

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001



September 17, 2012

General Law Practice Group

Reply to Attn of:

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the Space Foundation Dinner on September 18, 2012

On September 18, 2012, the Space Foundation, a not-for-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code, will hold a reception and dinner. This event will take place at the Army Navy Club, 901 17<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The purpose of the event is to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Air Force Space Command.

The Space Foundation is in control of invitations and seating. Approximately 140 people were invited to attend. Attendees will include personnel from NASA and other federal agencies, U.S. Air Force and DoD, congressional staff, and representatives of industry. The estimated cost of the event, including all food and beverages, is \$80 per person.

I find that the event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(2). I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the event because it will further Agency programs or operations. Attendance at the event will allow NASA attendees to exchange information on NASA's programs and policies. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the sponsor, including NASA employees in non-career positions who are required to sign the ethics pledge under Executive Order 13490, may accept an invitation for themselves and an invited guest for free attendance to the event.

However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the event sponsor, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. §2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

*Kathleen T. Spear*

Adam F. Greenstone

A small, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials "AG".