

**NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION  
CHARTER OF THE  
RETURN TO FLIGHT TASK GROUP**

**ESTABLISHMENT AND AUTHORITY**

The NASA Administrator established the NASA Return to Flight Task Group ("Task Group"). Having determined that it is in the public interest in connection with the performance of Agency duties under the law, and with the concurrence of the General Services Administration, the NASA Administrator hereby renews and amends the Task Group's charter, pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. App. §§1 et seq.

**PURPOSE AND DUTIES**

1. The Task Group will perform an independent assessment of NASA's actions to implement the recommendations of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board (CAIB), as they relate to the safety and operational readiness of STS-114. As necessary to their activities, the Task Group will consult with former members of the CAIB.
2. While the Task Group will not attempt to assess the adequacy of the CAIB recommendations, it will report on the progress of NASA's response to meet their intent.
3. The Task Group may make other observations on safety or operational readiness, as it believes appropriate.
4. The Task Group will draw on the expertise of its members and other sources to provide its assessment to the Administrator. The Task Group will hold meetings and make site visits as necessary to accomplish its fact-finding. The Task Group will be provided information necessary to perform its advisory functions, including activities of both the Agency and its contractors.
5. The Task Group will function solely as an advisory body and will comply fully with the provisions of the FACA.

**ORGANIZATION**

The Task Group is authorized to establish panels in areas related to its work. The panels will report their findings and recommendations to the Task Group.

## MEMBERSHIP

1. To reflect a balance of views, the Task Group will consist of non-NASA employees and one NASA nonvoting, ex officio member, the Deputy Chief Safety and Mission Assurance Officer. In addition, there may be associate members selected for Task Group panels. The Task Group may also request appointment of consultants to support specific tasks. Members of the Task Group and panels will be chosen from among industry, academia, and government with recognized knowledge and expertise in fields relevant to safety and space flight.
2. The Task Group members and the Co-Chairs of the Task Group will be appointed by the Administrator. At the request of the Task Group, associate members and consultants will be appointed by the Deputy Chief Engineer/Independent Technical Authority.

## ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

1. The Task Group will formally report its results to NASA on a continuing basis at appropriate intervals, including a final written report.
2. The Task Group will meet as often as required to complete its duties and will conduct at least two public meetings. Meetings will be open to the public, except when the NASA General Counsel and the NASA Advisory Committee Management Officer determine that the meeting or a portion of it will be closed, pursuant to the Government in the Sunshine Act, or that the meeting is not covered by the FACA. Panel meetings will be held as required.
3. The Executive Secretary will be appointed by the Administrator and will serve as the Designated Federal Official.
4. The Space Operations Mission Directorate will provide technical and staff support through the Task Force on International Space Station Operational Readiness. The Space Operations Mission Directorate will provide operating funds for the Task Group and panels. The estimated operating costs total approximately \$3.5 million which includes 7 workyears for staff support.
5. Members of the Task Group are entitled to be compensated for their services at the rate equivalent to a GS 15, step 10. Members of the Task Group will also be allowed per diem and travel expenses as authorized by 5 U.S.C. § 5701 et seq.

**DURATION**

The Task Group shall terminate upon the issuance of its final report unless terminated before that date or subsequently renewed by the NASA Administrator.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. D. Griffin", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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Michael D. Griffin  
Administrator

JUL 22 2005

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Date