

AGENDA

Introductory Remarks (Thomas Connor)

- New Members
- Updates (Newsletter, Workshop)

CDO Report (Rudy Montez)

- Cycle 28 Peer Review

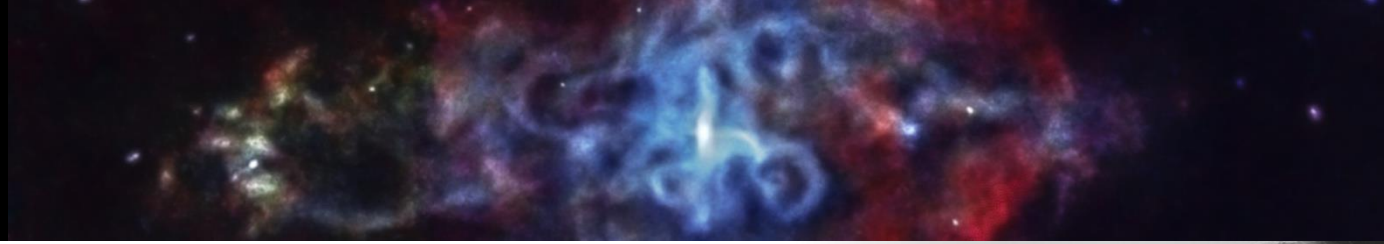
Director's Report (Pat Slane)

- Mission Status
- CXC Budget
- CXC Activities

CUC Issues/Discussion (D. Pooley)

Concluding Remarks (Thomas Connor)

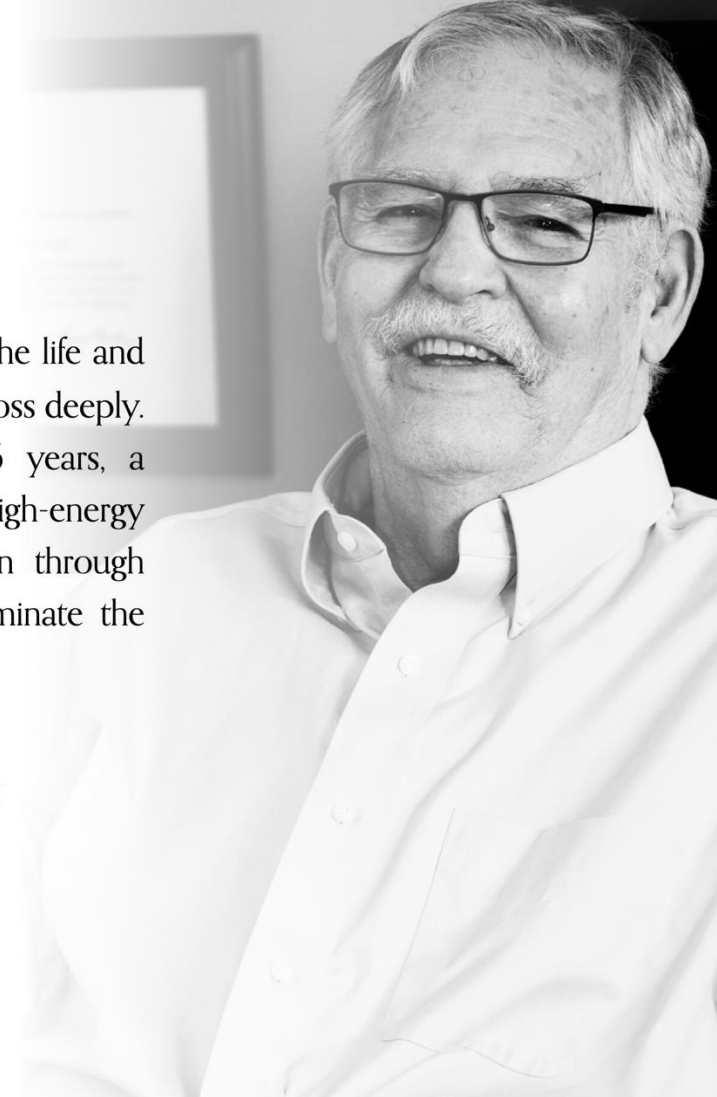
- Plans for next CUC meeting

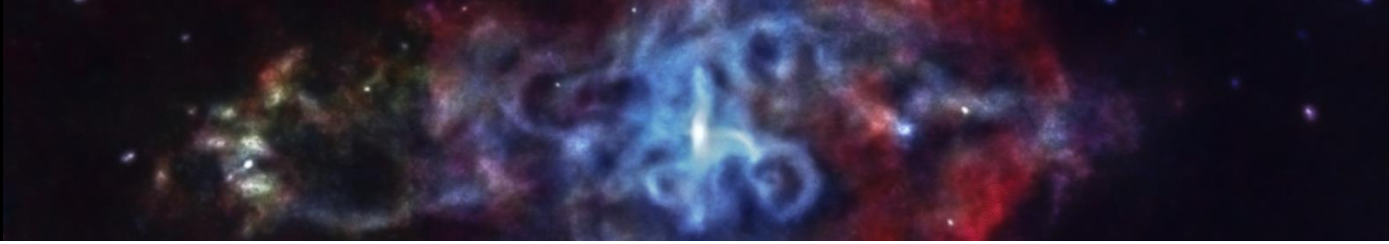


HONORING THE LEGACY OF
MARTIN C. WEISSKOPF

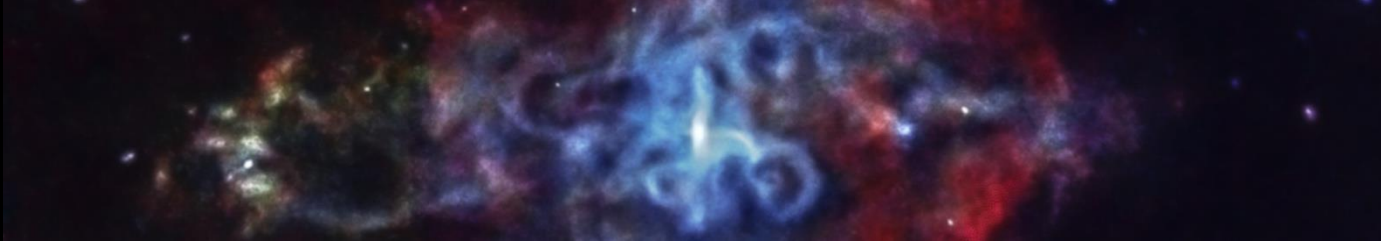
The international #SaveChandra community honors the life and legacy of Dr. Martin C. Weisskopf, and we mourn his loss deeply. He was NASA's Chandra Project Scientist for 45 years, a founding visionary of the mission, and a titan of high-energy astrophysics. From the earliest days of the mission through decades of discovery, his brilliance will forever illuminate the dark universe.

Ad astra, Martin.



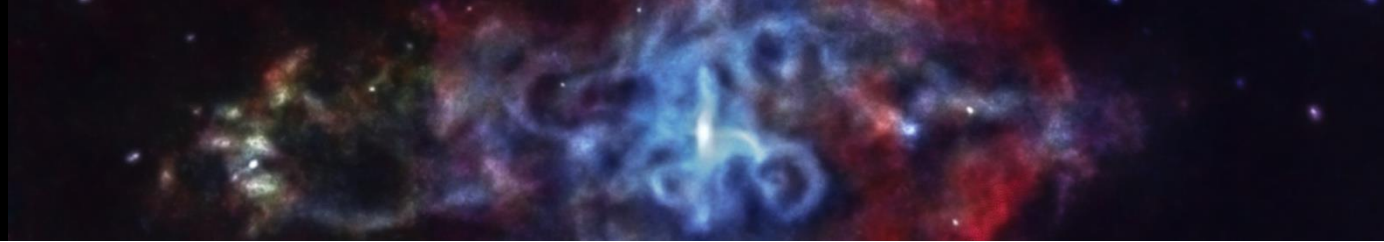


Director's Report



Mission Status

- Observatory functioning nominally except for HRC-S.
 - 24 October 2025: [HRC-S anomaly](#), with current limiter tripping HV power supply (described below).
- Observing, TOO/DDT support, data processing and delivery functioning nominally.
 - Since last CUC meeting: 10 TOOs for 756 ks; 16 DDT requests for 744 ks (6 approved for 70 ks); [two radiation interrupts](#) encountered (both triggered by txings) for a total of 352 ks lost observing time.
 - Chandra Source Catalog update in progress.
- Cycle 28 proposal solicitation completed; peer review underway.
- FY26 budget scoped at reduction to [Minimum-Cost Mission](#) described in previous CUC meetings.
 - GO budget restored to historic levels.



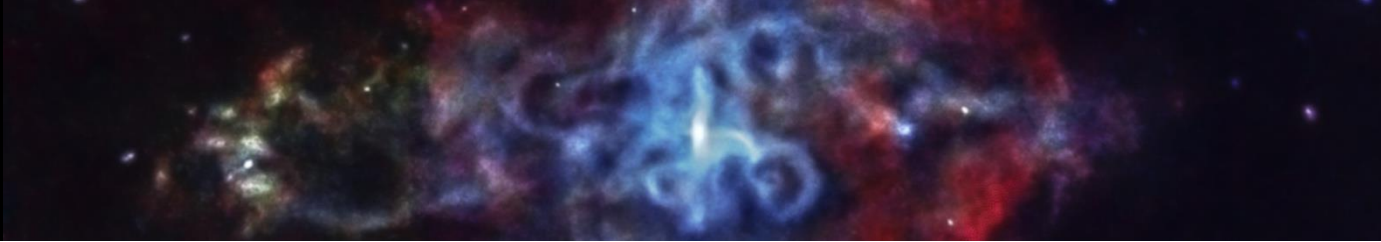
Chandra Budget

The FY26 budget has been passed, and appropriations are being implemented.

- Budget **line item** appropriates “not less than \$63M” for Chandra.
 - This is a huge milestone.
- Chandra FY26 budget has been set at \$63M (\$11M below full-mission costs).
- Budget is consistent with “**Minimum-Cost Mission**” **with HRC added back**.
 - Budget contains ~\$10.5M for GO funding (i.e., restored to historic levels).
 - Chandra Archive/Theory proposals transitioned to ADAP/ATP programs.
 - Funding discontinued for DDT program.
 - At current funding levels, this means transition to MCM+HRC sometime in 2027.
 - Details are dependent upon FY27 funding.

Table 4.1: Reductions to Reach Minimal-Cost Mission

• Remove HRC from use. Grating use available only with ACIS. • Reduce rapid return-to-science support following anomalies. • No <i>Chandra</i> conferences or newsletters. • Reduce HelpDesk to minimal levels. • Eliminate bibliography and other mission statistics tracking. • No funding for archive or theory proposals. • No new operating configurations for ACIS. • Freeze HRC/LETG/HETG calibration. • Minimize ACIS calibration. • Minimize monitoring and trending of instruments. • Eliminate Uplink Support for observations. • Minimize Validation & Verification (V&V) and special processing efforts. • Halt any further work on CSC and TGCAT. • No new updates/algorithms/functionality to analysis software (CIAO, Sherpa, DS9, MARX, ChaRT, SAOTrace). • Eliminate CIAO/Sherpa training workshops. • Minimize new documentation/threads. • No new updates to Data System software beyond mission-critical needs.



Chandra Budget (cont.)

Information on [FY27 budget](#) is poorly known, but promising.

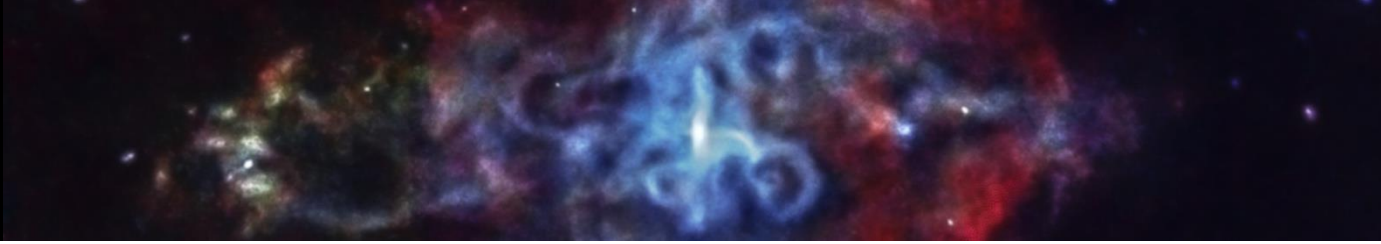
- The FY27 PBR makes no mention at all about Chandra. However, Congressional support remains strong.
 - The current **NASA Reauthorization bill**, approved with bipartisan support and waiting for floor vote, states:

“The Administrator, to the extent practicable, *shall not take any action to reduce or otherwise preclude the continuation of the science operations of the Chandra X-ray Telescope* before the completion and consideration of the next [Senior] Review of mission extensions for the Astrophysics Division.”

In addition:

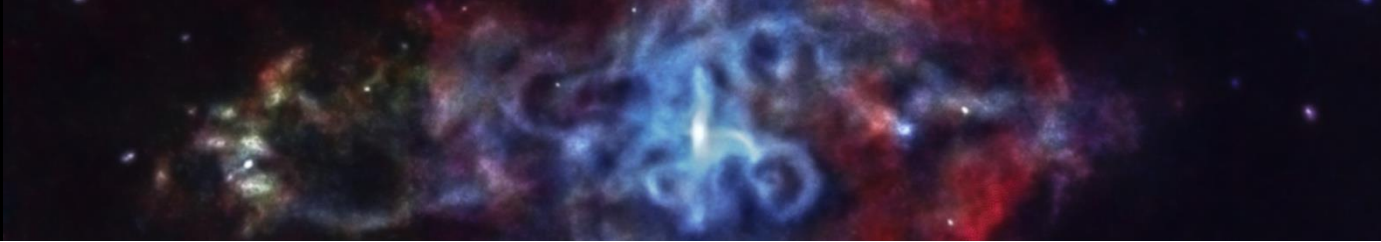
“Not later than 90 days after the beginning of each fiscal year, *the Administrator shall provide the appropriate committees of Congress with a briefing on* aging and extended NASA planetary, lunar, and space science programs and missions, including... the Chandra X-ray Observatory.”

- This is an outgrowth of Congressional support sparked in FY25, including restoration of funding cuts and a subsequent letter from Congress requesting response to a series of questions about Chandra.
- Community efforts are underway to advocate for continued support in FY27.
 - [Continued support from CUC remains crucial.](#)



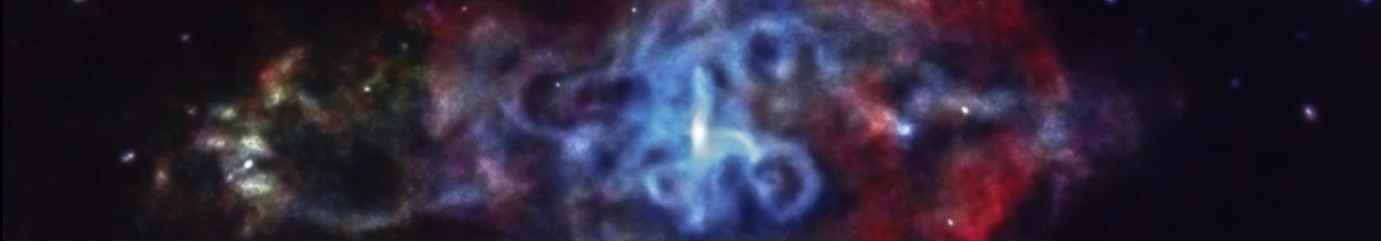
CXC Activities

- [HRC-S Anomaly](#)
 - HV supply current-limiter trip experienced during HRC-S/HETG observation on 10/24/25. HRC observations halted for investigation.
 - Test on 12/10/25 confirmed [no issues with HRC-I](#). Observations with HRC-I subsequently resumed.
 - HRC-S diagnostic restart on 1/27/26, using slow voltage ramp-up, showed nominal behavior. Second diagnostic restart on 3/6/26, using nominal voltage ramp-up, encountered HV trip again.
 - [Additional diagnostic tests](#) with slower voltage ramp-up planned for later this month.
- [CALDB](#): Calibration team has removed previous generations of contamination files to reduce size.
 - Files available for download for those who want to replicate previous analyses.
- [Source Catalog](#): CSC 2.2 Update
 - Add observations from 01/21 – 12/23; on schedule for completion in ~July 2026.



CXC Activities (Cont.)

- [Cycle 28 Proposal Cycle](#) in progress (see Rudy's presentation). Continued high oversubscription.
- [FOT Initiatives](#):
 - MP team complete rewrite of replan process to facilitate efficient response during time-critical replans.
 - FOT uploaded flight software patch to provide autonomous on-board monitoring and safing for HRC voltage and temperature conditions.
- [Observation Initiatives](#):
 - [Cool Target program](#) update:
 - Target distribution, exposure times, chip usage needs have changed. Call for a new set of CCT catalogs will be released in fall.
 - Existing programs will be discontinued, but they can be repropose.



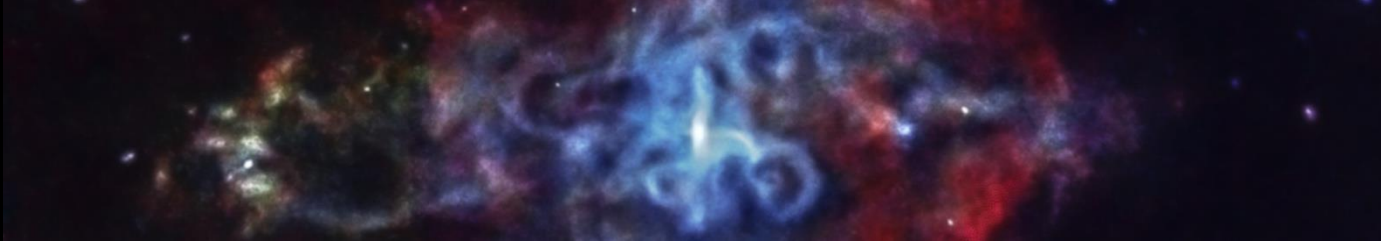
CXC Activities (Cont.)

– Joint Program update:

- In discussions with [XRISM](#) team to arrange for Chandra/XRISM Joint Program
- Investigating possibility for Joint Observing Program between Chandra and NASA's Infrared Telescope Facility ([IRFT](#))

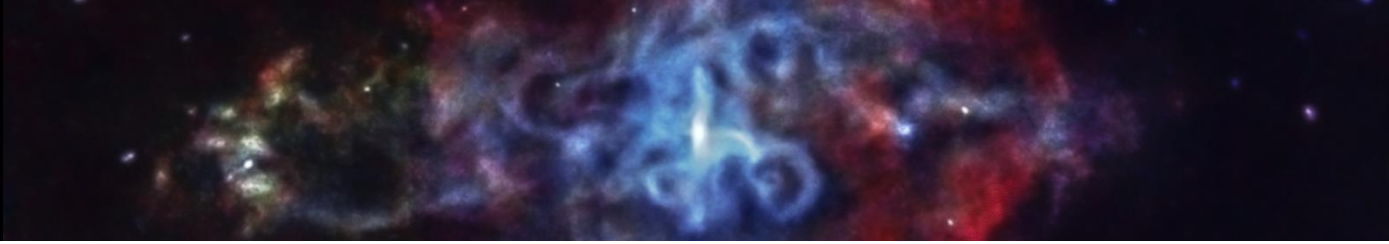
– TDAMM Investigations:

- Hosting visit by NASA [ACROSS](#) team to discuss facilitating coordination of observational resources and scientific expertise to enable TDAMM initiatives.
- CXC Summer Workshop (“[Chandra’s Dynamic Universe](#)”) will emphasize TDAMM contributions and explore potential for new initiatives such as [Community TOO programs](#).



CUC Report Updates

- *“Although the CUC saw some benefits to a community-driven TOO program, we recommend maintaining explicit trigger criteria for TOOs in GO proposals.”*
 - No changes at present. We will compile input from the upcoming workshop as well as HST/JWST initiatives on this topic and raise at the next CUC meeting.
- *“CUC recommends an exception to the current incremental funding policy for institutions that bill infrequently so that total funding is awarded at the outset.”*
 - No progress on this yet. New funding from Cycle 27 budget proposals just underway.
- *“We urge the CXC to approach NASA about continuing to archive and maintain the CDA, CSC, and CIAO.”*
 - These and other discussions are ongoing with NASA HQ.
- *“The CUC would like the CXC to continue to request from NASA that Chandra theory proposals be allowed in the next ATP call and also get clarity from NASA on the future of ATP before the next CUC meeting.”*
 - This has been confirmed by NASA HQ.



Questions