

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001



July 19, 2004

Reply to Attn of: GG

TO: Distribution

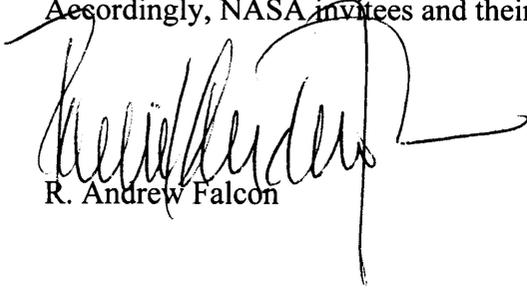
FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Blanket Determination Regarding Attendance at a Mars Exploration Rover
Celebration on July 20, 2004

Lockheed Martin and Ball Aerospace in cooperation with the House Majority Leader and other members of Congress will host a briefing and social on July 20, 2004, at the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, DC. 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 event will be widely attended by members of Congress and key staffers, the aerospace industry, and aerospace associations. NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe, Dr. Edward Weiler, and Mr. Orlando Figueroa will commemorate the success of the NASA Mars Exploration Rovers and discuss the Nation's future for space exploration. Light refreshments will be served. The estimated cost of the event, which includes all food and beverages is \$10 per person. Approximately 75 people are expected to attend the event. I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g). The event allows NASA employees to discuss NASA's Mars Exploration Program with members of Congress and their staffs, aerospace representatives, and members of aerospace associations. Consequently, 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 invites and their spouses or guests may attend the event without charge.



R. Andrew Falcon