

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001



February 2, 2006

Reply to Attn of:

General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the United Space Alliance (USA) Reception on Capital Hill on March 8, 2006

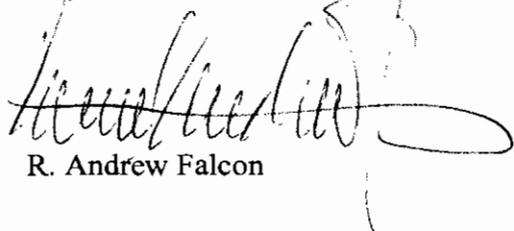
On the evening of March 8, 2006, USA will sponsor a reception on Capitol Hill to give a large number of people from the human space flight community the opportunity to share their views with Congressmen and each other on the civil space program. This reception is held at the conclusion of, and in conjunction with, the USA Suppliers' Conference, "Launching the Vision," where USA's suppliers discuss the Space Program with interested Senators and Congressmen. NASA personnel will not participate in the conference itself, except as possible invited speakers.

The reception itself will be held in the Rayburn House Office Building and will be widely attended by approximately 600 - 900 individuals from Congress, the Executive Branch, and industry. From Congress, USA is inviting all Senators and members of the House of Representatives, as well as the staffers on the NASA oversight committees, and the Space Legislative Assistants for those committees. From the Executive Branch, USA is inviting personnel from OMB, OSTP, and the Office of the Vice President as well as approximately 25 NASA employees. From industry, USA is inviting the approximately one hundred representatives of space shuttle suppliers in town for the USA conference and other corporate DC representatives of the space industry. From the international arena, USA is inviting the DC representatives of the International Partners and International Space Industry. The estimated cost of the reception, which includes all food and beverages, is approximately \$45.00 per person.

I find that this event meets 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 event because they will have the opportunity to share views on the civil space program with their counterparts in industry, Congress, and the Federal government. This will further Agency programs and operations. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect USA, may accept an invitation for free attendance to the reception for themselves and their spouses or guests.

NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect USA, 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.

NASA employees should also take care not to discuss any information that is internal "NASA only" or otherwise sensitive information, such as the CEV procurement.

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

R. Andrew Falcon