

Space Operations Mission Directorate

Mission Statement

4.13 SPACE OPERATIONS MISSION DIRECTORATE

4.13.1. **DIRECTORATE MISSION.** This Headquarters Mission Directorate provides Agency leadership and management, including top-level requirements development, policy, and programmatic oversight, of NASA space operations related to human exploration in and beyond low-Earth orbit. Current exploration activities in low-Earth orbit are the Space Shuttle and International Space Station (ISS) programs. The directorate is similarly responsible for Agency leadership and management of NASA space operations related to Launch Services, Space Transportation, and Space Communications in support of both human and robotic exploration programs.

4.13.2. **RESPONSIBILITIES.** The Mission Associate Administrator for Space Operations is in the chain of command throughout program formulation, approval, implementation, and evaluation. The Associate Administrator is responsible for the following:

4.13.2.1. Serves as the Associate Administrator for Space Operations, ensuring program accomplishment, balancing institutional and program needs, and ensuring effective external relations and outreach.

4.13.2.2. Develops strategies for Space Operations Program formulation; defines corresponding programmatic requirements and objectives; allocates resources and assigns Center responsibility in support of program objectives; and evaluates the implementation of the following:

- a. The safe and effective operation of the Space Shuttle and improvements in Space Shuttle capabilities;
- b. The development and the safe and effective operation of the ISS, including working closely with international partners to define operational concepts and establish full operational capabilities;
- c. The acquisition and management of reliable and cost-effective launch services to meet all civil Government orbital launch requirements;
- d. The development, acquisition, and management of reliable, cost-effective communications services to meet NASA and other Government requirements for human and robotic space exploration programs;

e. The establishment and management of radio telecommunications spectrum utilization in support of all NASA human and robotic space exploration programs;

f. The conduct of technology and advanced developmental activities in cooperation and coordination with other Mission Directorates to enhance operational capabilities and cost effectiveness of the Space Operations program and to develop a basis for future programs; and,

g. The management of flight crew health and safety to include: operational research requirements; integration of human systems and environments to include extravehicular and intravehicular activity advanced development; health care delivery and crew protection; and participation of crewmembers in on-orbit research.

4.13.2.3. Develops and coordinates policy and user priorities with user organizations for operation and utilization of the Space Shuttle, ISS, Launch Services, and Space Communications Systems. This includes providing effective space operations for all NASA Mission Directorates, telecommunications program formulation and policy related to issues such as spectrum management, long-term investment strategies, coordinating with non-NASA customers, and advocacy with other NASA Mission Directorates.

4.13.2.4. Performs the role of Headquarters Center Executive for the Johnson Space Center (JSC), Kennedy Space Center (KSC), Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC), and Stennis Space Center (SSC), conducting the following responsibilities:

- a. Oversees Center implementation of policy determination by the Associate Administrator for Institutions and Management;
- b. Holds Center Directors accountable for their performance; and,
- c. Leads evaluation of Center Director performance with inputs from Mission Associate Administrators and Functional Administrators, including Safety & Mission Assurance and Independent Technical Authority.

4.13.2.5. Chairs the Space Operations Management Council.

4.13.2.6. Assures that payloads accommodated on the Space Shuttle are consistent with established Space Shuttle-use policy.

4.13.2.7. Leads the Agency's Space Operations Mission Directorate to meet current and future enabling requirements for NASA's other Mission Directorates. Establishes and maintains a partnership with the Exploration Systems Mission Directorate to develop and operate new space access capabilities.

4.13.2.8. Develops and coordinates policies for the reimbursable and cooperative use of the Space Shuttle, ELV's, ISS, Space Communications, and other Space Operations assets involving non-NASA participants.

4.13.2.9. Develops and coordinates an outreach/education plan for Congress and the public.

4.13.3. SPECIAL RELATIONSHIPS.

4.13.3.1. The Deputy Associate Administrator for ISS and Space Shuttle Programs, and the Assistant Associate Administrators for Space Communications, Policy & Plans, Business Management Integration and Analysis, Space Operations Institutional Assets Management and Investments, and Launch Services, are located at NASA Headquarters, and are responsible for developing programmatic requirements, policies, and strategies; providing leadership in program formulation, approval, implementation and evaluation; and, developing policies and strategies for future upgrade/enhancement investments for both flight and ground systems, competitive sourcing, and commercialization.

4.13.3.2. The International Space Station, Space Shuttle, and Space Communications program implementation is executed by the Program Manager, and is performed primarily at JSC, KSC, MSFC, SSC, Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC), Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and Glenn Research Center. The NASA Headquarters Space Operations Mission Directorate provides program formulation, approval, implementation, and evaluation. The ELV and Payload Carriers program execution is managed by the Program Manager at KSC, and is performed primarily at KSC with support from MSFC and SSC.

4.13.4. LINE OF SUCCESSION. In the following order: Deputy Associate Administrator for Space Operations, Deputy Associate Administrator for International Space Station and Space Shuttle Programs, and Assistant Associate Administrator for Policy and Plans.