

TASK FORCE ON PLANETARY DEFENSE

Report to NASA Advisory Council
29 April 2010

Rusty Schweickart
Tom Jones
Co-Chairmen

Task Force on Planetary Defense

- ▣ Task Force Membership:
 - Rusty Schweickart, Co-Chair
 - Tom Jones, Co-Chair
 - Rick Binzel
 - Clark Chapman
 - Lindley Johnson
 - Brian Wilcox
 - Don Yeomans

Task Force on Planetary Defense

- ▣ The purpose of our initial meeting was to bring to the Task Force membership the primary relevant materials on which our deliberations regarding NASA's role in Planetary Defense will be based.
- ▣ These foundation materials included both internal NASA activities and plans and key external activities and reports, both national and international.

Task Force on Planetary Defense

- ▣ Initial meeting agenda:
 - NASA NEO Program review & NASA FY11 Budget for NEO research review
 - National Research Council NEO Report – Findings and Recommendations Summary
 - United Nations NEO Threat Response Activities
 - Status of OSTP action re Planetary Defense responsibility assignments
 - Augustine Commission deliberations re NEO initiatives
 - NASA/ESMD briefing on NEO Activities & Priorities

Task Force on Planetary Defense

- ▣ NASA NEO Program review & NASA FY11 Budget for NEO research review
 - Mr. Lindley Johnson, NASA NEOO Director

Review and discussion of NASA's current NEO program and latest developments

Review and discussion of the FY11 \$16M budget increment to the NEOO program

Task Force on Planetary Defense

- ▣ National Research Council NEO Report – Findings and Recommendations Summary
 - Dr. Irwin Shapiro, Former Director, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics and Chairman, NRC Committee to Review NEO Surveys and Hazard Mitigation Strategies

Review and discussion of the primary findings and recommendations of the NRC Committee and observations and comments of the Chairman

Task Force on Planetary Defense

- ▣ United Nations NEO Threat Response Activities
 - Mr. Tom Jones, as Chairman, Association of Space Explorers Committee on Near-Earth Objects

Review and discussion of the ongoing United Nations NEO threat response actions within the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)

Task Force on Planetary Defense

- ▣ Status of OSTP action re Planetary Defense responsibility assignments
 - Mr. Rusty Schweickart, per telecon with OSTP

Report on the status and plans of OSTP re its charge to establish “policy with respect to threats posed by near-Earth objects.” (NASA Authorization Act of 2008)

Task Force on Planetary Defense

- ▣ Augustine Commission deliberations re NEO initiatives.
 - Mr. Ed Crawley, Professor Aeronautics & Astronautics, MIT and member Augustine Commission

Report and discussion on the Augustine Commission deliberations and their specific interaction with the planetary defense aspect of NEO activity

Task Force on Planetary Defense

- ▣ NASA/ESMD briefing on NEO Activities & Priorities.
 - Mr. Michael Wargo, NASA HQ – Chief Lunar Scientist for Exploration Systems

Report and discussion on ESMD's Exploration Precursor Robotic Program and Exploration Scout; two elements of ESMD's preparation to explore near-Earth objects

Task Force on Planetary Defense

Discussion with NAC members