

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



February 19, 2004

Reply to Attn of: GG

TO: Distribution

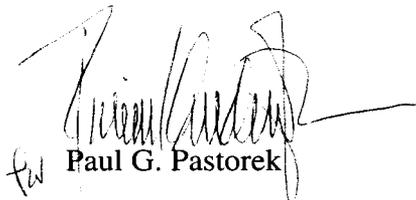
FROM: G/General Counsel

SUBJECT: Blanket Determination Regarding Attendance at Semper Fidelis Award
Dinner Honoring Secretary of State, Colin Powell, on March 13, 2004

The Marine Corps University Foundation is hosting its Annual Semper Fidelis Award Dinner on March 13, 2004, at the Sheraton Premiere at Tysons Corner, Virginia. I have determined it to be in the best interests 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 Semper Fidelis Award is presented each year to a distinguished American leader whose commitment to personal and professional excellence embodies those qualities of leadership and character uniquely associated with the United States Marine Corps. This year the award will be presented to Secretary of State Colin Powell. The event will honor and pay tribute to him. It will be widely attended by members of Congress and their staffers, officials from other Federal agencies, including the military, and representatives from the private sector. Approximately 650 people have been invited to the event. The estimated cost of the event, which includes all food and beverages is approximately \$125 per person. I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g). I 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 official duties.

Accordingly, NASA invitees and their spouses or guests may attend the dinner without charge.


Paul G. Pastorek