

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Office of the Administrator
Washington, DC 20546-0001



July 8, 2010

Vice Admiral Joseph W. Dyer, USN (Ret.)
Chairman
Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Washington, DC 20546

Dear Admiral ^{JOE}Dyer:

Enclosed is NASA's response to Recommendation 2009-02-04 from the 2009 Second Quarterly Meeting of the Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel (ASAP). Please do not hesitate to contact me if the Panel would like further background on the information provided in the enclosure.

I look forward to receiving continued advice from the ASAP that results from your important fact-finding and quarterly meetings.

Sincerely, ^{! SUPER F!}

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bolden" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Charles F. Bolden, Jr.
Administrator

Enclosure

Tracking Number 2009-02-04

Exercise Appropriate Diligence with Respect to Insuring the Acceptable Safety for Aircraft Employed in All Host Countries

Recommendation

ASAP recommends that NASA exercise appropriate diligence with respect to insuring the acceptable safety for aircraft employed in all host countries. If the existing safety level is insufficient or documentation is incomplete, actions need to be taken that will result in improvements to the existing providers' operations, or instituting new resources to provide this transportation.

NASA Response

NASA utilizes several means of air transportation for NASA personnel when deployed to foreign countries. In most cases, that means use of commercial or charter aviation, where NASA depends upon the Federal Aviation Administration and the host nation's civilian aviation entities to ensure safe air transport.

In some instances, NASA utilizes its own air assets for personnel transport, if commercial or charter resources are unavailable or unable to perform the specific tasks required. In these cases, NASA's procedures, per the NASA Procedural Requirements 7900.3, are utilized for air safety assurance.

In other instances, NASA personnel utilize military air transport, either United States or the host nation. In these cases, the Agency depends upon the safety programs, procedures, and protocols of the host military organization. There are occurrences where the host nation's contractor transport methods are utilized. In these limited cases, NASA relies upon the aviation authority of the host nation to ensure that aircraft utilized are inherently safe. To further mitigate the risk to personnel, NASA limits the participants in these cases to essential personnel only.

NASA continues to review our procedures to ensure the safety of NASA personnel while onboard aircraft employed in host countries.