

Mark Allen Named NASA DCMA Employee of the Year for Safety and Mission Assurance Directorate

By Mike Coburn
DCMA ATK Launch Systems

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration selected Mark Allen, Marshall Space Flight Center, as the NASA Defense Contract Management Agency Employee of the Year for the Safety and Mission Assurance Directorate.

Allen is an aeronautical engineer assigned to DCMA NASA Product Operations.

Allen received the award at a DCMA NPO all-hands meeting in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the reusable solid rocket motor program. Air Force Col. Ray Harris, DCMA NPO commander, hosted the ceremony, which included Dave Spacek, representing the Marshall Space Flight Center and DCMA Director Charlie Williams, Jr.

Allen was a key player in the long-term continuous improvement of flight hardware and was recognized for his superior work evaluating non-conformances, participating on material review boards and performing robust engineering analyses ensuring program suppliers made effective corrective actions. Additionally, his investigations of machining errors and processing mishaps

during production operations contributed significantly to safe NASA operations.

A retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, Allen spent the majority of his service career in flight and ground testing of aeronautical systems, including the F-15E, Tri-Service Standoff Attack Missile, Combat Edge flight suit ensemble, molecular sieve oxygen generating system and numerous classified programs supporting the F-16 aircraft.

Following his retirement from the Air Force, Allen served as a consultant to the Department of Energy supporting numerous activities, including the authorization safety basis

Program, where he was an investigator, reviewer and author of multiple documented safety analyses for several of the Los Alamos National Laboratory subcritical experiments. Allen was also a consultant to the National Enrichment Facility, supporting them in acquiring certification from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for operation of a nuclear refinement plant.

Allen joined DCMA in March 2008. He and his wife, Deborah, reside in Box Elder County, Utah, and are the proud parents of eight children: Joseph, Jamie, Chaz, Jacob, Chance, Christy, Kage and Stephen. 



(Left to right) Defense Contract Management Agency Director Charlie Williams, Jr., Mark Allen, and Dave Spacek, Marshall Space Flight Center representative, display Allen's NASA DCMA Employee of the Year Award after being presented the award at a DCMA NPO all-hands meeting. (Photo by Al Guzinski, DCMA NPO Mission Assistance Group)