

# NASA's Planetary Defense Efforts

*Lindley Johnson*

NASA



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NASA and its partners maintain a watch for near-Earth objects (NEOs), asteroids and comets that pass within Earth's vicinity, as part of an ongoing effort to discover, catalog, and characterize these bodies and to determine if any pose an impact threat. NASA's Planetary Defense Coordination Office (PDCO) is responsible for:

- Ensuring the early detection of potentially hazardous objects (PHOs)
- Tracking and characterizing PHOs and issuing warnings about potential impacts;
- Providing timely and accurate communications about PHOs; and
- Performing as a lead coordination node in U.S. Government planning for response to an actual impact threat.

The PDCO collaborates with other U.S. Government agencies, other national and international agencies, and astronomers around the world. The PDCO also is responsible for facilitating communications between the science community and the public should any potentially hazardous NEO be discovered. In addition, the PDCO works closely with the United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. This talk will provide an overview of NASA's various planetary defense efforts.



## **About Lt. Col (Ret.) Lindley Johnson:**

Lindley Johnson graduated from the University of Kansas in 1980 with a BA in Astronomy and a commission from Air Force ROTC. He also has an MS degree in Engineering Management from the University of Southern California. He is now assigned to NASA Headquarters Science Mission Directorate, Planetary Science Division, as the Lead Program Executive for the Planetary Defense Coordination Office and the NASA Planetary Defense Officer. Prior to NASA he served 23 years of Air Force active duty, obtained the rank of lieutenant colonel and numerous military awards and decorations while working on a variety of national security space systems. Lindley has received NASA's Exceptional Achievement Medal for his work on comet and asteroid missions. Asteroid 5905 (1989 CJ1) is named "Johnson" to recognize Lindley's efforts in detecting Near Earth Objects.

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