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NASA shows moon probe crash photos

By **Shelby G. Spires**
 October 17, 2009, 2:10PM



NASA released Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite mission photos.

NASA scientists at Ames Research Center, near San Francisco, are mesmerized by **photos coming back of the Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite**, or LCROSS, showing what the space agency terms a "plume" of debris spewing out from the moon.

When LCROSS slammed into the moon on Oct. 9 excitement swept through space watchers, but mostly they were let down when there were no photos beamed back to Earth showing a lunar smash up. In Huntsville, **cloudy skies denied locals from seeing much of anything** save what was on NASA TV.

Although, don't make a cursory glance, the "plume" (pictured below left) is a bit hard to distinguish, but NASA managers said all throughout the four-month journey to the moon LCROSS **wouldn't kick up a Hollywoodesque explosion** on the lunar surface.



"We are blown away by the data returned," said Anthony Colaprete, LCROSS principal investigator and project scientist in an agency release. "The team is working hard on the analysis and the data appear to be of very high

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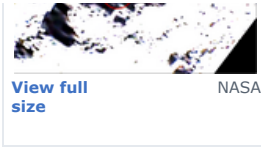
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quality."

According to NASA, within the ultraviolet/visible and near infra-red spectrometer and camera data was a faint, but distinct, debris plume created by the Centaur's impact.

"There is a clear indication of a plume of vapor and fine debris," said Colaprete. "Within the range of model predictions we made, the ejecta brightness appears to be at the low end of our predictions and this may be a clue to the properties of the material the Centaur impacted."

The probe was part of the [Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter](#) mission, launched by NASA on June 17.

For more:

- [NASA slams the moon with Lunar Crater Sensing and Observation Satellite;](#)
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Posted by **lilamerican**
October 17, 2009, 4:13PM

and this is helping the USA how?

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Posted by **sixpetdad**
October 18, 2009, 12:09AM

It's "helping the USA" by continuing the advancement of our leadership in technology that began in the 1940's and continues to this day, to the point where we have been the undisputed leaders in technology for decades and have a lifestyle that was the stuff of wild-eyed fantasy only a few years ago. It boggles my mind how people can sit at a tiny laptop computer that has more power than the whole Apollo mission control room, connect to a world-wide network of similar computers, and then use all this technology to ask stupid questions that demonstrate their appalling lack of understanding of how their entire lives have been benefiting from space technology since they day they were born. I honestly think there is no hope for most adults today; hopefully our children will get back to a real appreciation for science and technology and the benefits thereof.

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Posted by **well**
October 21, 2009, 4:08PM

NASA --- close it down - what a complete waste of money.

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