

Remarks to World Space Week Participants
Rex Geveden
Associate Administrator
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
October 25, 2006

- I'm delighted to join Robie Samanta-Roy from the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and our other special guests for this celebration of World Space Week. Robie & I have in common our acquaintance with his former and my current colleague, NASA Deputy Administrator Shana Dale, who incidentally spoke at this gathering last year. Shana, who has become a dear friend and trusted colleague speaks well of you, Robie, so it pleases me to share the stage with you.
- And I most certainly want to thank Courtney Stadd for inviting me to participate in this event. I've known Courtney for nearly two years now, so he's almost an old friend. Courtney, you've been very good to me, and I truly appreciate it. Some of you will know that Courtney is an icon in the Washington D.C. space community who puts his heart and soul into promoting and supporting

space. The Space Week International Association has been fortunate, I am certain, to have his leadership.

- I really like the idea of World Space Week because it brings together the global space community, which is populated by people who see the world a little differently. I'm one of you—hopefully you won't find that disturbing. I share your passion and idealism and your desire to see an expansion in global space activity.
- I often say, based upon my international experiences--especially with the Russians--that the reason cooperation in space-related endeavors is successful, even when other diplomatic avenues are blocked, is because the members of the global space community function to a higher ideal.
- We speak the same language—usually science and engineering, sometimes policy and law--but in addition to the common ground of professional disciplines, we generally also share the belief that our calling is to advance scientific understanding of the universe, to better understand our home planet, and to expand human activity in the solar system—all to the benefit of humankind.

- You chose as your theme for this year, “Space for Saving Lives”. NASA maintains a fleet of Earth-observing satellites designed to increase our understanding of environmental trends and climate change. NASA has agreements in place with a number of countries to support hurricane prediction and tracking, to monitor tsunamis and wildfires, and to supply critical data to officials on the ground during natural disasters. Indeed space can save lives.
- You may know that NASA, under Presidential policy, has undertaken an ambitious program called the Vision for Space Exploration in which we will return to the moon and go on to Mars and other destinations to extend a human presence across the solar system.
- This ambitious program will require more resources and talent than one nation can supply, and we are eager to develop partnerships to satisfy these goals. As the President said when the Vision was announced, “We will invite other nations to share the challenges and opportunities of this new era of discovery. The vision I outline today is a journey, not

a race, and I call on other nations to join us on this journey, in a spirit of cooperation and friendship.”

- It is my personal belief that no development this century will be more consequential than the migration of humanity into the solar system. In this regard, the fact that World Space Week is involving space enthusiasts from over 50 countries sends a strong signal about how inclusive to all people, all nations the next great era of space exploration will be.
- Consider the fact that orbiting about 400 kilometers over our heads at this very moment, astronauts from three of the major powers that fought in World War II—Germany, Russia, and the United States—in the persons of Thomas Reiter, Mikhail Tyurin, and Michael Lopez-Alegria—are now working side by side in a spirit of friendship and peace on the International Space Station. I submit that space can also unify people and nations.
- We are only fifty years into the space age. At the present time, only three nations are capable of putting humans into space. Our Administrator, Mike Griffin, has compared the state of human space flight capability to that of sailing at the time of Magellan.

At the time Magellan first circumnavigated the globe about 500 years ago, it was a feat barely within human capability.

- By the time his crew returned to Spain in 1522, almost three years after departing, there were only 18 survivors from the original crew of about 270. Magellan, who was killed in the Philippines, was not one of them.
- The significance of this analogy is that nations persisted in their quest to master the seas despite the risks and costs, just as we will persist in our attempts to master space. We will persist in order to bring the resources of the solar system into our economic sphere, to use the words of the President's Science Advisor Dr. John Marburger. And I believe we will persist because our survival as a species ultimately depends upon our migration off the planet.
- I expect the next few decades to be a renaissance period for exploration, science, and commerce in space. Those of us in the space business can feel this very powerful confluence and can sense that, as this century unfolds, our accomplishments in space will be nothing short of amazing.

- World Space Week provides a perfect opportunity to encourage and motivate the dreamers of our time who will be the doers of these great feats. So I applaud all the dedicated organizers of World Space Week for helping to make this celebration such a noteworthy event, and I thank you for your warm welcome.