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00:00:00,900 --> 00:00:07,580

You know I feel like I'm afraid I'm gonna fall down or something, it is simply just enormous.

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00:00:14,660 --> 00:00:18,660

If you're afraid of heights, the VAB may not be the best place for you to work.

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00:00:18,660 --> 00:00:23,119

With us today is Rebecca Batur, a VAB project engineer, who's gonna tell us a little bit

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00:00:23,119 --> 00:00:24,130

more about the VAB.

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00:00:24,130 --> 00:00:25,700

Rebecca, how are you doing today?

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00:00:25,700 --> 00:00:26,500

I'm good, how are you?

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00:00:26,500 --> 00:00:27,140

Fantastic.

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00:00:27,260 --> 00:00:30,820

Thank you so much for being with us here today to tell us a little bit more about the VAB.

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00:00:30,820 --> 00:00:34,920

This building was built in 1965 to support the Apollo programs, since then we've had

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00:00:34,920 --> 00:00:39,210

the Apollo, Shuttle and not the SLS program here in the building and we're in the process

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00:00:39,210 --> 00:00:42,559

of modernizing High Bay 3 to support the SLS program.

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00:00:42,559 --> 00:00:45,720

High Bay 3, so I take it there's multiple High Bays in this building?

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00:00:45,720 --> 00:00:46,720

There are, there are 4 High Bays.

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00:00:46,720 --> 00:00:50,440

There all pretty much identical, just depending on what program they support they may have

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00:00:50,440 --> 00:00:52,990

different platforms or different services inside the High Bay.

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00:00:52,990 --> 00:00:57,000

So this building, the people that designed it back in 60's had amazing forethought to

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00:00:57,000 --> 00:00:59,489

design a building like this that we can use long into the future.

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00:00:59,489 --> 00:01:03,120

So if you go up on the roof there's actually these steel columns you see there not capped

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00:01:03,120 --> 00:01:06,630

off, so we can theoretically make these High Bays taller if we so wished.

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00:01:06,630 --> 00:01:09,880

The foundation is poured out beyond the north side of the building so we can build two additional

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00:01:09,880 --> 00:01:11,520

High Bays if we wanted to.

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00:01:11,520 --> 00:01:13,720

So we definitely have a lot of options here within the VAB.

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00:01:13,720 --> 00:01:18,860

I don't think I can imagine this building being any taller, right now 350 feet is already

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00:01:18,860 --> 00:01:24,560

high for me, so this big building the transfer aisle itself is large, how do you get the

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00:01:24,560 --> 00:01:28,420

pieces of the rocket from one section to the other?

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00:01:28,420 --> 00:01:30,310

So we have five cranes inside this building.

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00:01:30,310 --> 00:01:35,200

One runs along the transfer aisle at the 16th floor level, that's our 175 ton crane, then

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00:01:35,200 --> 00:01:37,250

we have two cranes that run in each set of High Bays.

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00:01:37,250 --> 00:01:42,460

So in this High Bay you can see the 250 ton crane and then the 325 ton crane.

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00:01:42,460 --> 00:01:46,440

325 tons, so can that crane pick up the shuttle by itself?

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00:01:46,440 --> 00:01:47,420

It can.

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00:01:47,420 --> 00:01:51,380

So for the Shuttle operations it came in horizontally,

so we'd actually use two cranes to transit

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00:01:51,380 --> 00:01:53,400

it to vertical and then lift it up and over into the High Bay.

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00:01:53,400 --> 00:01:58,020

For, I believe, for the SLS operations it will just be a single crane.

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00:01:58,020 --> 00:02:00,420

So the crane operator has to look straight down.

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00:02:00,420 --> 00:02:01,420

Yes.

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00:02:01,420 --> 00:02:02,420

When they're operating this crane.

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00:02:02,420 --> 00:02:05,710

Yes, so you can see in the corner there is a little operator's cabin, that's where he

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00:02:05,710 --> 00:02:08,310

or she would sit and they would be operating the crane from up there.

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00:02:08,310 --> 00:02:10,600

I don't think that that's a job that I would want.

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00:02:10,600 --> 00:02:11,670

Wow, that it is really high.

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00:02:11,670 --> 00:02:13,760

You can't be faint of heart for that job.

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00:02:13,760 --> 00:02:14,760

Yeah.

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00:02:14,760 --> 00:02:16,470

So exactly how tall is this building?

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00:02:16,470 --> 00:02:18,530

The building is 525 feet tall.

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00:02:18,530 --> 00:02:22,830

Right now we're standing inside the Low Bay,
and if you look up beyond the 175 ton crane

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00:02:22,830 --> 00:02:25,900

here, you can see up into the High Bay and that's
where our four High Bays are.

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00:02:25,900 --> 00:02:27,700

And how wide is it?

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00:02:27,700 --> 00:02:28,840

It's 518 feet wide.

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00:02:28,840 --> 00:02:31,670

518 feet wide that is a massive building.

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00:02:31,670 --> 00:02:37,280

Now standing here, it feels, it almost feels like it's a wind tunnel, because the air flows through.

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00:02:37,280 --> 00:02:39,140

Is that by design?

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00:02:39,140 --> 00:02:42,250

So we don't have air conditioning inside this
building so really the only way we can regulate

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00:02:42,250 --> 00:02:44,170

the temperature in here is to open and close
the doors.

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00:02:44,170 --> 00:02:48,280
So in the High Bays you will see we have those large doors that roll up, taking about 45 minutes

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00:02:48,280 --> 00:02:52,580
to fully open, and we will open those in certain configurations to allow like a chimney effect to

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00:02:52,580 --> 00:02:53,600
keep the High Bays cool.

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00:02:53,600 --> 00:02:56,510
Why does it take 45 minutes to open up those doors?

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00:02:56,510 --> 00:02:57,510
Because they're so massive.

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00:02:57,510 --> 00:03:00,890
So each section can be controlled individually, so you can raise or lower all the door or

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00:03:00,890 --> 00:03:03,300
each individual section one at a time.

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00:03:03,300 --> 00:03:06,440
So, relatively speaking, how big is that flag on the building?

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00:03:06,440 --> 00:03:10,290
It's about 209 feet tall by 110 feet wide.

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00:03:10,290 --> 00:03:11,480
And the stars?

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00:03:11,480 --> 00:03:13,990
The stars are 6 feet across and 9 feet wide.

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00:03:13,990 --> 00:03:16,790

And right now we're standing on a mock up of what the pieces of the flag look like.

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00:03:16,790 --> 00:03:20,590

So if you look down you can see the size of the stars and the size of the stripes and

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00:03:20,590 --> 00:03:23,480

you could probably drive a truck through the size of the stripes that are on the side of

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00:03:23,480 --> 00:03:24,620

the building.

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00:03:24,620 --> 00:03:26,850

From down here it doesn't look like it's that large.

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00:03:26,850 --> 00:03:28,640

It certainly does not look like it.

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00:03:28,640 --> 00:03:32,569

Well, Rebecca, thanks so much for being out here with us and telling us a little bit more

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00:03:32,569 --> 00:03:33,850

about the VAB.

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00:03:33,850 --> 00:03:37,560

We definitely appreciate all the great work that you and your team are doing.