

### ABSTRACT AND BIOGRAPHY

#### What Good is a HQ Program Executive?

The Science Mission Directorate (SMD) at NASA HQ has designated the Program Executive (PE) as the key technical point of contact for SMD's projects. The PE's roles and responsibilities are not adequately addressed in NPR 7120.5D, but are delegated from the MDAA and designed to enable the MDAA to complete their roles, as stated in 7120.5D Table 3-1. While the SMD Management Handbook is rather more generous in describing the roles and responsibilities of the PE, there is still much controversy and misunderstanding - even among the ranks of the HQ PEs themselves - about the duties and benefits of the position to NASA project and program management and the true level of responsibility inherent in the position. In this presentation, we will quickly review the officially assigned duties of the PE and then attempt to better characterize for the project management audience the dual persona of the PE as both the HQ advocate for the project, but also "The Enforcer" of NASA project management rules and requirements. We also will recommend how interactions with your mission PE might be appropriately conducted and could actually benefit your project endeavors. Our objective is to enable project managers to become more comfortable in communications with their project's assigned PE to the advantage of the project and their team's interaction with NASA program management processes. We also hope to learn how HQ PEs could increase their value to project teams and highlight that the main objective of the PE is your mission's success.

**Lindley Johnson**  
*Program Executive*  
NASA Headquarters

Lindley Johnson is assigned to NASA HQ Science Mission Directorate, Planetary Science Division, as Lead Program Executive for the Discovery Program of mid-class Solar System exploration missions. Previously, he was the Program Executive for NASA's Deep Impact mission to comet Tempel 1, launched January 2005 to deliver an impact probe on July 4, 2005 to explore the comet's composition and interior structure. The Discovery Program has two ongoing missions in flight - one to the planet Mercury and the other to the large asteroids Vesta and Ceres - and another in development. Lindley has received NASA's Exceptional Achievement Medal for his work on comet and asteroid missions. Prior to joining NASA he served 23 years on Air Force active duty, obtained the rank of lieutenant colonel while working a variety of national security space systems, and received 15 major individual or unit awards.

**Joan Salute**  
*Program Executive*  
NASA Headquarters

Joan Salute is a senior technical manager with 30 years of experience in NASA projects. Her current position in the NASA HQ Planetary Sciences Division includes serving as the lead Program Executive (PE) for the Lunar Quest Program, and PE for both the Lunar Atmosphere and Dust Environment Explorer (LADEE) and Radiation Belt Storm Probes (RBSP) Projects.

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Previously, Joan has led agency wide teams to respond to a Presidential Commission and direction of the NASA Associate Administrator. During 23 years at the NASA Ames Research Center her expertise grew from earth science research, to science management, to project management, to technical organization management. Joan managed two flight projects to demonstrate the performance of ultra-high temperature thermal protection materials; projects to market and commercialize NASA developed technology; and commercial applications of remote sensing projects, including a project with Robert Mondavi Winery and a commercial potato grower.

#### **Adriana Ocampo Uria**

*Program Executive*

NASA Headquarters

Adriana Ocampo Uria, with over 30 years of flight mission experience, is assigned at NASA Headquarters Science Mission Directorate, in the Planetary Science Division as the Lead Program Executive of the New Frontiers Program, which includes the Juno mission to Jupiter in development, and the New Horizons mission in flight to Pluto. Also as the Lead Venus Program Scientist she is responsible for NASA's collaboration in ESA's Venus Express mission, and the Venus Exploration Analysis Group (VEXAG), which develops strategic plans and assessments for the exploration of that planet.