On June 24, Administrator Sean O’Keefe announced a transformation of NASA’s organization structure designed to streamline the agency and position it to better implement the Vision for Space Exploration.

“Our task is to align Headquarters to eliminate the ‘stove pipes,’ promote synergy across the agency, and support the long-term exploration vision in a way that is sustainable and affordable,” said Administrator O’Keefe. “We need to take these critical steps to streamline the organization and create a structure that affords clear authority and accountability.”

This transformation fundamentally restructures NASA’s Strategic Enterprises into Mission Directorates. It also restructures Headquarters support functions and clarifies organizational roles and responsibilities. The Mission Directorate organizational structure includes:

Aeronautics Research: Research and develop aeronautical technologies for safe, reliable and efficient aviation systems.

Science: Carry out the scientific exploration of the Earth, Moon, Mars and beyond; chart the best route of discovery; and reap the benefits of Earth and space exploration for society. A combined organization is best able to establish an understanding of the Earth, other planets and their evolution, bring the lessons of our study of Earth to the exploration of the Solar System, and to assure the discoveries made here will enhance our work there.

Exploration Systems: Develops capabilities and supporting research and technology that enable sustained and affordable human and robotic exploration; includes the biological and physical research necessary to ensure the health and safety of crew during long duration space flight.

Space Operations: Direct space flight operations, space launches and space communications, as well as the operation of integrated systems in low-Earth orbit and beyond.

Two Agency-wide priorities will continue with direct responsibility for all related activities across NASA. The Safety and Mission Assurance Office will report directly to the Administrator and reflect NASA’s commitment to provide a clear and direct line to agency senior leadership for issues regarding safety. The Chief Education Officer will direct the Agency’s important work to improve scientific and technological literacy and inspire a new generation of explorers.

NASA functional offices will be restructured as Mission Support Offices. Headquarters and field center offices will be aligned to improve communications and responsibility.

The major Mission Support Offices are:

Chief Financial Officer (CFO): Conducts all financial matters, including procurement and small and disadvantaged business activities.

Associate Administrator for Institutions and Management: Responsible for providing operational and management support for Headquarters.

Chief Information Officer: Responsible for the development of an integrated focus on information resource management strategies, policies and practices.

Chief Engineer: Ensures the development efforts and missions operations are being planned and conducted on a sound engineering basis; assures independent technical authority within the agency’s engineering, operations and safety organizations.

Chief of Strategic Communications: Directs NASA’s communication efforts in Public Affairs, Legislative Affairs and External Relations; responsible for internal communications management.

General Counsel: Responsible for the legal aspects of all NASA’s activities; manages the agency’s intellectual property and ethics programs.

To improve the decision-making process, NASA will create:

Strategic Planning Council: Chaired by the NASA Administrator, the council develops multi-year strategic plans, strategic roadmaps, and a multi-year detailed plan that forms the basis for policies and budgets.

Director of Advanced Planning: Responsible for the preparation of options, studies and assessments for the Strategic Planning Council.

Chief Operating Officer Council: Chaired by the Deputy Administrator, implements direction provided by the Strategic Planning Council and develops standard administrative practices.

The Associate Deputy Administrator for Systems Integration is responsible for strategic and systems integration across Mission Directorates and mission support functions.

The agency will also redefine its relationships with the NASA Field Centers by developing clear and straightforward lines of responsibility and accountability. Specific Mission Associate Administrators will be assigned as Headquarters Center Executives. They will have oversight of field center performance in implementing agency policies and programs. The Associate Administrator for Institutions and Management will address field center infrastructure concerns.

The changes will become effective August 1, 2004. They represent the next step in implementing the recommendations of the President’s Commission on Implementation of U.S. Space Exploration Policy and reflect NASA’s ongoing efforts to apply the findings and recommendations of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board across the agency.

Additional presentation information and a new NASA organization chart is available on the Internet at: http://www.nasa.gov/formedia

Message from Goddard Director Al Diaz

“Many of you have already heard that as part of the transformation of NASA’s organization to implement the Vision for Space Exploration, the Administrator has asked me to come to NASA Headquarters as the Associate Administrator of the new Science Mission Directorate.

I have accepted this new challenge, and will be leaving Goddard effective August 1……

I will always treasure my time at Goddard, and I will always be grateful that I was able to serve you as Director.

My feelings for the people here go beyond respect and admiration.

I have grown to really appreciate the talent and dedication of the people who work here, what you stand for and what you have accomplished.

Together we have had the opportunity to do things that make a difference and we can be satisfied that we have done them well.

Our work has made a positive difference in the lives of people across this globe.

I look forward to this new challenge, and I take with me the memories of eight glorious years when together, we changed the world.”

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WEMA Hosts
Employee Appreciation Day Picnic

The Wallops Exchange and Morale Association (WEMA) hosted an Employee Appreciation Day picnic at the Wallops Pavilion on June 23. Civil service and contract employees were treated to lunch and two large cakes courtesy of WEMA. The Wallops Music Club provided entertainment.

All full time Wallops civil service employees are members of WEMA and are eligible for voting and holding an office on the Executive Council. Wallops contract employees are Associate members and are eligible for membership in clubs, may serve on committees and attend special events. They may not serve on the WEMA Executive Council.

The WEMA Executive Council includes:
Robert Nock, Chairman
Betty Flowers, Vice-Chair
Gordon Marsh, Executive Secretary
Jay Savage, Financial Manager
Linda Layton, Exchange Operations Manager
Robert Nock, (Acting) Morale Activities Chairman
John Campbell, Advisor

Sub-SEM Launch Achieved Comprehensive Success

“The students and teachers were very pleased with the results of the mission and the dedication of the NSROC and NASA WFF crews who gave much of their time and efforts in preparing and launching the experiments. All of the experiments worked well and received very good data.

We wish to commend the Safety Officer, Chico Ayres, for his guidance in directing such a large viewing public and also Jay Brown and Dave Moltedo in providing leadership through the meetings and the launch itself. Also doing a fine job was the radar crew who at the last minute had to adjust their programs for tracking the payload with new azimuth and elevation settings.

And finally, the surveillance and recovery operation was excellent in returning the payload in an unbelievable hour and a half.”

Ed Parrott
Principal Investigator
Wallops NSIP Coordinator

Inside Wallops is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of Inside Wallops also may be found on the NASA Wallops Flight Facility homepage: www.wff.nasa.gov

Editor
Betty Flowers