



SPACE EDUCATION 101

DEOMI STEM STUDENTS VISIT MORRELL OPERATIONS CENTER

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Six lucky DEOMI Stem (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) students and three staff members recently had a tour on the Space Coast and it didn't involve any theme parks, surfboards or roller coasters.

With tremendous support from the 45th Space Wing, they were able to tour the Morrell Operations Center at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station during part of their two-month DEOMI internship. DEOMI's summer STEM internship program is sponsored by the Office of Naval Research.

"As part of our tour, we were shown around Mission Control; we learned about different types of rockets, space missions, and

how critical weather conditions are for launches to take place," said Kenzie Hurley, (bottom right) who will be attending the University of West Florida's Industrial and Organizational Psychology Master's program in the Fall.

"It was absolutely surreal to learn about the science behind rocket launches while being in the exact location a man was sent to the moon for the first time, just shortly after the 50th year anniversary of Apollo 11," she said.

"From high schoolers designing a weather bot that allows weather balloons to be sent up when lightning is in the area, to the people behind the screens at

Mission Control monitoring every launch, it was amazing to see how different groups of people work together to make space expeditions achievable. "Our visit to the MOC made me realize that anything space-related really is possible, the first step is just learning the science behind it all," she added.

Air Force Lt. Brendan Kennedy, who along with Lt. Lindsay Chovanec, conducted the tour, said they were both impressed with the visiting students.



“It is always a great opportunity to discuss what we do here at the 45th Range Squadron with such engaging individuals,” said Kennedy.

“The students from DEOMI were very inquisitive and sharp, asking insightful questions about the day to day work that is done here at the MOC to ensure that our nation has reliable launch capabilities for our national and commercial assets. It was an absolute pleasure having them here at The Cape,” he said.

For Navy LT. Christopher Rodeheffer, who currently manages the DEOMI STEM Program, said visits like these are something that will be remembered for a long time.

“Visiting the MOC was a fantastic learning experience for DEOMI’s STEM interns,” said Navy LT Christopher Rodeheffer. Our tour guides, Lt. Lindsay



Chovanec and Lt. Brendan Kennedy were excellent, as was Mr. Brian Cizek from the 45th Weather Squadron.

“I can’t thank them enough for the excitement and energy that they injected into the tour to get our interns excited about the science behind MOC operations,” he said.

“It’s experiences like this that inspire bright young minds to come back and work for the DoD and other government agencies after they finish their education. This is absolutely crucial for mission continuity and success.”

