

EDITOR'S NOTE

In early January 1992, Lieutenant General Thomas S. Moorman, vice commander of Air Force Space Command, called me to his office to discuss a project he had in mind. Specifically, he asked me to look into the possibility of having the Office of Air Force History prepare a history of the Air Force's role in space since its beginnings shortly after World War II. In March 1993, General Moorman and I met with Dr. Richard Hallion, Chief of Air Force History, in his office at Bolling AFB, Washington, D.C. General Moorman outlined the project to Dr. Hallion and several of his staff members. What General Moorman proposed was not only visionary but also hard to do. He wanted a comprehensive academic-quality book that would, for the first time, put into an unclassified text a survey history of the entire range of activities conducted by the Air Force in space. Not only did he request a high quality study but he wanted it written in less than three years and published as soon after completion as possible. After discussing several ways of producing the book in-house at the Office of Air Force history, Dr. Hallion suggested contracting-out the writing of the history to a qualified historian and author. Although the Office of Air Force History had a dedicated historian who managed contract histories, Mr. R. Cargill Hall, Dr. Hallion had a different managerial scheme in mind for this project. He proposed that the Air Force Space Command History Office, of which I was Chief, manage the contract to ensure timeliness and quality as well as ensure that the author selected had access to all the materials

necessary to complete the project. Although I had never managed a project of this nature, I felt that retaining control at Headquarters Air Force Space Command would be of considerable benefit since much of the documentation and corporate memory on the subject resided at the headquarters. Moreover, I felt that by keeping the book's management in Colorado Springs, I could ensure that the study would remain faithful to the goals and expectations of the leadership of the command who had generously agreed to fund the project.

I would like to make the first of many acknowledgments at this point. This project simply would not be as it is without the guiding hand of General Moorman. He not only conceived the idea for the book and set its initial direction, but he also spent many hours with me explaining the history of the Air Force in space. General Moorman, an historian himself, if he had the time, could certainly have authored this study. As it was, he patiently worked with me to develop a project outline that eventually become the basis for the content portion of the contract's statement of work. I owe a great debt of gratitude to General Moorman who not only gave me his vision of the Air Force's role in space but inspired me to tackle this project with enthusiasm and excitement.

We began the process of contracting with an author (or authors) in May 1993 and submitted a Request for Proposals (RFP) in September of that year. After releasing the RFPs we received a number of excellent proposals. I'd like to make another acknowledgment here. The contracting process is much more complicated than I ever imagined, and I developed a great deal of admiration and respect for the dedicated contracting officials at Peterson AFB's 21st Space Wing who provided the expertise to complete the contract. Unfortunately, the contracting officials had little or no experience in contracting for the writing of an academic quality history book, and we learned together the fine nuances of this unique process. What amazed me was that despite the fact that this project involved a relatively small amount of money compared to what contracting officials normally managed, they treated my small workload with as much concern and dedication as any of the other large scale and multi-million dollar tasks they normally completed. I am indebted to the 21st Contracting Squadron for the outstanding support they gave the project from the first day of work to the very final day of contract completion. In particular, I am especially indebted to two contracting officials, Ms. Geraldine Humphrey and Ms. Donna Tiernan. Their professional expertise, willingness to understand the requirements and standards I insisted on, and patience were critical to the success of this endeavor. "Gerry" Humphrey worked with me from the beginning to the end of the project, and I am grateful for her constant support and interest.

Selecting a contractor was no easy task as both Ms. Humphrey and Ms. Tiernan warned me. The selection team that assisted me was invaluable. Mr. R. Cargill Hall of the Office of Air Force History and Dr. Rick Sturdevant of the Air Force Space Command History Office spent many hours reviewing and evaluating proposals.

I can not overestimate Mr. Hall's help as his experience in contracting historical studies at the Office of Air Force History was invaluable at all stages of this project. Dr. Sturdevant's knowledge of space history and his wide-ranging publication record ensured that I had an expert's breadth of knowledge in selecting the correct contractor. After many months of work, the contract was finally awarded in December 1993 to Dr. David N. Spires who teaches history at the University of Colorado in Boulder. Dr. Spires was uniquely qualified. As an Air Force officer he taught history at the Air Force Academy, and he has also authored a number of books on Air Force history as a contract author for the Office of Air Force History. He not only proved to be an able writer, but has demonstrated a real personal interest in the successful completion of this project.

Both the Foreword and Preface have given amplification to the nature of this study. I would like to add that this work was completed on schedule and as budgeted. This was accomplished in no small measure because of the dedication of a number of people, many of whom I have already named. I would like to acknowledge several others who may not have been mentioned previously. Lieutenant Colonel William Semmler, an Individual Mobilization Augmentee assigned to Air Force Space Command's Directorate of History, helped select photos, edited copy, and produced the glossary and index. His several readings of the narrative assisted us in eliminating a number of errors and inconsistencies. 2nd Lieutenant Denise Bostick, a reservist working in the Directorate of History for a time, took great pains to find and reproduce a number of photos which appear in this book and assisted in a number of administrative tasks in support of its completion. Colonel Billy G. Mezell, Inspector General at Air Force Space Command, generously contributed his time and talent to create the dust jacket art. Despite an extremely busy schedule, he donated his spare time to create an artistic representation of the history of the Air Force in space. Ms. Freda Norris and Ms. Karen Martin, Editorial Assistants in the Directorate of History, accomplished numerous administrative tasks not only in the production of the book but also in the contracting process as well as the contract management aspect of this task. Freda and Karen made a much more significant contribution than their normal modesty allows them to admit. Dr. Spires has already mentioned the contributions of our three outside reviewers, Mr. R. Cargill Hall of the Office of Air Force History; Dr. Roger Launius, Chief of the NASA History Office, and Dr. Donald R. Baucom, historian for the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization. I would like to add my personal appreciation to them. They spent many hours advising me on the management of this project as well as giving Dr. Spires the benefit of their vast professional expertise in space history. I am indebted to them for their willingness to spend both their professional time and, in many cases, their personal time, to review and comment on the manuscript.

At this point, I need to acknowledge two people who have labored unceasingly to help complete this study: Dr. Rick Sturdevant and Dr. Rick Eckert. Both Dr.

Sturdevant and Dr. Eckert are Staff Historians in the Air Force Space Command Directorate of History and have worked with me since my appointment as Chief of that office in spring 1992. They are both longtime Air Force historians and have worked in Air Force Space Command for many years. Their knowledge of space history and the command has proved invaluable at every step of the way. Dr. Spires has graciously acknowledged their contributions, but I need to thank them even more. They not only spent much professional time providing research material to Dr. Spires, guiding him to other sources, and reviewing and editing the book, but have counseled me numerous times in every phase of the management of this project. They have performed jobs too numerous to name, but I would like to acknowledge specifically their contributions as Associate Editors. As Senior Editor, I chose to adopt a seminar method for reviewing each chapter. Dr. Spires agreed, and it was during these seminars, held each time Dr. Spires completed a draft chapter, that they made especially significant contributions to this projects. Their insights and comments were not only useful to Dr. Spires as he completed final chapter drafts but served to provide an historical framework that helped mold the context and subtext of the project. Dr. Sturdevant was especially critical in ensuring that many classified documents were downgraded for Dr. Spires' use. He is one of the most dedicated professionals serving in the Air Force History Program, and one can not praise his contributions enough. Dr. Eckert has been unquestionably the driving force in completing this study. He has probably read the manuscript more than any of us as an editor. It is due to his personal dedication that I have been freed from the mundane task of copy-editing. Fortunately for the project, his knowledge of space history also allowed him to make stylistic and content changes of great value to the author. Moreover, Dr. Eckert's expertise in word processing proved invaluable as he developed the layout and completed the page proofs as well as the electronic final "disk" copy of the book. He worked diligently to ensure that all aspects of the printing process were completed with the highest standards. His work with the Defense Printing Service was critical to the timely production of this volume. This book would not have been possible without the dedicated services of my two colleagues, Dr. Sturdevant and Dr. Eckert, and I thank them for their dedication, professionalism, and advice that was given freely throughout this long four-year process.

I also need thank the headquarters staff who supported the Directorate of History's efforts to produce this study. A special thanks goes to the Director of Field Support, Colonel Robert Koenig, who as Chairman of the command's 50th Anniversary Committee, ensured that funds were available to print this book. So many staff members at the headquarters provided support toward the completion of this study that it is impossible to name them all. I would, however, like to especially thank those staff members who read the manuscript as part of the security and policy review process overseen by the command's Directorate of Public Affairs.

Most importantly, a project of this nature can not be successfully concluded without support from the top. From the first day this project began, the leadership at Air Force Space Command has provided unfailing support both in terms of funding and managerial guidance. I would especially like to thank the two Vice Commanders who supported this project in every phase of its accomplishment: Lieutenant General Thomas S. Moorman, Jr. and Lieutenant General Patrick P. Caruana. They provided leadership to ensure the project was appropriately supported, and their personal interest inspired all those participating in the effort. I would also like to thank the commanders of Air Force Space Command, each of whom in turn never wavered in their support and interest for this study: General Charles A. Horner, General Joseph W. Ashy, and General Howell M. Estes III. Their comments and advice each time I briefed the project to them were always positive and frequently insightful.

Finally, while Air Force Space Command has provided funding and support for the completion of this study, the command has exercised only security and policy review of the manuscript. The content and conclusions are solely those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Directorate of History, Air Force Space Command, or the United States Air Force.

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