2011

NASA Range Safety Annual Report

H. NASA Headquarters

The Safety and Assurance Requirements Division (SARD) at NASA Headquarters (HQ) Office of Safety and Mission Assurance (OSMA) provides corporate leadership in the definition and implementation of NASA's Agency-wide Safety and Mission Assurance policies, procedures, standards, tools, techniques, and training. The HQ Range Safety Representative is located within SARD and serves as the HQ Executive for the Agency Range Flight Safety Program and ELV Payload Safety Program.

The HQ Range Safety Representative participated in many Agency Range Safety activities in 2011. These included leading the Range Safety team during Intercenter Aircraft Operations Panel (IAOP) Reviews at JSC, LaRC, and GSFC/WFF and during an IFO audit at GSFC/WFF (see the article on Independent Assessment in Section II.C of this Report).

The HQ Range Safety Representative continued as the NASA Co-Chair to the AF/FAA/NASA Common Standards Working Group (CSWG). The CSWG functions to implement provisions of U.S Space Transportation Policy directing coordination between the USAF, FAA, and NASA to establish common public safety requirements for space transportation. The CSWF co-chairs met by phone every two weeks throughout 2011 and continued to oversee activities and products that focus on protecting the public from hazards associated with space launch and entry events.

The HQ Range Safety Representative is responsible for facilitating the development and promulgation of Agency Range Safety-related policy and requirements. During the past year, the HQ Range Safety Representative worked as a member of the ELV Payload Safety Agency Team to complete and release the new NASA-STD 8719.24, NASA Expendable Launch Vehicle Payload Safety Requirements. The two-year effort to develop this standard involved close coordination between the NASA ELV payload community and range safety personnel from both the Air Force Eastern and Western ranges to develop a joint set of payload safety requirements. This NASA standard applies to all NASA ELV payload projects wherever they might be launched and will be accepted by the Air Force as a tailored version of AFSPCMAN 91-710 for all NASA Payload projects launching from the Eastern or Western ranges.

Other activities included participating as a member of the Range Commanders Council Range Safety Group, support to the Commercial Crew Program's coordination with the FAA on issues of commercial launch licensing and applicability of the FAA public safety regulations to future commercial crew launches, support to research and development projects like Autonomous Flight Safety System and Enhanced Flight Termination System, and development of range safety training courses.