

REMARKS FOR ACTING ADMINISTRATOR ROBERT LIGHTFOOT
As Prepared
CLOSING LANGLEY CENTENNIAL SYMPOSIUM
July 13, 2017

Thank you for inviting me to join you for this celebration. I know you've had two full days of wonderful discussions and celebration, and I'm happy to add my two cents, although I think most of the experts have already weighed in.

As NASA's Acting Administrator, I can tell you that Langley has played an extraordinary role in NASA's history, as you know doubt have heard. And it's integral to our future.

I remember feeling this center's influence long before I probably even knew it, from being aware of the exploits of the Mercury 7 astronauts as a very young person, to being awed along with the rest of the world by the first images sent back from Mars by Viking.

From X to Y, what's going on here now.

Future

As a former center director, I can also tell you I know how hard it is to balance the needs of NASA with the expertise and resources of a center, and I salute all those here who have led Langley in recent years, as well as those who have led this innovative center for technological advancement throughout its century of life.

Partnerships
Corporate

You simply can't tell the full story of America's adventures in air and space without talking about Langley.

The early advances in aeronautics that emerged from the lab helped our nation — and the world — travel higher, farther and faster. New Langley-designed wind tunnels gave aeronautical engineers the data they needed to improve aircraft, giving our nation an edge in the skies that helped win World War II.

America's human spaceflight program began at Langley, and our nation's first astronauts, the Mercury 7, trained there. Humanity's first successful journey to Mars, the Viking 1 robotic landing in 1976, was managed by Langley.

Atmospheric sciences work there began in the 1970s and evolved to the point where Langley's expertise in Earth-observing technology is recognized around the globe.

Every day at Langley — and across our agency — hard work by the NASA team makes a real difference in our country and around the world. What we do inspires the next

generation, injects innovation into our economy and addresses national challenges. Each of you, every day, is helping to create that future.

Langley's director Dave Bowles likes to say that this centennial is truly everyone's celebration. Dave's right. Everyone has been touched in one way or another by the ideas that have emerged from this historic laboratory in Virginia.

However, just as exciting as our past is the work being done today. Current projects range from wind tunnel tests of the Space Launch System and development of Orion's Launch Abort System, to important work on autonomous systems, and efforts to muffle sonic booms and restore supersonic flight over land. An Earth science team at Langley is preparing for the CERES FM6 instrument to launch later this year, giving researchers another tool to study reflected sunlight and thermal radiation emitted by the Earth.

This week, Langley will mark its centennial with a symposium where aerospace historians and experts from across government, industry and academia will take stock of past successes and illuminate challenges ahead.

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Thank Langley workforce. NASA salutes you.