In recognition of African-American History Month, NASA salutes the contributions of African-Americans to the cause of space exploration.

My name is Darrius Lewis ... I am an Emergency Preparedness Officer and the NASA Headquarters Continuity Of Operations Program Manager.

I say that I found my niche in safety, but it actually found me. I was fortunate enough to have a mentor at North Carolina A & T and he had a passion and a drive for safety and that translated over to me as well and I took it on with the same vigor that he did.

The differences between safety and emergency preparedness -- they work hand in hand under the same umbrella -- but two totally different worlds. Safety is looking at the health and well being here of our NASA family here at Headquarters within the building -- and it's pretty much contained within the building. Emergency Preparedness is also concerned about...
the health and well being of our personnel, but it's more so on the strategic side, strategic
planning.

We develop plans and we put those plans and practices into place. We train our personnel
on their roles and responsibilities to make sure that when something does happen it's
second nature as far as our response.

Diversity is key to the success within Emergency Preparedness. It's good to have differing
vantage points, different views and opinions. You want someone that if something comes up
and they disagree with it they can not only provide that different viewpoint, but can
support it. So, having diversity, which our team has on it is great for the program and
it helps the program thrive.

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and they give you every opportunity for success and they set you up for success, how can one

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and they give you every opportunity for success and they set you up for success, how can one
not love what they do day in and day out and enjoy coming here?