

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



April 13, 2012

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

*Joe*

Dear Admiral Dyer:

Enclosed is NASA's response to a recommendation from the 2012 First Quarterly Meeting of the Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel (ASAP). Please do not hesitate to contact me if the ASAP 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,

*Charles F. Bolden, Jr.*

Charles F. Bolden, Jr.  
Administrator

Enclosure  
2012-01-01 Standardizing and Funding NASA Wellness Facilities

**Tracking Number 2012-01-01**  
**Standardizing and Funding NASA Wellness Facilities**

**Finding:**

All NASA Centers are reported to have wellness facilities available, but they vary from Center to Center in degree of access, staffing, outfitting, and funding support.

**Recommendation:**

NASA should develop a standardized wellness program approach that ensures that all employees have an equal opportunity for access to NASA's wellness facilities. NASA should examine ways to standardize and control the level of support for the facilities to a higher degree. The ASAP encourages NASA to explore the funding streams and consider whether they should be centralized.

**Rationale:**

Accident statistics show that more injuries to NASA personnel involve ergonomics issues than any other cause. A strong wellness program with appropriately supported facilities can contribute to reduction in the rate of these types of injuries as well as overall wellness. Establishing standards for the required level of support for wellness programs among Centers will result in a reduction in ergonomics related injuries.

**NASA Response:**

NASA agrees with the ASAP concerning the importance of access to wellness facilities for NASA employees. Currently, NASA maintains core standards for operating onsite fitness facilities at NASA Centers. These standards represent the minimum elements to ensure the safety of fitness center users and easy access by NASA employees. Because of NASA Centers' various geographic locations, space availability, budget constraints, and other variables, management of the wellness facilities, within those standards, is left to the discretion of Center Directors. NASA audits Center performance against the core standards.

All NASA employees have an opportunity to access NASA's wellness facilities across the Agency. However, differences in wellness facility management from Center to Center result in differences in access. The Office of the Chief Health and Medical Officer will work with the Mission Support Directorate to explore funding stream options, including whether the funding should be centralized, with a report to the ASAP within six months.

Enclosure