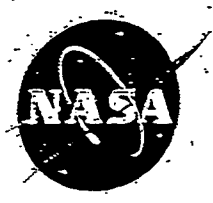


National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Office of the Administrator
Washington, DC 20546-0001



MAY 24 2001

Vice Admiral Robert Francis Dunn

[Redacted address]

Dear Admiral Dunn:

Thank you for your letter of May 8, 2001. I sincerely appreciate your outstanding service to the Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel (ASAP) over the last 11 years. We have made substantial strides in Shuttle safety in that timeframe.

I pointed out to the members and consultants of the ASAP, in my remarks before the public meeting in February 2001, that a need exists to refresh Panel membership given the longevity of many individual terms and the need to introduce new expertise to the Panel. I also mentioned that I intended to make similar changes in other NASA advisory committees, and I have done so already.

A similar judgment was decided by the Space Shuttle Independent Assessment Team (SIAT) in the Report to the Associate Administrator for Space Flight dated March 2000. Now known as the SIAT Report, Dr. Harry McDonald's team found that the ASAP membership should change more frequently to ensure an independent perspective and maintain cognizance of rapidly advancing technologies with potential for enhancing Shuttle safety.

In consultation with my Associate Administrator for Safety and Mission Assurance and Associate Deputy Administrator, it was decided that members or consultants with 6 or more years of service on the Panel would be retired by NASA. This in no way reflects any discredit upon yourself or diminishes your contributions to the Panel. The two exceptions to the above process are the Chairman and the ASAP International Space Station (ISS) Team Lead. The former was retained to provide transition to new leadership of the Panel and the latter to resolve what I deemed to be important safety issues related to ISS damage assessment, control, and repair.

As I have stated before, I am personally responsible for the lives of Shuttle crewmembers. I felt that it was in the best interest of NASA at this time to refresh the membership of the ASAP. I do look forward to your continued support of the Shuttle Program, and I wish you the very best.

Sincerely,

Daniel S. Goldin
Administrator