

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001



October 25, 2004

Office of the General Counsel

Reply to Attn of:

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Blanket Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the Opening Reception for the Air Traffic Controllers Association Annual Conference and Exposition, November 1, 2004

On November 1, 2004, the Air Traffic Controllers Association (ATCA) will host the opening reception of their 49th annual conference and exposition, at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D.C. The ATCA is dedicated to progress in the science of air control and the preservation of a safe flight environment. The theme of this year's conference is "Global Airspace System: Turning Vision Into Reality." It has been determined to be in the best interest of the Government for those NASA employees who are invited to this event to attend in their official capacities and as representatives of NASA.

The reception will be sponsored by the Boeing Company and will be widely attended by individuals from Federal agencies, the military, trade associations, and individuals interested in aviation and aerospace issues. Approximately 500-1000 guests are expected to attend. The estimated cost of the event, which includes all food and beverages, is approximately \$20 person. The conference provides a forum for discussing key issues that affect the future of the U.S. National Airspace System and global air traffic control (ATC) systems. The exposition will feature the largest assemblage of ATC exhibits in the world. This event will allow NASA employees and other guests the opportunity discuss issues of mutual interests and to view the exhibit. I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g). I therefore conclude that NASA's interest in its employees attending this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may, or may appear to, improperly influence NASA employees in the performance of their duties.

Accordingly, NASA invitees and their spouses or guests may attend this event without charge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Andrew Falcon".

R. Andrew Falcon