

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



March 27, 2013

Reply to Attn of:

General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the Sponsor's Dinner for the Neil Armstrong (AGOR 27) Christening on March 28, 2014.

On March 28, 2014, Dakota Creek Industries and the Wood Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI) will host a reception and dinner in Anacortes, Washington in conjunction with the program to christen the Neil Armstrong (AGOR 27), an Oceanographic Research Vessel named after the commander of Apollo 11 and first human to walk on the Moon. The Neil Armstrong will be owned by the Office of Naval Research (ONR) and operated in part by WHOI.

Approximately 175 people are expected to attend, including members and guests of the Armstrong family, and representatives from government, industrial, and non-profit organizations that are stakeholders in oceanographic research. The NASA Administrator will also deliver remarks at the christening ceremony on March 29. The estimated value of the event, which includes all food and beverages, is \$75. I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely-attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. §2635.204(g)(2). I have determined that free attendance at the above-mentioned event is in the interest of the Agency because it will further agency programs and operations. The event will enable NASA attendees to share information about NASA's accomplishments, policies and plans in a setting celebrating accomplishments Neil Armstrong achieved in his NASA service. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the event sponsors, including NASA employees in non-career positions who are required to sign the ethics pledge under Executive Order 13490, may accept an invitation for free attendance to the event for themselves and their accompanying guest.

However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the host, 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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adam F. Greenstone".

Adam F. Greenstone