

**TALKING POINTS FOR DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR GARVER
SPACE FLIGHT AWARENESS EVENT
EFT-1 ORION ARRIVAL
July 2, 2012**

- Thank everyone for being here, and thank you to the Space Flight Awareness Program for your continued work to recognize NASA excellence.
- Congratulations to the SFA honorees being recognized this morning and to the family and friends who have supported them.
- The SFA honoree award is one of the highest awards a member of the government and industry space team can receive.
- For more than 45 years, the SFA Program has played key roles in communicating and recognizing NASA's continued emphasis on employees' responsibility for human space flight safety and mission success. So that's since the Apollo Program. You are in very good company!
- Today, the SFA Program continues to serve as one of NASA's best incentives for recognizing exemplary achievements in quality control, safety awareness, and mission success. Through the years, SFA has infused our human space flight program with a renewed and strengthened consciousness of how teamwork, commitment to excellence, and diligence contribute to flight safety. Your personal and professional commitment to quality and flight safety has been a key ingredient in our many successes with astronauts in space.
- We can't forget that this is a hard business. We sometimes make it look easy, but all of you know what it takes to make NASA's missions unfold as flawlessly as they do for the millions who watch them and benefit from them around the world.
- Now that we've retired the shuttle fleet and again set our sights on destinations farther in space, your work -- your dedication -- will be more important than ever.
- Today we celebrate the arrival of the Orion crew vehicle that will make the program's first journey into space. On Exploration Flight Test 1, this spacecraft will travel farther into space than any spacecraft designed for humans has flown in the 40 years since our astronauts returned from the moon.
- Many of you may be part of the team working to make Orion as safe as it can be, and we are counting on the excellence you have always displayed as America one's again reaches for a new horizon.
- The work that each of you do is essential both here at the starting gate of our new era of exploration, as we continue to move forward with our commercial

partners taking the lead on transport to low Earth orbit and NASA focusing on those new destinations like asteroid and Mars.

- Truly, you are a crucial part of the value the American taxpayer is getting for its investments in innovation and technology.
- There's no way to put a price on your dedication and expertise, but what you are accomplishing has immense importance to our nation -- for the economic health of tomorrow based on innovation, and for our ability to reach higher and continue to lead the world in space exploration.
- Congratulations. Thank you. And welcome to the next chapter in our nation's exploration history, which you are helping to make possible.