# MIT January Operational Internship Experience

# January 29, 2010

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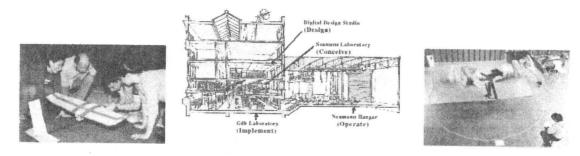
Wendy Pino Andrew Wang Ezekiel Willett Kwami Williams

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- Introduce engineering students to the operational aspects of space flight.
- Explore the relationship between design and operations.
- Core component of MIT's Aeronautics and Astronautics CDIO curriculum (Conceive, Design, Implement, Operate).



Images taken from http://web.mit.edu/aeroastro/academics/cdio.html



- Landing & Recovery
- Transportation
- Shuttle Processing
- Constellation Processing
- External Tank
- Launch Pad
- **\*** Ground Operations
- **\* Hypergolic Propellants**
- Environmental
- Logistics
- Six Sigma
- **\*** Systems Engineering
- Human Factors

Images taken from http://www.nasa.gov

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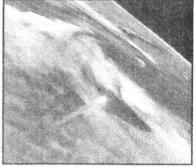
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# Landing & Recovery



Credit: NASA



Credit: NASA

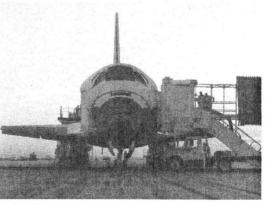






- Landing capabilities are necessary any time the space shuttle leaves the launch pad
- Landing at Kennedy Space
   Center imposes the least
   operational burden as opposed
   to alternate landing sites
  - Deservicing of hypergolic propellant on site
  - Venting of poisonous hydrazine fumes (APU & RCS) on runway
  - No mating/demating to 747 required

 Once the shuttle lands at KSC recovery operations can begin in preparation for next mission



Credit: NASA

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#### Shuttle Abort: A Necessary Contingency



If safe landing is not an option...

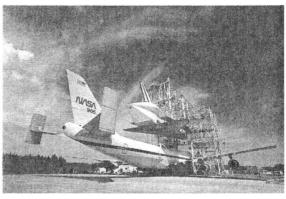
- Abort Scenarios
  - RSLS, RTLS, TAL, AOA, ATO
- Shuttle has no abort option from T-0 to SRB burnout at 126 seconds after liftoff
- Crew has no means to separate from the vehicle in an abort
- Most desirable TAL sites are in Western Europe
  - Zaragosa Air Base, Spain
  - Moron Air Base, Spain
  - Istres Air Base, France
- However, unlike the landing facility at KSC, the TAL sites are not equipped with the ideal logistics to process the shuttle





#### TAL sites must be equipped with the necessary means to support shuttle recovery

- Security (now provided by military)
- Deservicing equipment and power
- TRACAN or GPS
- MSLBS
- Xenon lighting
- Communications
- Weather Equipment
- Mate/Demate device



Credit: NASA

Servicing commodities at each TAL site add to the immense cost required to transport the shuttle back to KSC, but they are a cheap insurance policy for the life of the crew.

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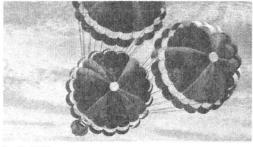
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### **Orion Landing & Recovery**



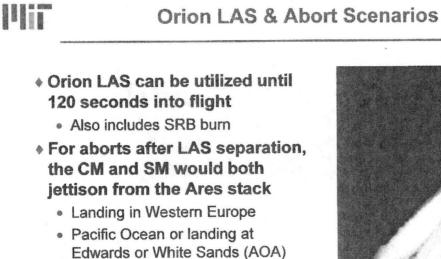


Credit: NASA



Credit: NASA

- Design of Ares I calls for a water landing for Orion crew module
  - Landing off the coast of Southern California
  - Service module must be jettisoned over the ocean
- Crew module will have at least 24 hour human sustainability
- CM will be towed from the ocean onto ship
  - Orion crew will remain in the CM until it is onboard recovery ship



ATO

Ability for crew to escape Ares stack during SRB burn is substantial safety improvement from shuttle program.



Credit: popsci.com

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# **Transportation**



Credits: nasa.gov January 29, 2010



#### Shuttle is a large and reusable vehicle

- Complicates remote landing and recovery
- Configuration with 747 requires ideal flying conditions, short durations
- Overseas landing requires towing and loading onto ship



Credits: slate.com,interspacenews.com

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### Transportation Infrastructure

#### Solid Rocket Boosters

- Manufactured in Utah, heavy propellant
   → modify railcars to have extra wheels
- Entire length too long for tracks to accommodate
  - $\rightarrow$  assembly waits until RPSF and VAB

#### External Tank

- Manufactured in Alabama in one piece
  - → float on a barge
- Meticulous rotation can only occur in the VAB
- Hypergolics
  - · Must drain hypergolics before transporting vehicles
  - Special procedures for transporting hypergolics to HMFs

#### Mobile Launch Pad Crawlers

 Immense weight requires special rock tracks and maintenance Vehicle component design determines transport mode, which in turn affects facility usage.

Crew module is lighter with

Reusable SRBs – similar

Recovery by swimmers and shipGround transportation to JSC and

salvageable parts

KSC

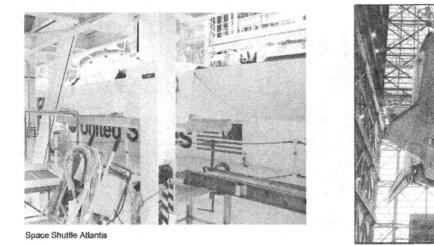
recovery



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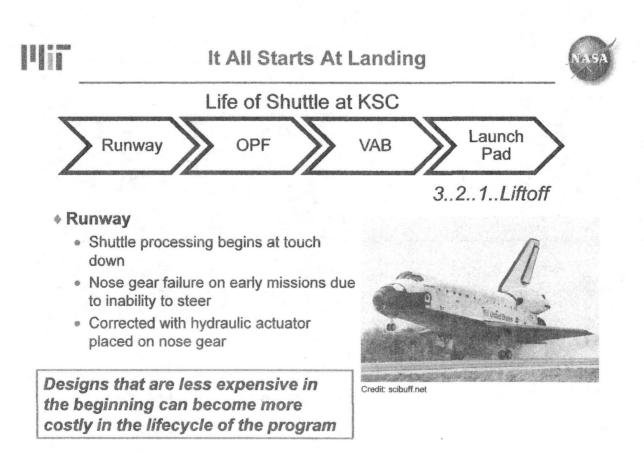
# **Shuttle Processing**



Credit: funonthenet.in

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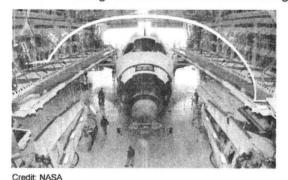
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#### Orbital Processing Facility (OPF)

- · Large scale maintenance on the shuttle
- · After being rolled in, orbiter is raised on hydraulic jacks
  - Jacks must level orbiter for servicing
- Payload bay doors must be opened
   Strongbacks maintain structural integrity





Tiles

 Damaged tiles replaced and entire system waterproofed

NASA underestimated the scale of shuttle processing which led to later modifications at the OPF. i.e. service platforms

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# Integration in VAB



#### After OPF, shuttle goes to VAB for stacking with SRBs and ET

- Wait...the vertical stabilizer does not fit
  - Notch in VAB door was cut to allow easy access for the shuttle
- Transition to Constellation
  - Modification of platforms to allow processing of Ares rockets
- KSC was able to use the VAB for three completely separate programs



Credit: NASA

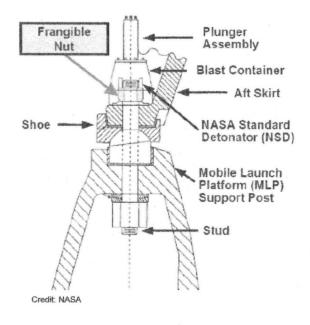
Design modifications in operations are sometimes necessary for the smooth transition of programs





- Once on the pad the shuttle waits for approximately 30 days until launch
- It was observed that the frangible nuts were breaking free of their torque over time
  - Engineers preloaded the nuts with more torque to allow them to loosen once the shuttle reached the pad

Because components are designed to exceed operational loads, fixes such as this are possible



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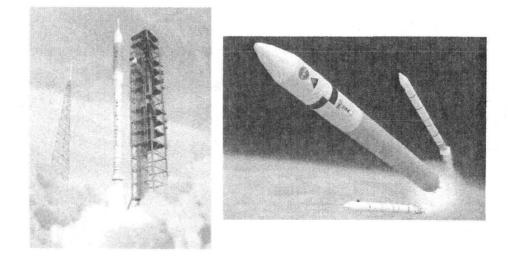
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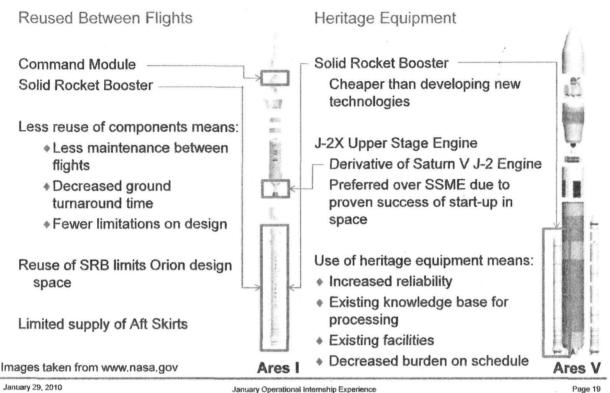


# **Constellation Processing**



# Heritage Equipment and Hardware Reuse





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# Reorganization of Workflow at KSC

NASA

**Critical Path** 

CM/SM

SRB

MPPF

VAB

Upper

Stage

Individual images taken from "Orion Production

RPSF

Overview", John Weeks.

LAS

Compared with Shuttle, processing of Constellation benefits from:

#### Reduction of spare components

- · Off-site production of parts
  - Less burden on KSC facilities
  - Reduces logistics footprint
- Independent production off-site means spares automatically available

#### Reduction of critical path

- Increased parallelization of AI&P
  - Decreased ground turnaround time
  - Decrease probability of launch delay
  - Reduces need for VAB modifications
- · Examples:
  - 1-piece Ogive
  - Fueling of SM prior to stacking

MAF

ML



#### Limited buffer time between Ares I and Ares V launch

- Must simultaneously process both launch vehicles
- Allocation of human resources may be difficult
- Implications for Ground Systems

Constellation is easing the burden to its facilities through:

#### Customization of critical path facilities

- Customized High Bays in VAB, and ML's for Ares I or Ares V
- Eases implementation of launch vehicle-dependent operations
- Decreases human confusion

#### Flexibility of platforms in VAB

- Evolution of design accommodated through +/- 3 feet adjustment to platform height
  - Only possible once upon installation
- 18in gap between Ares and platforms bridged with adjustable extensions

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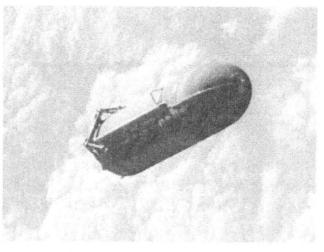
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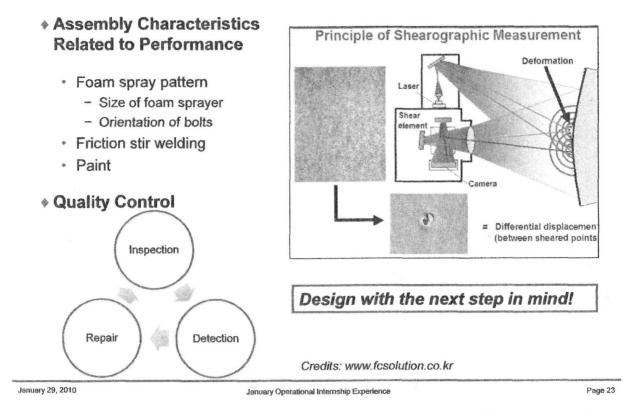


# **External Tank**









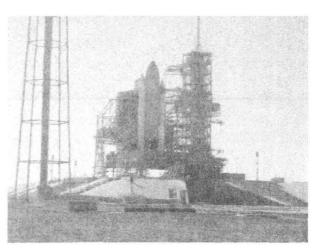


# **External Tank: Factors in Operability**

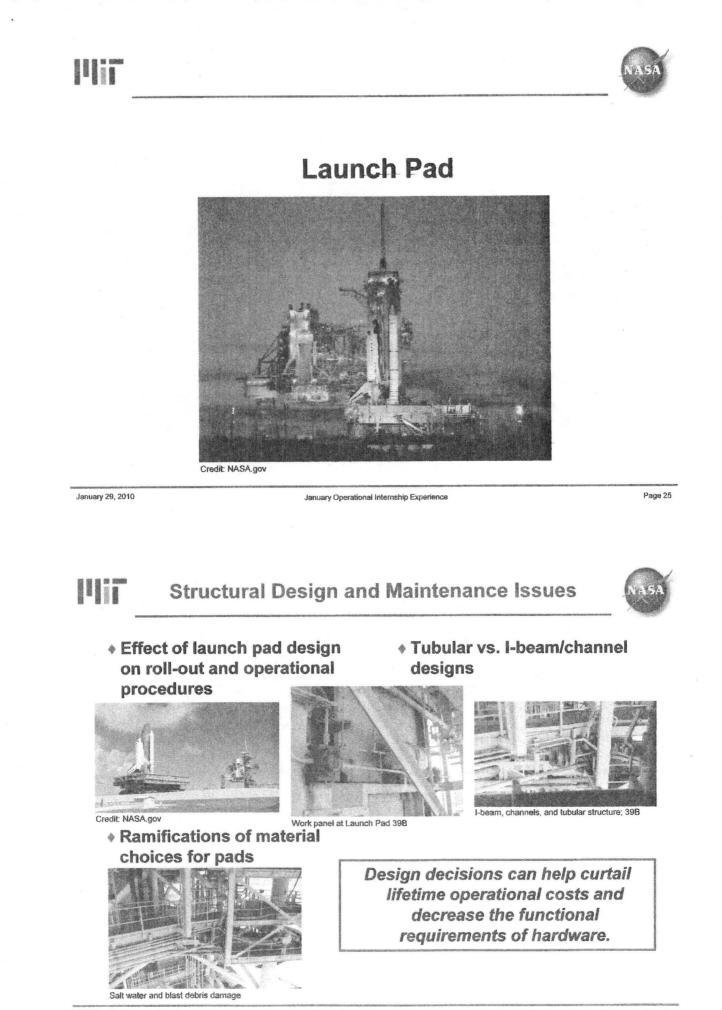


#### On the Launch Pad

- ET and fuel feed lines have different rates of expansion
   implementation of the boomerang joint
- Cryogenics pumping leads to foam loss
  - visual inspection aided by video surveillance to monitor foam condition



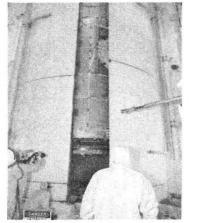
Processing methodologies learned from ET operations can be applied to other space flight components.





#### Vertical payload loading

- Clean room requirements
  - Payload Changeout Room
  - Clean-air purges and work platforms
- Necessitates PGHM



Credit: NASA.gov

Credit: NASA.gov

Return to a clean pad

Utilizing Apollo

Employing Mobile

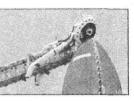
operational architecture

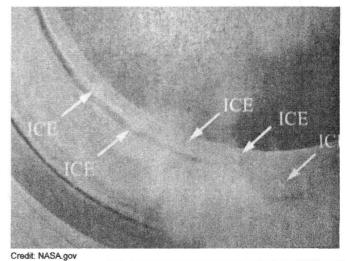
Launcher design expertise

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#### Dealing with cryogenic propellant loading

 Design evolution of GOX Vent Duct System





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# Pad Innovations



Credit: NASA.gov

- Implementation of Faraday cage
  - Additional taller lightning masts
- Emergency egress improvement
  - Egress design changes

Drawing on knowledge and expertise from the past as well as everyday experiences can help improve design decisions and reduce LCC.

### MLP operation lessons drive ML design



#### Material science improvements

- Anti-corrosion, anti-abrasion
- Use stainless steel despite cost
- Modular structure
  - · Easily adaptable tower
- Increase safety
  - Abandoning ordnances for hold down system
- **\* Benefits of Simplicity** 
  - · Swing arm vs. Tilt-up umbilical
    - Weather factors
    - Maintenance factors
    - Reliance on mechanical systems

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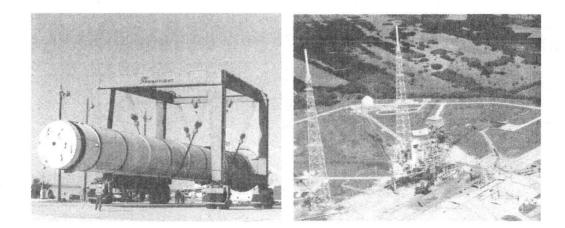
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# **Ground Operations**



Images taken from http://www.nasa.gov



- Design features of the vehicle directly affect what facilities and commodities are required.
- Constellation requirements are being developed with input from ground operations experts.
  - Idea is to reduce long-term logistics footprint and life cycle costs.

#### Examples from the Shuttle:

Design Feature	<b>Commodities &amp; Facilities</b>	
LOX/LH2 engines	Cryogenic storage	
Hypergolic thrusters	HMF; SCAPE suits	
Solid Rocket Boosters	Special railroads; RPSF	
Thermal tiles	TPSF	

Design influences operability & supportability

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# **Ground Operations**



#### Ground Ops considerations in Constellation:

#### One-piece ogive assembly on Ares I rocket

- · Reduces time spent in the VAB
- · Eliminates complications with assembly
- Mobile launch tower solution, instead of permanent structures built on the launch pad
  - Reduces environmental wear on launch structures
  - Reduces time spent on the pad; the "ship-and-shoot" method
  - Mitigates complications on the critical path
- Less maintenance of flight hardware, since most of the rocket is not reusable
  - · Eliminates the need for large warehouse storage of spare parts
  - · Less refurbishing operations required

Image taken from http://www.nasa.gov

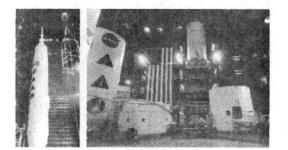


#### Ares V design pushes the capacity limits of current facilities

- · Crawler Transport will be unable to carry the current Ares V design
- Ares V pushes the operational limits of cranes in the VAB
- Fully constructed Ares V may not fit inside of the VAB

#### LOX & LH2 tanks at launch pad are insufficient for Ares V

- One solution: truck in fuel constantly
- Alternative: build larger fuel tanks at the pad



Efficient use of GSE is a factor in reducing life cycle costs and logistics footprint

Images taken from http://www.nasa.gov

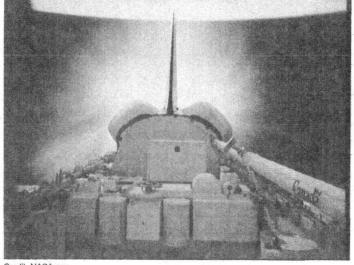
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# **Hypergolic Propellants**



Credit: NASA.gov



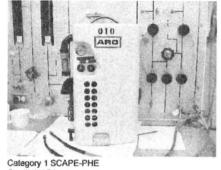


#### Favorable Performance characteristics

- · Negates need for ignition source
- Storability

#### Operational complications

- Increase structural amenities
- SCAPE and purge operations complications



Credit: NASA.gov

#### Health Hazards

- High toxicity
- Corrosive characteristics



Performance requirements may lead to unavoidable operational costs.

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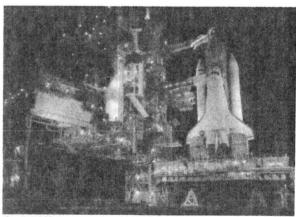
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### Life Cycle Challenges



#### Facility and processing demands

- Hypergolic shelf-life
  - Limitation of pressurized tanks
- Outfit facility with hazard mitigation equipment
  - Quick Disconnect
  - Egress paths
  - Purge and ventilation systems
- Rotating Service Structure
  - Hypergolic Umbilical System
  - Effect of moisture on OMS/RCS
- Using Multi-purpose Processing Facility for Constellation
  - Save time at launch pad
  - Operations cost savings



Credit: NASA.gov

Hypergolic propellant facilities were not expected to handle as much maintenance as they do now.



### **Environmental Factors**

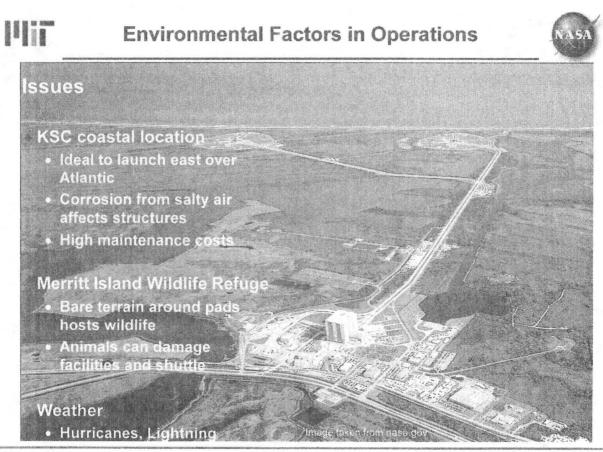




Images taken from nasa.gov

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### **Environmental Factors in Operations**



#### Solutions

- Mobile Launch Pad for Constellation
- Wildlife control
  - Birdstrike
    - Radar monitoring
    - Decoy owls at pad
  - Carrion removal program
- Lightning towers, rollback
- Other considerations
  - Decreasing environmental impact
     Freon use in ET manufacturing
  - Disposal of hazardous substances
     Hypergolic fuels
  - Storage of materials

Consider operational environment during the design phase

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RPSF MSC-40 FMSC-40 FMSC-27 MSC-30 FMSC-27 MSC-30 FMSC-27 MSC-30 FMSC-27 FMSC-27 FMSC-27 FMSC-28 FMSC-

CIF MSC-12

CM85 MSC-14

CAPE CANAVERAL

Warehouses 4,5,6,7,8 Mainstream, Rockledg

NSLD MSC-85

Image taken from PH Logistics Division Training Module 2



\* Currently handle 200K+ repair parts for shuttle and GSE.

#### Spare sources:

		Shuttle	Constellation
۲	Vendors	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
۲	Heritage	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
۲	Cannibalization	$\checkmark$	×

#### Forecasting necessary spares and timely delivery,

#### within budget

- · Likelihood of failure
  - Delphi method, trade studies
- · Criticality of part
- Transportation and storage needs
- Tradeoff between risk and cost

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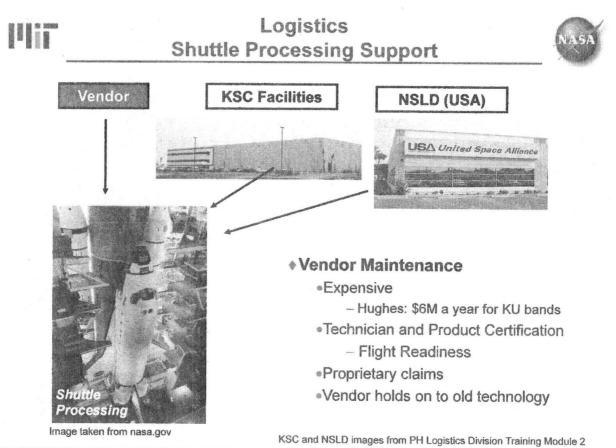
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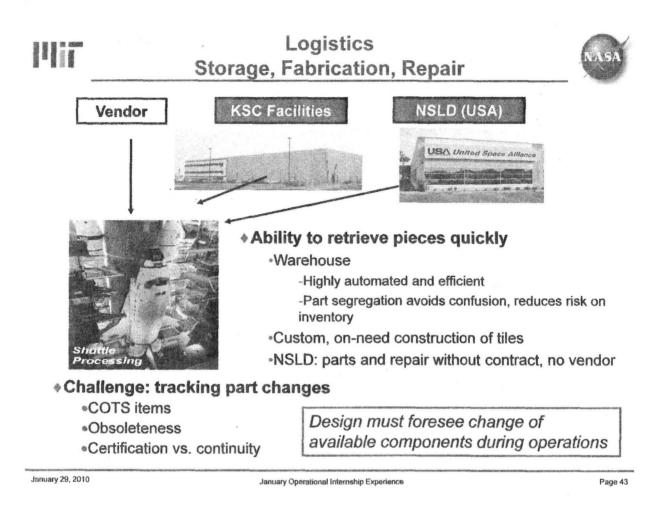
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Forecasting is necessary to

while minimizing costs.

successfully provide support







# **Logistical Challenges - Shuttle**

# NASA

#### Access to components requiring maintenance

- · Avionics box located in front of filter
  - Difficulty in filter replacement
- · Access to wing interior
  - Required for replacement of RCC panels
  - Can cause damage to wing struts
- Engine nozzles
  - Following each flight, must be cleaned and checked

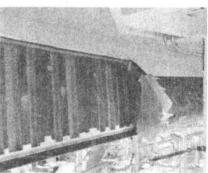
#### Amend by:

- Considering criticality of hardware and failure rate
- Incorporating logistics into design early

#### Failure analysis of Avionics

- Difficult to replicate failures
- "Unexplained anomalies" do not solve the problem

Base failure analysis on criticality of component



Replacement of leading edge panel



Removed engine nozzles at aft



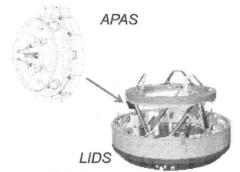
Primary improvement in Constellation relies on:

Reduction of Logistics Footprint

#### Goals

- Lower life cycle cost
- Establish flexible and reliable

logistics and maintenance infrastructure



#### Implementation

- Reduction of spares stored at KSC
- Use of "just-in-time" replacements
- · Consolidation of facilities, e.g Depot
- Designing ground systems with Ares I and Ares V in mind

Reducing life cycle cost by considering operations, maintenance, support and disposal during design phase will:

Decrease operations and maintenance cost

- Increase efficiency of logistics
- Minimize supportability implications

Images taken from www.nasa.gov

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# **Logistical Challenges - Constellation**

#### Facility for encapsulation of Altair

- · Should be completed outside of VAB
  - Installation of clean room would be costly
  - Off-line processing favorable
- · Option of NRO shared use
  - Transportation implications
  - Sharing may impose unexpected cost, schedule delays and additional risk

Extensive trade studies of facilities will help to minimize logistics footprint

#### Thermal Vacuum Testing of Orion

- Glenn Research Center
  - Orion dimensions impose limitation on facilities
  - Large distance from KSC

Parallelization of assembly processes may alleviate negative effect of additional testing on schedule

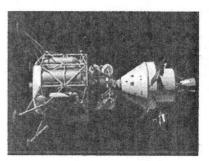
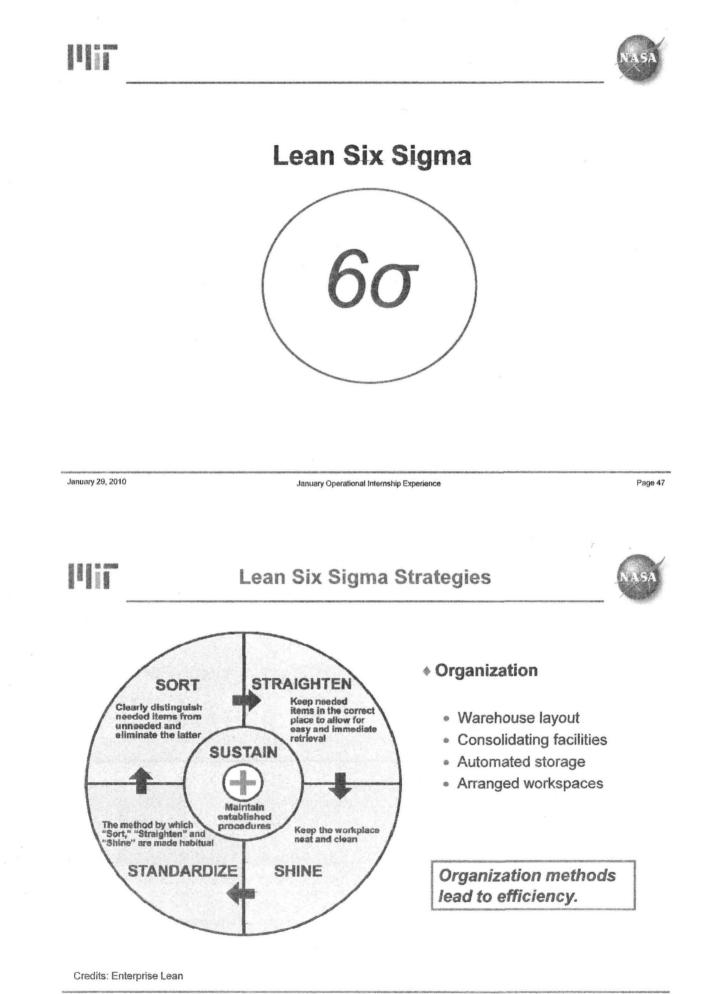
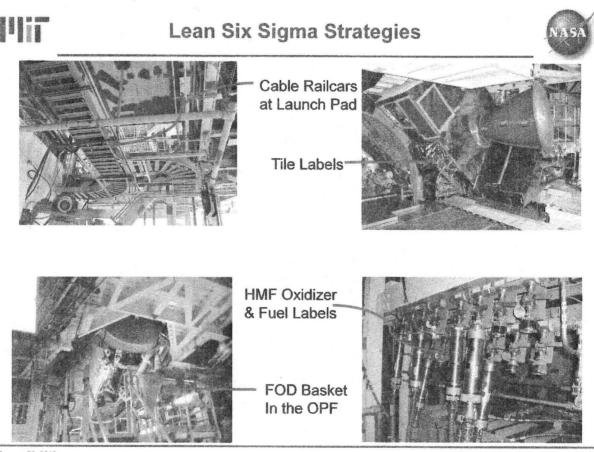


Image taken from www.nasa.gov







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### Lean Six Sigma Strategies



#### Reduce Processing Time

- Support connections made inside facilities
- Physical data interface on MLP
- Conscious of logistics and lifecycle costs
- Information transparency

#### Reusing Established Resources

- Distributing work
- Combining expertise from ELVs and Shuttle
- Modifying existing facilities

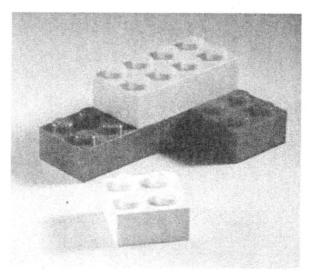


Credits: Orion General Public Overview by John Weeks

Consolidating facilities and resources simplifies operations.



# Systems Engineering



Credits: babble.com

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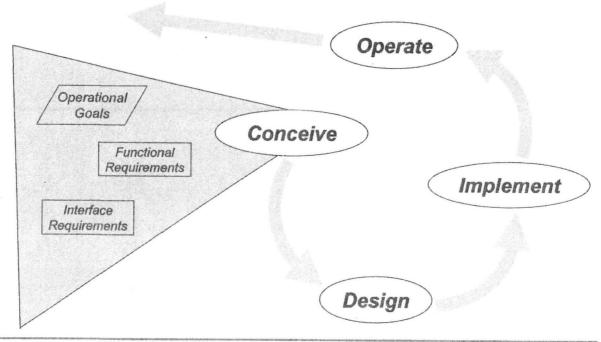
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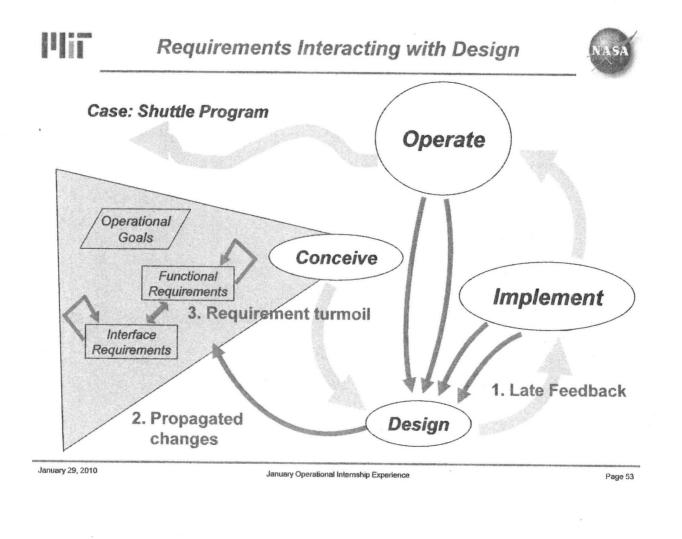
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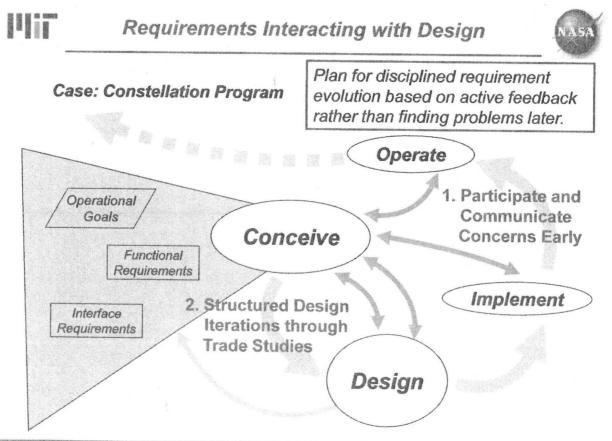
# Requirements Interacting with Design

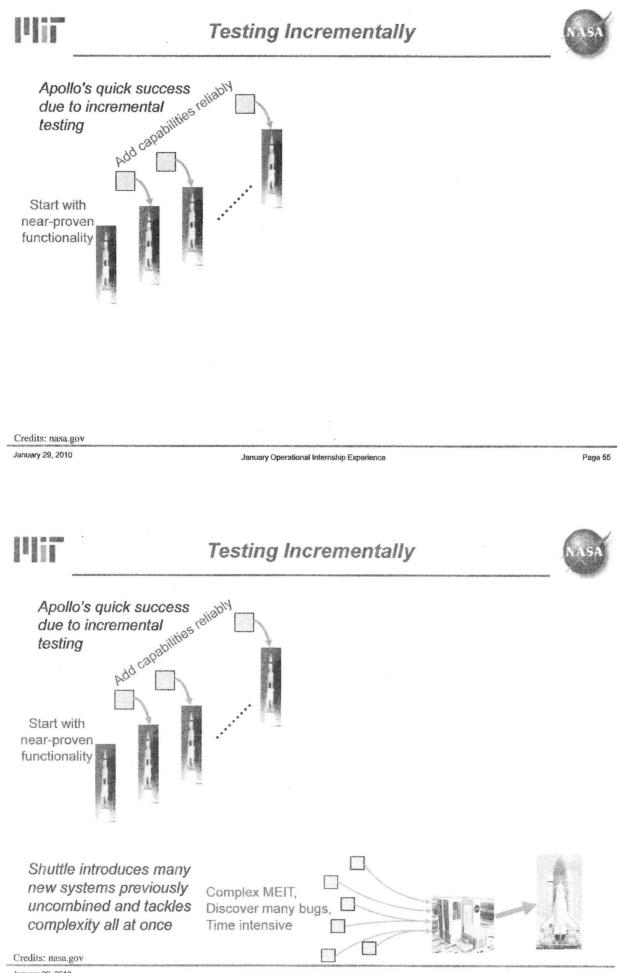


### Case: Theoretically ...









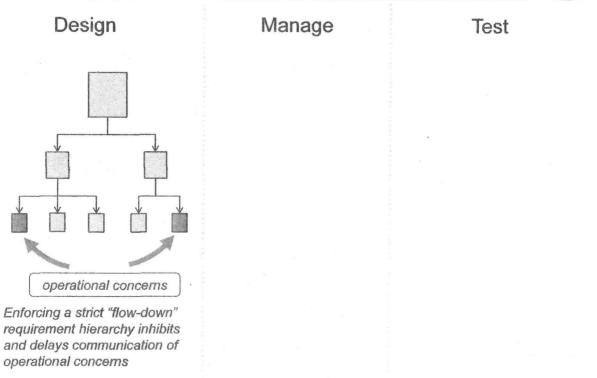
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#### **Testing Incrementally** Add capabilities reliably Apollo's quick success Constellation returns to building from due to incremental minimal functionality and recognizes testing the need for decentralized testing Start with near-proven functionality Hide complexity for faster integration Shuttle introduces many new systems previously Complex MEIT, uncombined and tackles Discover many bugs, complexity all at once **Time intensive** Credits: nasa.gov January 29, 2010 Page 57 January Operational Internship Experience



### Upgrading Information Technology

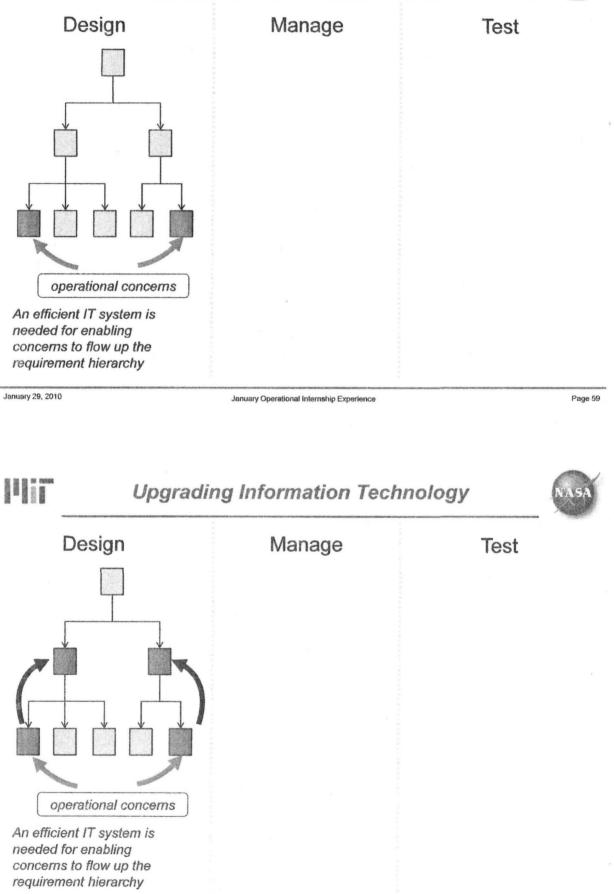






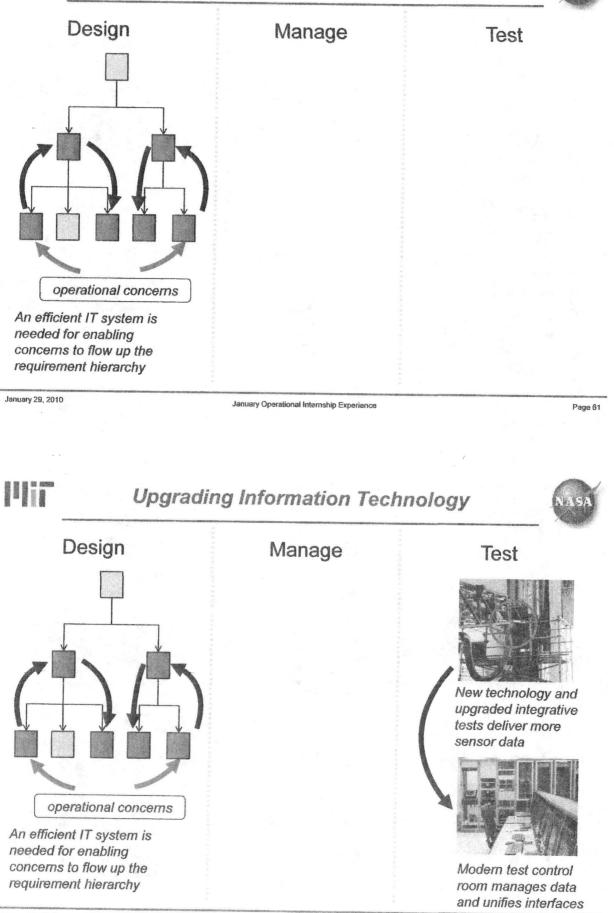
# Upgrading Information Technology





# Upgrading Information Technology



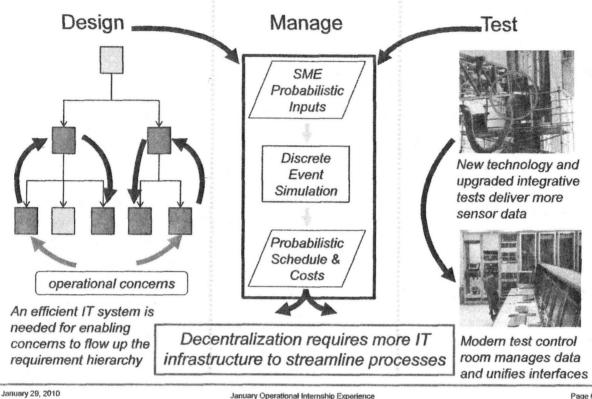


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# Upgrading Information Technology





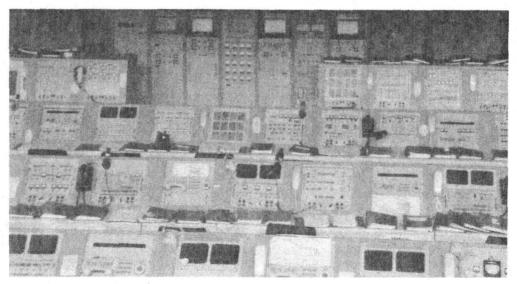
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# **Human Factors**

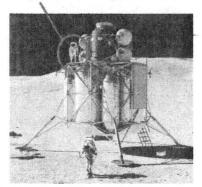


### **Human Factors in Design Concepts**



- **Considerations:**
- Ergonomics
- Anthropometrics
- Intuitive operation

### Astronaut

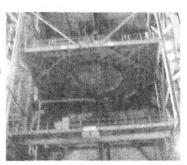


Altair Lunar Lander Images taken from www.nasa.gov



HDU (Habitat Demonstration Unit)

Adjustability



Ares 1-X Platform

Human strengths and limitations must be considered in design

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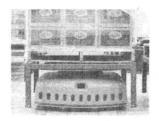


### Human Input and Automation



#### Survey SME (subject matter experts) using Delphi Method

- Anonymity
- Non-leading questions
- Task duration estimates for median, 95%, and minimum



# Automation in warehouses Shelf Robot

- Fast & accurate retrieval and delivery of items
- Trackless Transport Robots
  - Great for high-traffic, low-priority item transportation
  - Critical-path space components can be delayed

#### Training

 Operators of equipment must practice operations procedures

Maintain human involvement in monitoring autonomous operations and develop feedback loop

Image taken from www.spectrum.com

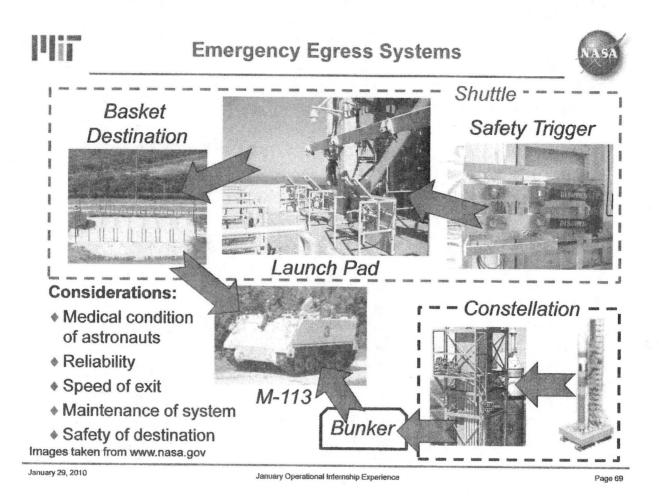
**Shuttle Firing Control Room** Management Consoles Modified COTS Keyboard Reduce costs by adapting old technologies and by customizing COTS equipment January 29, 2010 January Operational Internship Experience Page 67 **New Shuttle Firing Control Room** ASST. LAUNCH DIRECTOR CLEAN Divided Monitor

 Divided<br/>Monitor

 Wide Console<br/>Workstations

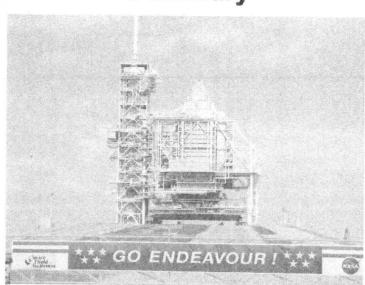
 List

 Intuitive design of displays allows for smooth operation



III ii





Summary





- Learn from the experts (SME)
- Design with flexibility in mind
- Consider human factors
  - Accessibility of replaceable and high failure rate components
- Incorporate redundancies and abort systems to reduce risk
- Implications of logistic capacities & facilities (i.e. factor logistics into design trades)
- Compatibility, re-usability & disposability
- Standardization & commonality
- Consideration of environment and use of hazardous materials

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Costs

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Schedule



#### **Operational Lessons from the Experts**



- Hardware fit check
- Inclusion of test equipment in operational planning
- Track parts while limiting overwhelming documentation
- Benefits of DES trade studies
- Lean Eng. (Six Sigma & 5S)
  - Efficiency of manufacture, assembly and maintenance
  - Just-in-time delivery
  - Optimize online/offline pathways



**Design Tradeoffs** 

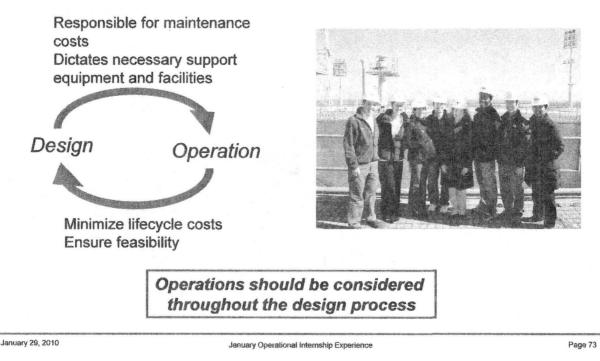
Technical

Requirements

Image taken from "Lunar DES MIT," Tracy Gill



# As future engineers, we will remember how design and operations are interrelated



# 

Acknowledgements



Massachusetts Space Grant for its generous support

#### Ms. Raji Patel & Dr. Jeffrey Hoffman

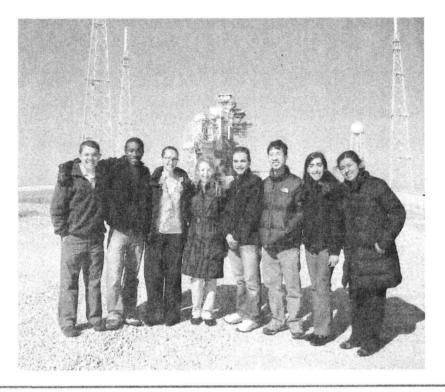
#### Thank you to all these personnel and more:

Wanda Petty, Elizabeth Kline, Robert Holl, Michelle Dailey, Andrew Knutson, Sarah Schilling, Michael Turner, Michael Hartnett, Jeffrey Skaja, Ahmad Declase, Alicia Mendoza, Kevin Panik, Kelly Corridan, Seth Berkowitz, Robert Libbey, Jim Thomas, Lamar Russell, Troy Heron, Janet Parker, Terry Kenney, Anne Gavarosac, Frank Ochoa-Gonzales, John Weeks, Michael Vinje, Steve Clarke, Debra Kral, Dave Shelton, Kirk Logsdon, Tim Honeycutt, Tammy, Stephanie Sowards, Scott Colloredo, Tracy Gill, Norm Tokarz, Charles Shelton, Sasha Sims, Jessica Parsons, Paul Mogan, Ronnie Rodriquez, Linda Trocine, Prentice Washington, John Moss, Joe Madden, Mike Stelzer, Jeremy Parsons, Cliff, Gregory Clements, Pat Simpkins, Robert Mueller, Alfredo Menendez, Ralonda Farrant, Curtis Williams, Timothy McKelvey, Albert Folensbee, Rolando Nieves, Jeffrey Crowder, Karen Mendoza, Roger Mathews, Patricia, Julie Peacock, Harold Turner, Jim Shaver...

Special thanks to Ms. Helen Kane

# Questions?





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