

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001



September 13, 2004

Reply to Attn of:

Office of the General Counsel

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Blanket Determination Regarding Attendance at the AIAA 3rd "Unmanned Unlimited" Technical Conference Dinner, September 21, 2004

On September 21, 2004, the AIAA 3rd "Unmanned Unlimited" Technical Conference (Conference) will be held in Chicago, Illinois. Michael Heinz, Conference General Chair, the Boeing Company, will host a dinner in conjunction with the conference. I have determined it to be in the best interests of the Government for those NASA employees who are invited to these events to attend in their official capacities and as representatives of NASA.

The dinner will be widely attended by approximately 50 persons, interested in aviation and aerospace issues. The cost of the dinner, which includes food and beverages is \$100 per person. Officials from other Federal agencies, the military, academia, and the private sector including the aerospace industry, will attend the event. The objective is to examine the evolution of new capabilities in aeronautics and astronautics along with the operational successes achieved in these areas that have accelerated the growth of unmanned systems in aviation technology. The dinner will allow guests further opportunity to discuss the issues and possible solutions regarding enabling safe, reliable and routine unmanned air vehicle operations in the national air space structure beyond what is currently being done by the military with restricted airspace. I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g). Consequently, I conclude that NASA's interest in its employees attending this event outweighs any concerns that free attendance may, or may appear to, improperly influence any NASA employee in the performance of their official duties.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Andrew Falcon", with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

R. Andrew Falcon