

Quarterly issues, USAF Report on the Ballistic Missile, Doubleday, Garden City, N.Y., and Man in Space, Duell, Sloan and Pearce, New York; and the 1961 Air Force Blue Book, Military Publishing Institute, Inc., New York.

"I CONSIDER THE INFORMATION FUNCTION ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT IN THE AIR FORCE. Without a professional, active and enlightened information program, many of the major advancements in military aviation would never have been realized. Further, I am convinced that aggressive information actions are essential to the USAF position as the primary deterrent to war in the world today."—General Thomas S. Power, Commander in Chief, SAC.

(Signed) E. B. LeBAILLY
E. B. LeBAILLY
Brigadier General, USAF
Deputy Director of Information

AIR FORCE INFORMATION POLICY LETTER FOR COMMANDERS

From Office of the Secretary of the Air Force

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NASA-USAF COOPERATION. Under the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, the management of the Nation's space activities is assigned to two agencies—NASA and the Department of Defense. Through a spirit of teamwork and coordination at policy and working levels these two agencies cooperate to produce a unified national effort.

Overall Department of Defense cooperation with NASA is monitored by a board established last September. Called the Aeronautics and Astronautics Coordinating Board, it reviews planning to avoid duplication; coordinates activities of common interest; identifies problems requiring solution by either NASA or DOD and insures a steady exchange of information.

DOD's Director of Research and Engineering and NASA's Deputy Administrator are co-chairmen. Top management level personnel from all space and aeronautics elements of DOD and NASA are represented in the board membership.

Within the Department of Defense the Air Force considers that it has the primary defense interest in space operations because of the unique capabilities developed to fulfill its function to "gain and maintain general air supremacy" which requires operations at any altitude.

From NASA's beginning, in 1958, Air Force-NASA cooperation has been close and mutually beneficial. As a matter of fact, NACA, NASA's predecessor had worked closely with the Air Force, the Navy and the aircraft industry for forty-three years, contributing to American supremacy in aviation.

The Air Force agrees with NASA that there should be a clearer realization, both in this country and throughout the world, that the United States has a single space exploration program administered by NASA; and that activities in the space environment related to national defense devolve from the responsibilities of the Defense Department for the defense of the Nation, and clearly must be managed by the Department of Defense. Air Force activity in space projects is devoted solely to the latter. These projects include responsibility for providing military booster systems integration and launching operations to meet the needs of the Army and Navy as well as the Air Force (See Policy Letter Nos. 17 and 18, 1960).

Although each agency has a different sphere of responsibility, both NASA and the Air Force contribute to each other's program.

NASA's contributions to Air Force advancement in aerospace, as well as to other agencies, are many-fold. The people of NASA (or its predecessor, NACA) have made their indelible mark on such vital projects as the X-15, Dyna-Soar, B-70, the "blunt nose principle" for reentry vehicles; and the "coke-bottle" effect in aerodynamics.

Similarly, the Air Force has contributed heavily to NASA's effort through its research and development on propulsion, guidance, control, techniques and hardware incident to the Air Force ballistic missile programs. For example, the Air Force has contributed to NASA's Project Mercury by means of the Air Force's Atlas boosters and its large-scale program in aerospace medicine. The Air Force and the other Services have provided astronauts for this program.