

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001



February 17, 2006

Reply to Attn of:

General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance at the National Aeronautic
Association's Annual Robert J. Collier Award Dinner on May 15, 2006

On May 15, 2006, the National Aeronautic Association (NAA) will hold its annual Robert J. Collier Award Dinner, at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, DC. The NAA is a nonprofit organization which provides a forum for all members of the aviation/aerospace community to share information of common interest. The membership of NAA includes Congress, DoD, the FAA, NASA, aviation and aerospace manufacturers, airline officials, the media, and other individuals who have an interest in aviation. The Robert J. Collier Trophy is awarded annually "for the greatest achievement in aeronautics and astronautics in America, with respect to improving the performance, efficiency, and safety of air or space vehicles, the value of which has been thoroughly demonstrated by actual use during the preceding year."

The Robert J. Collier Award dinner will be a widely-attended gathering of approximately 600-1,000 people from all sectors of the aviation community and government. Tickets to the dinner, valued at \$175 - \$200 per person, are being offered to some NASA personnel at no cost. Although member corporations provide open seating at their tables to accommodate guests invited by NAA, the NAA is solely responsible for selecting, inviting, and seating of NASA guests.

I find that the dinner meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g). Consequently, I conclude that NASA's interest in its employees attending this event outweighs any concern that such free attendance may, or may appear to, improperly influence any NASA personnel in the performance of their official duties.

Accordingly, NASA invitees and their spouses or guests, if invited, may attend the NAA annual Robert J. Collier Award Dinner on May 15, 2006, without charge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Andrew Falcon".

R. Andrew Falcon