WILHITE PRESENTED NASA EXCEPTIONAL ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

Alan W. Wilhite was awarded a NASA Exceptional Engineering Achievement Medal March 27 at the Honor Awards Ceremony at NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va.

He received the award "for outstanding engineering contributions to the formulation, development, and implementation of state-of-the-art engineering design and analysis capability for advanced space transportation systems."

Wilhite began his Langley career in 1969 as a student in the cooperative studies program. In July 1973 he entered on duty as an aerospace engineer. Beginning in Aug. 1987, he served at Wright Patterson Air Force Base as Director of Base Technology, National Aero-Space Plane. He returned to Langley in Sept. 1988 as Assistant Head, Vehicle Analysis Branch, Advanced Vehicles Division, advancing to head of the branch in Jan. 1990. He is presently Assistant Chief, Advanced Vehicles Division, where he serves as the Center focal point for high-speed research programs, and manages multidisciplinary advanced supersonic and subsonic systems studies. His specialized fields of work are multidisciplinary vehicle design and aerodynamics.

Wilhite is the author or co-author of seven technical papers and 19 referenceable oral presentations, and is a member of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.
In addition to his present award he has received an Outstanding Leadership Award, three Special Achievement Awards, and three Group Achievement Awards.

A native of Portsmouth, Va., he graduated from Norview High School In Norfolk, Va. in 1968. He received a bachelor of science degree in aerospace engineering from North Carolina State University in 1973 and a master of science degree in aerospace engineering from George Washington University in 1976. He received a doctorate in aerospace engineering from North Carolina State University in 1983.

Wilhite and his wife Patricia have two sons, and live in Newport News, Va.