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TANNER NAMED DIRECTOR SPACE STATION FREEDOM PROGRAM

E. Ray Tanner has been named director of the Space Station Freedom Program Office, effective Jan. 3, 1989, James B. Odom, associate administrator for the space station program, announced today.

Tanner succeeds Thomas L. Moser who was appointed deputy associate administrator for space station effective December 1.

Tanner will direct the Space Station Freedom Program Office, Reston, Va., which is responsible for the overall technical direction and content of the space station, including systems engineering and analysis, configuration management, budgeting and schedules.

The international space station complex, being developed by the United States, nine European countries, Japan and Canada, will permit establishment of a permanent human presence in Earth orbit and includes unmanned scientific platforms placed into polar orbits.

Tanner currently serves as manager of the Space Station Projects Office, Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, Ala., a post he has held since August 1988. Prior to that, he was deputy director for space systems in the Science and Engineering Directorate.

Tanner joined the Marshall center in 1960. At Marshall, Tanner has held key management positions, including chief engineer for the Spacelab program from 1979 until 1983 and deputy manager of the Spacelab Program Office from 1983 until 1986. He was named associate director for space systems in the Science and Engineering Directorate in December 1986, responsible for assuring engineering adequacy of the space station, Hubble Space Telescope, Advanced X-Ray Astrophysics Facility, payloads integrated into the Spacelab orbital laboratory and other payloads assigned to the Marshall center.

Prior to joining NASA, Tanner worked in the flight control division, Army Ballistic Missile Agency, Redstone Arsenal. He was born in Decatur, Ala., in 1934 and received a bachelor of science degree in mathematics from Athens College, Ala., in 1965. He was awarded the NASA Exceptional Service Medal in 1983.

Tanner is married to the former Mary Zinsmeister of Cullman, Ala. They have three sons.

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