



Preface

Congress established the Commission on the Future of the United States Aerospace Industry in Section 1092 of the fiscal year (FY) 2001 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L.106-398). The Commission was established as a Federal Advisory Committee under the Executive Office of the President, National Science and Technology Council. The purpose of the Commission is to “study the issues associated with the future of the U.S. aerospace industry in the global economy, and the industry’s future importance to the economic and national security of the United States.” The twelve commissioners, appointed by the President and the Congress, are experts representing the breadth of aerospace issues and stakeholders. The President designated the Honorable Robert S. Walker as Chairman.

The Commission defines the U.S. aerospace sector as the sum of those activities needed to develop, operate, and/or use aerospace capabilities, including the activities of commercial enterprises and government—from general aviation to space exploration,

and from civil transport to national security. The human capital, national infrastructure and research needed to support these activities were also considered to be key elements of the sector.

From November 27, 2001, through November 18, 2002, the Commission held six public meetings, received public testimony from over 60 witnesses, and issued three interim reports outlining its preliminary findings and recommendations. The Commission visited Europe and Asia to meet with leaders from their aerospace sectors and learn about their issues and future plans.

The Commission staff gathered information about the aerospace sector from over one hundred government, industry, labor, university and non-governmental organizations. The Commission also created a website to share information about the Commission with the public. It received over 150,000 inquiries during the life of the Commission.

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Commissioners Walker, Tyson and Stevens in Soyuz Simulator, Star City, Russia.

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Commission meeting May 14, 2002
Department of Commerce Auditorium