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COMPTON NAMED AMES RESEARCH CENTER DIRECTOR

NASA Administrator Richard H. Truly today named Dale L. Compton as Director of the NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, Calif. Compton's appointment becomes effective on December 20, the 50th anniversary of the center's groundbreaking.

Compton, who succeeds Dr. William F. Ballhaus, has been Acting Director since Ballhaus' resignation on July 15.

Compton previously served as Acting Director for the Center from February 1988 to January 1989. He served as Deputy Director of Ames with line management responsibility for the center's facilities, personnel and programs from 1985 to 1988 and from January through July 15, 1989.

As Director, Compton will be responsible for all research and development programs and the overall management of the Ames Research Center at Moffett Field and the Ames-Dryden Flight Research Facility at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. Ames-Moffett and Ames-Dryden, which have more than 5,000 employees, conduct research and development programs in the fields of aeronautics, life science, space science, space technology and flight research.

Compton's professional career has been spent with NASA Ames where he served as a research scientist for 15 years and published over 25 papers on aerodynamic and aerothermodynamic subjects. He also has served as Deputy Director, Astronautics; Chief, Space Science Division; Manager, IRAS Telescope Project office; and Director, Engineering and Computer Systems at the Center.

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Compton was educated at Stanford University where he received a B.S. degree in 1957, an M.S. in 1958 and a Ph.D. in aeronautical engineering in 1969. He was a Sloan Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology from 1974 to 1975 and attended the Harvard Advanced Management Program in 1986. He has received the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal and is a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

Compton and his wife, Marilyn, have two children. They reside in Cupertino, Calif.

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