

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001



January 13, 2006

Reply to Attn of:

General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance at Events Related to the American Meteorological Society Meeting, January 29 to February 2, 2006

Representatives from NASA have been invited to attend a series of events in conjunction with the American Meteorological Society 88th Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. The meeting will be held at the Georgia World Conference Center from January 29 to February 2, 2006. The events are as follows:

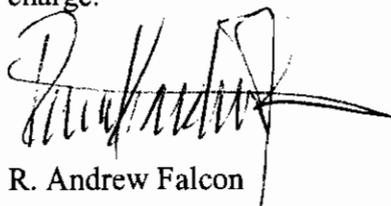
1. Meeting the Industry Reception, January 29, 2006: The Commercial Weather Services Association is sponsoring an informal reception beginning at 7 p.m., at the Omni Hotel. Approximately 50-100 people will attend, including members of the aerospace industry, government, and academia. The maximum benefit per person would be \$90.
2. Reception at Atlanta History Museum, January 30, 2006: Five industry teammates from GOES-R, including the Boeing Co., Harris Corp., Ball Aerospace, Carr Astronautics, and Atmospheric and Environmental Research, Inc., will sponsor an evening reception at the Atlanta History Museum. The Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite Program (GOES) is a joint effort of NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). All AMS participants are invited and approximately 600-700 people are expected to attend. The maximum benefit per employee would be approximately \$45. Attendees will include members of the aerospace industry, government, and academia.
3. AMS Fellowship Program breakfast, January 31, 2006: AMS is sponsoring a breakfast at 7:00 a.m., at the Omni Hotel. The breakfast is a celebration of the 15th year of the Fellowship program. Approximately 50 people are expected to attend. Attendees will include graduate student fellowship recipients and representatives from their government or industry sponsors. The maximum benefit per employee would be approximately \$29.

I find that these events meet the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g). I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the events because it will allow individuals from a broad spectrum of industry and government to exchange knowledge and ideas on meteorological technology and

scientific advancements. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the event sponsors may accept an invitation for free attendance to the events for themselves and their spouses or guests.

NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the event sponsors, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

Accordingly, NASA invitees and their spouses or guests may attend these events without charge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Andrew Falcon", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

R. Andrew Falcon