



U.S. Department
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David A. Gerlach
Senior Air & Space Accident Investigator

David Gerlach began his career with the FAA September 2005 in the Office of Commercial Space Transportation as an Aerospace Engineer/Safety Inspector and later become the Mishap Program Manager. He is currently in the Office of Aviation Safety as a Senior Air & Space Accident Investigator, Safety Inspector, and Senior Technical Advisor on Commercial Space Transportation.

Before coming to the FAA, Gerlach was an Airline Transport Pilot with two air carriers. In this role, Captain Gerlach was a line pilot, instructor pilot, check-airman, and program manager. As a program manager, he was responsible for the safety and operational performance of flight operations, as well as pilot training, crew resources, crew scheduling, and FAA regulatory compliance. Mr. Gerlach is also an FAA Certificated Airframe and Powerplant Mechanic.

Prior to his aviation career, he was employed as an Aerospace Engineer at NASA – Johnson Space Center for 13 years in the Space Shuttle and International Space Station Programs. Gerlach served as a Mission Evaluation Room (MER) Manager during Space Shuttle Missions and also a Vehicle Integration Test Team (VITT) Engineer and Lead in the Flight Crew Operations Directorate.

Mr. Gerlach resides in Fredericksburg, Virginia with his wife Patricia and their two college students, Christina and Kyle.