members have a myriad of backgrounds, representing academic and scientific institutions and public, government, and national security interests. These diverse points of view allow the board members to collectively provide better guidance and oversight of the corporation’s activities.

USSF-124 Launch: Delivering a Six-Satellite Payload

March 19, 2024

A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket successfully launched at 5:30 p.m. ET from Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida as part of the USSF-124 mission, to deliver six satellites into orbit under the National Security Space Launch Program (NSSL).



A Space X Falcon 9 rocket launches from Space Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida, Feb. 14, 2024. The rocket was launched as part of classified mission USSF-124, sending six satellites to orbit - two for the Missile Defense Agency and four for the Space Development Agency. (U.S. Space Force photo by Airman 1st Class Spencer Contreras)

This was the 11th launch for SpaceX under the NSSL program and the last of the Space Development Agency's (SDA) Tranche 0 satellites scheduled for launch.

As with prior NSSL missions, The Aerospace Corporation ensured mission success by providing independent and objective assessments in support of the USSF, continuing the NSSL program's two-decade-long legacy of 100 percent mission success. A notable item for this mission was Aerospace's utilization of a new object-oriented modeling process and a python-based approach to reduce analytical timelines to meet the tight integration schedule for the initial ILC.

"I am extremely proud of the entire team for their ingenuity and unprecedented responsiveness enabling the integration of the SDAs space vehicles within five months of launch," said Akhil Gujral, General Manager of the Launch Systems Division at Aerospace.

Equally remarkable was the quick turnaround by the Aerospace team at the STARS Telemetry Data Reduction Center to support an increased launch tempo to record and process data from two other launches planned concurrently within a span of less than eight hours from both coasts.

"This enabled optimal flexibility for the USSF-124 mission, the USSF, and our mission partners," said Ivor Bulathsinghala, Principal Director at Aerospace.

According to SDA, the payload of USSF-124 includes six separate satellites with varying missile detection capabilities. The payload necessitated a coordination between SDA and the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) as well as with Space Systems Command (SSC).

"We're proud to support both the MDA and SDA with this co-manifested National Security Space launch," said U.S. Space Force Col. Jim Horne, senior materiel leader for SSC's Launch Execution Delta. "We worked side-by-side with our launch

service provider and space vehicle partners to achieve the mission on-time and with precision. Today's mission supports our global war fighters and people across the globe in every facet of life."

Four of the satellites, which were produced for SDA, are considered Wide-Field-of-View (WFOV) missile tracking satellites for SDA's Tranche 0 constellation. The other two satellites launched were Hypersonic and Ballistic Tracking Space Sensor (HBTSS) satellites produced for MDA. Launching these two types of satellites in nearly the same orbital plane allows more information to be gathered on the same targets. USSF-124 ensured these satellites were in the correct position to collect necessary data for future PWSA satellites in Tranche 1.

The missile defense capabilities demonstrated by USSF-124 will inform future Aerospace supported missions. The next Aerospace supported NSSL mission is USSF-108 slated for March 2024.

March 2024 Obituaries

March 01, 2024

Sincere sympathy is extended to the families of:

Carl Andrews, member of technical staff, hired Jan. 11, 1988, died June 28, 2021
Michael Asato, member of technical staff, hired June 22, 1987, died Feb. 8, 2014
Richard Brown, member of technical staff, hired April 14, 1997, retired June 1, 2007, died Jan. 29, 2024
Stephen Burrin, member of technical staff, hired Feb. 1, 1971, retired Dec. 1, 2005, died Feb. 21, 2024
Edward Carter, office of technical support, hired March 13, 2000, died June 5, 2023
Nai-yi Cheng, member of technical staff, hired Aug. 4, 2008, retired May 1, 2021, died Jan. 19, 2024
Barbara Craig, office of technical support, hired Nov. 9, 1964, retired April 1, 2013, died July 30, 2021
Robert Giles, member of technical staff, hired Feb. 16, 1970, retired June 1, 1986, died Feb. 4, 2024
Joseph King, office of technical support, hired Aug. 8, 1987, died Nov. 4, 2022
Carole Ness, member of technical staff, hired Feb. 6, 1963, retired Feb. 1, 2004, died Jan. 4, 2024
Kenneth Reed, member of technical staff, hired May 13, 1963, retired April 1, 2002, died Jan. 24, 2024
Peggy Ritter, office of technical support, hired March 23, 1965, retired Feb. 1, 2008, died Feb. 3, 2024
Yvonne Shanta, office of technical support, hired Nov. 9, 1987, retired April 1, 2001, died Jan. 17, 2024
Fayth Taylor, office of technical support, hired March 25, 1965, retired Sept. 1, 1995, died Nov. 5, 2023
Shirley Van Tine, office of technical support, hired Aug. 17, 1981, retired Dec. 1, 1994, died Dec. 6, 2023

To notify Aerospace of a death and have it included in the Orbiter, please contact People Operations at (310) 336-5107.

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