

NASA SPACE FLIGHT SAFETY PANEL

1. PURPOSE

The NASA Space Flight Safety Panel (hereinafter referred to as the "Panel") is hereby established to advance flight safety in NASA space flight programs and activities involving space flight crews. The Administrator determined that establishment of the Panel is necessary and in the public interest to implement the recommendations of the Report of the Presidential Commission on the Space Shuttle Challenger Accident and to promote space crew safety. The Panel reports to the Chief, Safety and Mission Assurance. The Panel has the authority and will be provided the support to take those actions necessary to accomplish the functions listed below.

2 . APPLICABILITY/SCOPE

This charter is applicable to NASA Headquarters and all NASA Centers, including Component Facilities. The scope of the Panel's purview will encompass all aspects that affect flight crew safety.

3. AUTHORITY

42 U.S.C. § 2473(c)(1), section 203 (c)(1) of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, as amended.

4. FUNCTIONS

The Panel will conduct panel or independent member reviews/assessments of selected issues or concerns as requested by the Chief, Safety and Mission Assurance. Examples include, but are not limited to, selected safety surveys, independent assessments, close call or mishap investigations, and NASA Safety Reporting System investigations.

The Panel will solicit and forward any space flight safety concerns to the Chief, Safety and Mission Assurance, for action.

5. MEMBERSHIP

The Panel consists of six members appointed by the Chief, Safety and Mission Assurance, from the following groups:

- a. Astronaut Corps (astronauts who have flown on NASA missions).
- b. NASA Headquarters, Office of Safety and Mission Assurance.
- c. Johnson Space Center Flight Directors.
- d. Kennedy Space Center Launch Directors or NASA Test Directors.

e. Marshall Space Flight Center mission managers or senior engineers.

The Panel member from the Astronaut Corps will serve as the Chairperson.

Panel members, including the Chairperson, will serve for a period of at least two years.

The Chairperson is authorized to establish subgroups on an ad hoc basis for the purpose of providing detailed evaluations of particular concerns in technical areas to assist the Panel in formulating recommendations.

6. MEETINGS

The Panel will be convened as an issue needing assessment is identified, at the request of the Chief, Safety and Mission Assurance. Telecons will be conducted as necessary to address Panel activities and issues.

7. DURATION

The Panel will remain in existence indefinitely.

8. RECORDS

The Office of Safety and Mission Assurance is responsible for the maintenance of this charter. The Chairperson is responsible for maintaining other records associated with the Space Flight Safety Panel.