

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



March 8, 2013

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 Fourth 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.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. F. Bolden, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Charles F. Bolden, Jr.  
Administrator

Enclosure

2012-04-01 Alignment of Technical Authorities' Budgets with Line Authority

*I will also be involved in this discussion, since the TA's are direct reports to me.*

**Tracking Number 2012-04-01**  
**Alignment of Technical Authorities' Budgets with Line Authority**

**Finding:**

The budgets for the technical authorities--the Office of Safety and Mission Assurance (OSMA), the Office of the Chief Health and Medical Officer (OCHMO), and the Office of the Chief Engineer (OCE)--are included under "Safety and Mission Success" in a budget line item called "Cross-Agency Support and Construction." That budget line item is managed at NASA Headquarters by a Cost Account Manager (CAM) who is in the Mission Support Directorate. This CAM is only responsible for institutional safety, which is only a small fraction of the entire SMA activity of the agency, and the technical authorities do not report to the Mission Support Directorate.

**Recommendation:**

NASA should review and determine the appropriateness of having the technical authorities--OSMA, OCHMO, and OCE--in a non-safety-aligned budget line item and office.

**Rationale:**

As a matter of best practice, one should have alignment of budget with line authority, and the ASAP believes that realigning the technical authorities' budgets with line authority would be a good process step and makes good management sense.

**NASA Response:**

Considering the totality of NASA's budget structure and previous discussions of that structure with various stakeholders, the Chief Financial Officer finds no workable alternative budget structure that would address the concerns of the ASAP and would be likely to gain approval. However, we do believe that internal process improvements can be made and will collaborate with OCE, OCHMO, OSMA, and the Mission Support Directorate to propose process adjustments to the Associate Administrator and Deputy Administrator.