

2005 Current Fiscal Year Report: Return to Flight Task Group

Report Run Date: 05/13/2021 09:20:55 AM

1. Department or Agency

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

2. Fiscal Year

2005

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Return to Flight Task Group

3b. GSA Committee No.

16600

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

07/22/2005

6. Expected Renewal Date

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

Yes

8b. Specific Termination Authority

Issuance of Final Report
(8/17/2005)

8c. Actual Term Date

08/17/2005

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Terminate

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

10b. Legislation Pending?

Enacted

11. Establishment Authority

Agency Authority

12. Specific Establishment Authority

Public Law 85-568, As Amended, Section 203 (c)(7)

13. Effective Date

04/24/1997

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

Scientific Technical Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

1

16b. Report Date

08/17/2005

Report Title

Return to Flight Task Group Final Report

Number of Committee Reports Listed: 1

17a. Open 3 **17b. Closed** 0 **17c. Partially Closed** 0 **Other Activities** 0 **17d. Total** 3

Meetings and Dates

Purpose

The purpose of this public meeting was to deliberate and determine if the Task Group assessment on R3.3-1, Reinforced Carbon-Carbon Non-destructive Inspection was complete. The Recommendation had been conditionally closed in April 2004, and NASA submitted the requested additional data on February 2, 2005. The Task Group had evaluated the revised closure package and conducted fact-finding to verify the status of the recommendation. After deliberating, the Task Group closed its assessment of R3.3-1, stating that NASA had met the intent of the CAIB.

Start

End

02/17/2005 - 02/17/2005

The purpose of this public meeting was to deliberate and determine if the Task Group assessment on R3.4-1, Ground-Based Imagery; R3.4-3, High-Resolution Imagery of Orbiter; R6.2-1, Consistency with Resources; R6.3-1, Mission Management Team Improvements; R9.1-1, Detailed Plan for Organizational Changes; and the Space Shuttle Program "raising the bar" action SSP-3, Contingency Shuttle Crew Support were complete. The Task Group decided that R3.4-1, Ground-Based Imagery, had been conditionally accepted during the December 2004 plenary; the Task Group now believed that NASA had provided the remaining data in a satisfactory manner and the recommendation was accepted to have fully met the intent of the CAIB. Four others: R3.4-3, High-Resolution Imagery of Orbiter; R6.2-1, Consistency with Resources; R6.3-1, Mission Management Team Improvements; and R9.1-1, Detailed Plan for Organizational Changes, were deliberated during the meeting. Task Group members agreed that the changes made by NASA for all five recommendations and "raising the bar" action SSP-3, Contingency Shuttle Crew Support met the intent of the CAIB.

06/08/2005 - 06/08/2005

The purpose of this public meeting was to deliberate and determine if the Task Group assessment on the remaining three CAIB recommendations R3.2-1, External Tank Debris Shedding; R3.3-2, Orbiter Hardening; and R6.4-1, Thermal Protection System Inspection and Repair were complete. After deliberating, the Task Group determined that NASA had not fully met the intent of R3.2-1, External Tank Debris Shedding; R3.3-2, Orbiter Hardening; and R6.4-1, Thermal Protection System Inspection and Repair.

06/27/2005 - 06/27/2005

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 3

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$440,367.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$830,052.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$341,280.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$7,580.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$133,995.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$104,990.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$29,401.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$1,133,792.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$3,021,457.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	9.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Task Group performed an independent assessment of NASA's actions to implement the recommendations of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board (CAIB), as they related to the safety and operational readiness of STS-114. As necessary to their activities, the Task Group consulted with former members of the CAIB. While the Task Group did not attempt to assess the adequacy of the CAIB recommendations, it did report on the progress of NASA's response to meet their intent.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The Task Group consisted of non-NASA employees and one NASA non-voting, ex officio member, the Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety and Mission Assurance. Members of the Task Group and panels were chosen from among industry, academia, and government with recognized knowledge and expertise in fields relevant to safety and

space flight.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

Estimated Number of Meetings per Year - 2 Estimated Total Meetings - 4

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The NASA Administrator determined that the establishment of this Task Group was in the public interest, in connection with performance of the Agency duties under the law.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

N/A. All deliberative meetings were open to the public.

21. Remarks

On August 17, 2005, the Return to Flight Task Group completed its work with the delivery of a Final Report to the NASA Administrator and members of Congress.

Designated Federal Officer

Vincent D. Watkins Executive Secretary

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Adamson, James	07/23/2003	09/30/2005	Consultant	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Anders, William	07/23/2003	09/30/2005	Consultant	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Broadnax, Walter	07/23/2003	09/30/2005	Clark Atlanta University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Clark, Kathryn	07/23/2003	09/30/2005	Docere	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Cosgrove, Benjamin	07/23/2003	09/30/2005	Consultant	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Covey, Richard	07/23/2003	09/30/2005	The Boeing Company	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Crippen, Dan	07/23/2003	09/30/2005	Consultant	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Cruzzupoli, Joseph	07/23/2003	09/30/2005	Kistler Aerospace	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Daniel, Charles	07/23/2003	09/30/2005	Consultant	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Donahue, Amy	07/23/2003	09/30/2005	Dept. of Public Policy, University of CT	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Fogleman, Ron	07/23/2003	09/30/2005	B-J Cattle and Consulting	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Fox, Christine	10/06/2003	09/30/2005	President, Center for Naval Analyses	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Geyer, Gary	07/23/2003	09/30/2005	Consultant	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Helms, USAF, Susan	10/06/2003	09/30/2005	Deputy Director of Operations, Technical Training, Randolph AFB, TX	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Kohrs, Richard	07/23/2003	09/30/2005	Kistler Aerospace	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Livingstone, Susan	07/23/2003	09/30/2005	Consultant	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Lloyd, James	07/23/2003	09/30/2005	Deputy Chief, Safety & Mission Assurance Officer, NASA HQ	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
McCartney, Forrest	07/23/2003	09/30/2005	Consultant	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
O'Leary, Rosemary	07/23/2003	09/30/2005	Syracuse University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Rogers, Decatur	07/23/2003	09/30/2005	Tennessee State University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Rubenstein, Sy	07/23/2003	09/30/2005	Consultant	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Sieck, Robert	07/23/2003	09/30/2005	Consultant	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Stafford, Thomas	07/23/2003	09/30/2005	Consultant	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Tate, Thomas	07/23/2003	09/30/2005	Consultant	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Thornton, Kathryn	10/06/2003	09/30/2005	Assistant Dean, Graduate Programs, University of Virginia	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Wegner, William	07/23/2003	09/30/2005	Consultant	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 26

Narrative Description

The task group supports NASA's mission and strategic plan by performing an independent assessment of the agency's Return to Flight efforts which helped the nation return the Space Shuttle safely to flight. The Space Shuttle enables humans today to build the world's largest orbiting laboratory, paving the way to the moon, on to Mars and further into the universe.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

NA

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- None
- Unable to Determine
- Under \$100,000
- \$100,000 - \$500,000
- \$500,001 - \$1,000,000
- \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000
- \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000
- Over \$10,000,000
- Cost Savings Other

Cost Savings Comments

The task group was chartered to 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. Although there are no direct cost savings attributed to the task group, there is potential cost avoidance through its independence assessment of significant changes made in the Space Shuttle Program. There are measurable, quantifiable items that have resulted from this committee's assessment for return to flight. This compliance, although not quantifiable at this point, is most certainly a cost avoidance measure by protecting the multi-billion dollar Shuttle fleet through this independent assessment.

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

0

Number of Recommendations Comments

The task group was not chartered to assess the adequacy of the CAIB recommendations but to review the actions of the Agency in implementing the CAIB recommendations. As a result, the task group did not collectively formalize any additional recommendations beyond CAIB for return to flight.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

0%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

The task group did not collectively formalize any additional recommendations beyond CAIB for return to flight.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

0%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

The task group did not collectively formalize any additional recommendations beyond CAIB for return to flight.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes No Not Applicable

Agency Feedback Comments

The Space Flight Leadership Council (SFLC) reviewed and approved all official CAIB recommendations closure transmittals from NASA to the RTF TG. Since this information is generated in the technical organization and reviewed at the SFLC, this assures that integrated feedback from the agency is provided to the task group.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

- Reorganized Priorities
- Reallocated resources
- Issued new regulation
- Proposed legislation
- Approved grants or other payments
- Other

Action Comments

NA

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Contact DFO | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online Agency Web Site | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online Committee Web Site | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online GSA FACA Web Site | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Publications | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Access Comments

NA