Biographies

Mr. James J. Miller

Executive Secretary, National Space Council Users' Advisory Group
Deputy Director, Policy & Strategic Communications, SCaN, NASA HQ

Mr. Miller also serves as the Executive Secretary of the National Space Council (NSpC) Users' Advisory Group (UAG), reporting to the Office of the Vice President (OVP). Prior to his NASA assignment, James served as the Deputy Director of the Office of Navigation and Spectrum Policy at the U.S. Department of Transportation, where he received the 2004 Bronze Award from the Under Secretary of Transportation for his work on the President's Spectrum Policy Initiative for the 21st Century.

Preceding his government service, Mr. Miller was a Program Manager for the Flight Standards & Technology Department at United Airlines, where he assisted in determining airline industry policy on emerging communications, navigation, surveillance (CNS) technologies and applications. He was a founding member of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Spectrum Protection Steering Group, elected as Vice-Chairman of the ARINC Aeronautical Frequency Committee (AFC), and a key flight operations representative on the Air Transport Association (ATA) Flight Systems Integration Committee.

In these roles, he led airline industry efforts at two World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRCs), eventually serving as the IATA spokesperson to the US Ambassador. In 2000, industry and government leaders recognized James for accomplishments on behalf of the airline industry, including the CEO of United Airlines, the President and CEO of ATA, and US Vice-President Al Gore.

Prior to working in the corporate sector, James was an academic researcher at Curtin University of Technology (CUT) in Perth, Western Australia in 1989, and returned "Down Under" in 1995 to conduct his thesis research in Brisbane at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Space Center for Satellite Navigation. Mr. Miller is a commercial airplane pilot with degrees in Aviation Flight, Aviation Management, Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree from Southern Illinois University, and a Master of International Policy and Practice (MIPP) from The George Washington University. More recently, James was selected by NASA leadership to serve as a Harvard Senior Executive Fellow (SEF) at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, completing the world-renown program in April, 2023.

Ms. Barbara Adde

Deputy Executive Director, National Space Council Users' Advisory Group
Director of Policy and Strategic Communications, SCaN, NASA Headquarters

Barbara Adde serves as a GS-15 civil servant, in the role of Policy & Strategic Communications (PSC) Director for Space Communications and Navigation (SCaN), within the Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate at NASA Headquarters. In this role since 2008, Ms. Adde is responsible for SCaN's outreach to SCaN's key stakeholders, including its customers, the public, academia, and communities connected to the SCaN Program, such as the tracking stations for SCaN's networks – the Deep Space Network and the Near Space Network. Her outreach program includes a wide variety of activities, including the SCaN public website, social media, exhibits, traveling exhibits, and the SCaN Intern Project. She also serves as the Executive Secretariat for the Interoperability Plenary and the Interagency Operations Advisory Group, consisting of 15 international space agencies. In 2020, Ms. Adde was named as Designated Federal Official to the Education & Outreach Subcommittee of the National Space Council's Users' Advisory Group. As PSC Director, she works closely with NASA's national and international policy for Positioning, Navigation and Timing, the services of the Global Positioning System (GPS), which is managed by the PSC Deputy Director, James Miller.

Ms. Adde began her career at NASA in 1997 as a political appointee in the Office of Legislative Affairs, providing legislative support to the Space Operations Mission Directorate, which included NASA's human spaceflight programs, the Space Shuttle and International Space Station, and spectrum management, as well as the Office of International and Interagency Relations. Converting to civil service in 2001, she served as Legislative Specialist and Outreach Specialist in the Space Operations Mission Directorate until 2008.
Prior to NASA, Ms. Adde served as Confidential Assistant to the Associate Director for Technology in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, as a political appointee, from 1993-1997.

Ms. Adde graduated from the University of Delaware in 1981 with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication. She was appointed to the Space Generation Advisory Council's Honorary Board in August 2010

Dr. Benjamin Ashman
Aerospace Engineer
Navigation and Mission Design
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

Benjamin Ashman is an aerospace engineer in the Navigation and Mission Design Branch at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. His research is focused on space applications of Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS). Dr. Ashman has supported numerous missions, including TDRS-M and OSIRIS-Rex. He is currently a co-investigator for the Lunar GNSS Receiver Experiment, navigation lead for NASA's lunar relay development, and detailee to the Space Communications and Navigation program at NASA headquarters. He was the 2021-2022 Institute of Navigation congressional fellow and spent the year in the office of Senator Sherrod Brown. Dr. Ashman is from Dayton, Ohio and received his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University in 2016 and his B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Ohio University in 2010.

Mr. Cody Kelly
National Affairs Manager
Search and Rescue Mission Office
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

Cody Kelly currently serves as the National Affairs Manager within NASA's Search and Rescue Mission Office at the Goddard Spaceflight Center. His role includes the coordination and leadership of NASA's work in research and development of search and rescue technologies for use by those in distress anywhere in the world. He is the current lead for all Human Spaceflight SAR activities and supports ongoing missions with dedicated search and rescue data for locating crew capsules and astronauts following landing. For future exploration missions, Cody is leading the development of Lunar Search and Rescue (LunaSAR) requirements and systems for human exploration of the lunar south pole and sustained lunar surface presence. Cody is NASA's representative to the US Government's National Search and Rescue Committee, helping shape post-disaster response policy and coordination of SAR capabilities to save lives.

Cody was honored by Popular Mechanics Magazine as one of 2017's Breakthrough Award winners for his work in the civilian and military satellite-aided search and rescue community, as well as NASA's prestigious Early Career Achievement Medal for enabling joint NASA and military rescue operations. Cody was awarded NASA's Silver Snoopy Award in 2020 for his work on astronaut rescue equipment and testing.

Cody graduated from Texas A&M in 2012 with a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering and Certificate in Advanced International Affairs.

Outside of NASA, Cody is a first responder specializing in hazardous materials response, as well as serving as a Planning Team support member on the Texas A&M Task Force One, combining professional passions in search and rescue with opportunities to help others. Originally from Bandera, Texas, Cody is an avid supporter of space-based data equity for rural development and humanitarian aid domestically and globally.

Mr. René J. (RJ) Balanga
Deputy Director, Spectrum Policy and Planning
NASA Headquarters

Mr. Balanga serves as the Deputy Director at the Spectrum Policy and Planning Division at NASA Headquarters. Mr. Balanga joined NASA in November 2015 and, currently, serves as the principal advisor to the Spectrum Policy and Planning Director. He also leads various NASA strategic initiatives focused on spectrum professional education and outreach initiatives. His professional experience includes over 26 years of spectrum management knowledge and policy analysis, with 20+ years of federal government service.

Prior to joining NASA, Mr. Balanga served in various spectrum management capacities at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), from 2002 to 2015, including as the FAA representative to the Frequency Assignment Subcommittee, under the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee. Mr. Balanga spent the majority of his tenure with the FAA managing spectrum utilized for Air-Ground Communications. Mr. Balanga also oversaw the spectrum bands for surveillance/radar systems and served as the FAA coordination lead for testing and training activities with the Department of Defense and other Federal Agencies in support of electronic attack/electronic warfare, identification friend or foe, and counter-radio improvised electronic device systems.

Before Mr. Balanga began working in the Federal government, he worked in private industry for 7 years. From 1996 to 1998, Mr. Balanga worked as a Wireless Network Design Engineering Consultant for Kurtis and Associates, P.C., a telecommunications law firm in Washington D.C. From 1998 to 2002, Mr. Balanga worked as a Regional Radio Frequency Lead at Teligent, Inc. in Vienna, VA, as well as, a Lead Technical Engineer for the Teligent Professional Services Team, which was established to spearhead international joint-venture business development.

Mr. Balanga holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Virginia Tech and attended George Mason University for a Master's of Arts in Telecommunications Management. Mr. Balanga also served on the Virginia Tech, Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Advisory Board.