

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Mary W. Jackson Building NASA Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



March 17, 2026

Reply to Attn of: General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Agency Counsel for Ethics

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA employees at the
Homeland Security Week to be held on March 17 – 18, 2026

On March 17 – 18, 2026, The Institute for Defense and Government Advancement, an information-based organization, will host Homeland Security Week on behalf of multiple sponsors at the MGM National Harbor, Oxon Hill, Maryland from 7:15 am to 6:05 pm on March 17 and from 7:30 am to 5:35 pm on March 18. The purpose of the event is to gather military, government, and industry stakeholders in the Homeland Security space to explore next generation solutions in AI, cloud and cybersecurity, biometrics, counter-UAS capabilities, boarder management, infrastructure resilience, and more.

Approximately 600 people have been invited to attend. Guests of NASA personnel are not invited. Attendees will have a diversity of views or interests and will include industry, and US military and Government employees, including Congressional, federal, state, and local personnel. The estimated cost of the event, including all food and beverages, is \$ 39 per person.

IDGA is in control of the organizing, planning and invitations for this event. Attendance at this event will allow NASA attendees to exchange information regarding various NASA programs. 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 provide an opportunity for the invited persons to exchange ideas and views pertaining to NASA’s policies, programs and operations. NASA employees, who do not have a significant role in a matter affecting the interests of the sponsor may accept an invitation for free attendance to the event. In those circumstances, I find that the Agency’s interest in attendance outweighs any concern that the individual may be, or may appear to be, improperly influenced in the performance of their duties.

However, NASA employees who have a significant role in any pending matter affecting the interests of IDGA, such as procurement duties, program management, or negotiating or administering a Space Act Agreement, should seek a separate determination from their local ethics counselor as to whether they may accept the invitation.

Adam F. Greenstone