



June 28, 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 a Launch Viewing and Associated Events

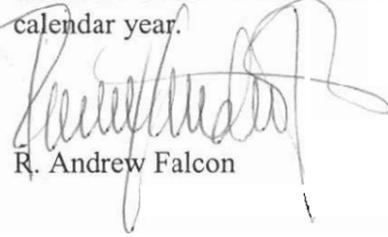
The United Space Alliance (USA) has invited some NASA employees to attend a series of events in conjunction with the launch of STS-121 planned for July 1. The integrated series of events begins on June 30, 2006, and includes a June 30 "Drive-Through" tour of the Kennedy Space Center, and a Launch Guest Reception (valued at approximately \$25 per person) at the Hilton in Cocoa Beach that evening. On July 1st, USA will provide the invitees with a luncheon (valued at approximately \$20 per person) and bus transportation to the launch. USA has invited approximately 110 individuals to be USA's guests for these events, including Shuttle vendor representatives, aerospace industry representatives, foreign nationals, Congressmen and staffers, NASA employees, and community leaders.

I find 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. The event will allow NASA employees to discuss the NASA Vision for Space Exploration, the Space Shuttle program, and the STS-121 mission with the other attendees. It will reinforce the nature of the integrated Team necessary to conduct launches. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect USA may accept an invitation for themselves and guests for free attendance at the reception.

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.

In addition, USA plans to give each attendee an assortment of mementos estimated at \$16 per person, including a baseball cap with a USA logo, mission pins and patches, and a mini-misting fan with a USA logo on it. The mementos are estimated at \$16 per person. In addition, the bus transportation provided by USA is valued at \$8 per person. Attendees are reminded of the \$20 gift exception at 5 CFR § 2635.204(a) which provides that employees

may accept gifts for themselves (and family members) valued at no more than \$20 per occasion. NASA invitees are reminded not to exceed the \$50 cap on gifts from USA in a calendar year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Andrew Falcon", written over a light gray rectangular background.

R. Andrew Falcon