

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

**Headquarters**

Washington, DC 20546-0001



March 23, 2015

Reply to Attn of:

General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at National Institute of Aerospace Foundation 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reception on April 24, 2015

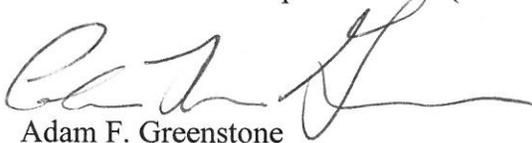
On April 24, 2015, the National Institute of Aerospace Foundation (NIAF), a non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, will host a reception at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C., from 7:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. This event is a reception followed by a seated dinner and a celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hubble Space Telescope.

Although there are financial sponsors for the reception, the NIAF has sole control of the planning, invitations, and seating for the event. Approximately 2,000 people are expected to attend including Congressional staff, industry representatives, NASA personnel, members of other federal agencies, academia, media, professional society members, and members of the public. The estimated cost of the refreshments, which includes all food and beverages, is \$100.00 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).

I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the event because it will further Agency programs or operations. In addition, attendance at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will allow NASA representatives to discuss NASA's programs and plans with the other attendees. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the NIAF or a majority of its members, 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 from the NIAF for free attendance to the event.

Moreover, NASA employees whose duties substantially affect the host, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. §2635.205(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

We understand that the NIAF and others may be handing out small gift items, i.e., lapel pin, bag, keychain, etc., valued at less than \$5 per piece. Attendees are reminded of the \$20 gift exception at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(a) which provides that employees may accept gifts valued at no more than \$20 per occasion (and no more than \$50 from one source in a calendar year).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam F. Greenstone', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Adam F. Greenstone