Schriever Wall of Honor Ceremony



9 JUNE 2016

Schriever Courtyard Space & Missile Systems Center Los Angeles Air Force Base, California

Schriever Wall of Honor

In 2007 the Air Force Associations' Schriever Chapter 147, with support from industry partners, sponsored and commissioned the Statue of General Bernard A. Schriever that you see before you. In November 2007, the Space & Missile Systems Center dedicated the Statue and Wall as the General Schriever Memorial. The 60th SMC Anniversary in 2014 was chosen as the initial occasion to recognize some of the earliest pioneers who have made tremendous contributions to our community by adding their names to the Schriever Wall of Honor. Every year additional pioneers are chosen to have their names added to the Schriever Wall of Honor. The 2016 Honorees are The Honorable Trevor Gardner, Col Asa B. Gibbs, Dr. John A. Jamieson, Dr. James E. Lipp, Col Charles G. ("Moose") Mathison, and Dr. George A. Paulikas.



General Schriever Memorial Space & Missile Systems Center Los Angeles Air Force Base, California

Honorable Trevor Gardner



Trevor Gardner is best known as the inspiration and energy behind the U.S. strategic missile program of the 1950s. In 1953, he joined the Eisenhower administration as the Air Force Special Assistant for Research and Development. Although under direction to reduce the cost of missile development programs, Gardner believed correctly that the Soviet Union was rapidly overtaking the U.S. in the development of strategic missiles. He chartered the Strategic Missiles Evaluation Committee (the "Teapot" Committee) to evaluate the progress of strategic missile programs and make recommendations to accelerate them.

Development of the Atlas ICBM was severely delayed by unachievable requirements, poor management, and low priority. The committee's report in 1954 said that it would be possible to produce an operational Atlas ICBM by 1960 using advanced thermo-nuclear warheads. However, a new agency free of "excessive detailed regulation" would have to be created to manage the project. Convinced by Gardner and the committee, the Air Force implemented the recommendations by creating the Western Development Division, SMC's original ancestor, to manage the ICBM program with Brigadier General Bernard Schriever as its commander. Gardner and Schriever also convinced President Eisenhower to assign the highest national priority to the Atlas program.

Gardner resigned in 1956 because he felt that the ICBM program's priority was being eroded, but he participated in a number of important commissions under the Kennedy administration dealing with space and arms control. At the time of his death in 1963, he was a major participant in a pioneering Air Force planning initiative called Project Forecast.

Colonel Asa B. Gibbs



Col Asa Gibbs' career embodied early ballistic missile and space vehicle testing. As a lieutenant colonel, he commanded what was then called Cape Canaveral Auxiliary AFB during the early 1950s. He was the first director of tests for the new Air Force Missile Test Center at Cape Canaveral, and he initiated many of the later-standard launch procedures. The first U.S. ballistic missile—the Army's Redstone IRBM—was launched in 1953 under Gibbs' command, as were Air Force strategic cruise missiles such as the Snark and Navaho.

He was assigned as the Air Force team member for the Navy's Project Vanguard, planned as the first U.S. satellite. After an initial launch failure, it became the second successful U.S. satellite on March 17, 1958. Gibbs was a vital participant in Vanguard planning and launch, and he gathered important lessons for later Air Force space and missile programs.

General Bernard Schriever assigned him as deputy director of the Atlas program. When the Advanced Research Projects Agency asked Schriever to undertake Project SCORE, the world's first communications satellite, he appointed Gibbs to manage it. Under severe security constraints, Gibbs secretly diverted an Atlas test missile, integrated the Army's communications payload, and launched it into orbit from Cape Canaveral. Later, he conducted the longest Atlas missile flight test, 9,000 miles downrange to the Indian Ocean, proving the missile's long-range capability.

Gibbs was assigned to NASA in 1960 to direct test support at the Atlantic Missile Range, which he did both before and after his retirement from the Air Force in the mid-1960s.

Dr. John A. Jamieson



At Aerojet General Corporation during the 1960s, Jamieson led a team working on the development of sensors and data processing for a new system of missile detection satellites which finally became known as the Defense Support Program (DSP). Jamieson and fellow Aerojet engineer Robert Richards worked out what has been called the "elegant solution" to the MIDAS system's major problems of mechanical friction caused by the rotating telescopes and the satellites' limited field of view at an orbit of only 2,000 miles. The new satellites would instead rotate in space around their vertical axes at geosynchronous orbit, causing the telescope and IR sensors to sweep around the entire visible hemisphere. DSP, first launched in 1970, was the first military satellite system to operate from geosynchronous altitude.

In the early 1970s, Jamieson spent several years as the assistant director for research in the U.S. Army's Advanced Ballistic Missile Defense Agency, applying cryogenically cooled IR optical technology to the Army's ABM systems.

Later, he was one of 50 distinguished experts who participated in the Defensive Technologies Study Team chartered by President Reagan in 1983 to define efforts necessary to abolish ICBMs. Jamieson worked on the Sensors Panel and contributed to the team's report in 1984, called the Fletcher Study. It was the foundation for the Strategic Defense Initiative, the ancestor of the present Ballistic Missile Defense Agency. Jamieson chaired the Independent Science and Engineering Group and contributed to national ballistic missile defense efforts for many years, paving the way for missile detection programs under SDI that evolved into SMC's SBIRS programs.

Dr. James E. Lipp



Dr. James E. Lipp was one of the first four staff members of Project RAND, part of Douglas Aircraft. He later became the head of RAND Corporation's Aerospace Division. He was the major contributor to RAND's first report, "Preliminary Design of a World-Circling Spaceship." It was issued in 1946 at the request of Gen Curtis LeMay to establish the service's claim to the mission area of space. The report was the basis of technical studies by RAND over the next decade which gradually built up concepts for a military satellite and its supporting systems.

Lipp was one of the primary authors of the first RAND study of reconnaissance satellites in particular, called "Utility of a Satellite Vehicle for Reconnaissance," issued in 1951. It provided feasibility studies and preliminary engineering analysis for space-based photographic reconnaissance, and it led to initial Air Force interest and continued Air Force funding for studies of a reconnaissance satellite.

Lipp was a major contributor to the most detailed and influential RAND satellite study, called "Project Feed Back." It included analysis, discussion, and recommendations about feasibility and requirements for a reconnaissance satellite. It led directly to the creation of the first Air Force satellite program office, formed within Air Materiel Command's Wright Air Development Center to oversee the continuing RAND studies and related studies by other contractors. This embryonic program office was transferred in 1955 to the Western Development Division, which selected the first development contractor in 1956 for the brainchild of James Lipp and his colleagues at RAND.

Colonel Charles G. ("Moose") Mathison



In 1955, Charles Mathison was a nuclear project officer at Kirtland AFB when then-Brigadier General Bernard Schriever had him reassigned to the Western Development Division. Schriever asked Mathison to go to Patrick AFB, stand up the first Air Force missile test wing, and build the first ballistic missile test facilities. Over the next few years, Mathison successfully laid the foundations for the later Eastern Test Range.

In 1959, Schriever asked him to go to the Lockheed satellite control facility, stand up the 6594th Test Wing, and build the first operational Air Force satellite control node. After doing so, Mathison moved the Test Wing to Sunnyvale in 1960 and began the construction of the new satellite control facilities that became the Blue Cube, the Air Force Satellite Control Facility, and Sunnyvale AFS (later, Onizuka AFS).

Mathison also oversaw early efforts to recover reconnaissance capsules from orbit. The reentry capsule from the Discoverer 13 mission was the first man-made object ever recovered from orbit and a dress rehearsal for recovering reconnaissance film. When it was picked up from the ocean by a Navy ship in August 1960, Mathison immediately helicoptered out to the ship and took control of the capsule. After flying it to Andrews AFB, he was joined for photographs by Air Force and political leaders. The climax was a press conference at the White House with President Eisenhower celebrating one of the earliest U.S. successes in space.

Mathison later commanded the Thor-launched ASAT program on Johnston Island and the base wing at Kirtland AFB.

Dr. George A. Paulikas



The career of Dr. George Paulikas epitomizes the best of the Aerospace Corporation's work in the 20th century. He joined Aerospace in 1961, focusing primarily on space radiation and plasma physics. He flew experiments on many early satellites to gather data on natural and manmade space radiation, and he investigated the characteristics of cosmic rays and the effects of radiation on the earth's atmosphere and ionosphere as well as on satellites.

During 1968-1981, Paulikas was the director of the corporation's Space Sciences Laboratory, with 75 scientists and engineers working on physics of the earth's atmosphere, ionosphere, and magnetosphere and applying the research to national security space programs using infrared and ultraviolet remote sensing technology. He became the corporation's vice president for Laboratory Operations, directing six laboratories working in advanced science and technology.

As senior vice president for the corporation's Development Group in the later 1980s, he played a major part in the recovery of national space programs from the Challenger disaster of 1986 and the transition to expendable launchers. He became senior vice president of the corporation's Programs Group in 1990, with technical direction of space and launch systems. He had responsibility for Aerospace's certification of 51 launches of high-priority space systems, achieving full operational capability for GPS and support for Operation Desert Storm.

He served as executive vice president of the Aerospace Corporation during 1992-1998, directing the technical and business activities of the entire corporation. Dr. Paulikas retired in 1998 but continues to serve on independent assessment teams and provide both technical and management advice.