



Responsible Office: Office of Director

SUBJECT: Langley Distinguished Research Associate (DRA) Program

1. POLICY

a. This directive sets forth this Center's policy for implementation of the Langley Distinguished Research Associate (DRA) Program. Normally, DRA appointments will be made for a 1-year period.

b. NASA Langley Research Center (LaRC) will accept unconditional, gratuitous donations of Distinguished Research Associates' services that are fully consistent with applicable laws and regulations, avoid the appearance of "de facto" employment, and are otherwise determined to be in the best interest of the Center. NASA shall not solicit or rely on the use of "gratuitous" research services to accomplish the Center's mission.

c. Services that require the performance of "inherently governmental" functions, and that would normally be assigned to civil servants to accomplish the Center's mission, or services that properly reside with a NASA LaRC contractor, will not be accepted as "gratuitous."

d. **DEFINITION.** Distinguished Research Associate - A former Langley federal employee who is a member of the scientific or academic community and is nationally and/or internationally recognized as a result of distinguished contributions to the scientific or technical community. This person will conduct his/her independent research effort based upon an agreement with LaRC (LF 111, "Langley Distinguished Research Associate (DRA) Memorandum of Agreement"). This agreement must be entered into prior to performing any research services (the authority to accept gifts of services is under the Space Act, 51 U.S.C. § 20113(d), but a DRA agreement is not considered a Space Act Agreement). The research services may not consist of a violation of the "Anti-Deficiency Act" (31 U.S.C. 1342). The Distinguished Research Associate, by entering into the agreement, offers his/her expertise "gratuitously" without expectation of compensation, either when the research is performed or at a later point.

2. APPLICABILITY

The program is:

a. Limited to former Center employees who are widely recognized in their field and have made significant contributions to scientific or technical programs.

b. Intended to give a uniquely qualified researcher the opportunity to pursue a technical activity of potential interest to the aerospace community. This activity should normally be one which is within this Center's roles and missions but not currently funded.

c. Not intended to cover student volunteer services (under 5 U.S.C. § 3111) and gratuitous services by persons not meeting the criteria for the DRA program. Students should be referred to the Office of Human Capital Management (OHCM) (Student Volunteer Service Program Manager, Workforce Management and Policy Office (B405)); LaRC managers considering other requests must coordinate with OHCM and the Office of Chief Counsel.

3. AUTHORITY

a. The National Aeronautics and Space Act, 51 U.S.C. § 20113(d).

4. APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS AND FORMS

a. 31 U.S.C 1342, Anti-Deficiency Act.

b. LF 111, "Langley Distinguished Research Associate (DRA) Memorandum of Agreement."

5. RESPONSIBILITY

a. Senior Scientist. The Senior Scientist is the approving official and may authorize extensions of DRA appointments after concurrence of the appropriate Organizational Unit Manager.

b. Organizational Unit Manager (OUM). Application is made through the Office of the Senior Scientist and requires OUM sponsorship and approval.

6. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

None

7. MEASUREMENT/VERIFICATION

None

8. CANCELLATION

LAPD 1300.4, dated June 28, 2004.

Original signed on file

Stephen G. Jurczyk
Center Director

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