



news release

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AIR FORCE RE-ORGANIZES FOR SPACE MISSIONS

A major re-organization, giving new emphasis to space missions, was announced today by Lieutenant General S. E. Anderson, Commander, Air Research and Development Command.

The Military Space Systems office of the Air Force Ballistic Missile Division has now been elevated to a position co-equal with that of the Ballistic Missile Systems office, currently developing the long range ballistic missile systems, ATLAS, TITAN, THOR, and MINUTEMAN. Both of these new offices will be headed by Deputy Commanders, directly responsible to the Commander of AFBMD, Major General Bernard A. Schriever, and his Vice Commander, Brigadier General O. J. Ritland.

"This is an organizational change that the Air Research and Development Command has been studying for more than a year", General Anderson said.

"It is evolutionary in nature and will provide the Air Force with a better working capability in this fast-growing field and for future research projects for which the ARDC may be assigned responsibility", he added.

The new Deputy Commander for Military Space Systems is Colonel Richard D. Curtin. Some of the projects he will be responsible for include military bio-astronautic activities and military space systems.

Colonel Curtin was graduated from West Point in 1939 and was awarded a Master of Science degree from the University of Michigan in 1950.

He served in Panama and Europe in World War II, the War Plans Division of Headquarters USAF in the Pentagon, and as Chief of Staff, Headquarters, 17th Air Force, in North Africa in 1954-56. Before his arrival in Inglewood early this year he was with Headquarters ARDC.

He has been Assistant to the Deputy Commander, Technical Operations, since February 1958.

(MORE)

Colonel Curtin's parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. Henry Curtin, live at 1938 Columbia Pike, Arlington, Virginia.

Filling the position of Deputy Commander for Ballistic Missile Systems is Colonel Charles H. Terhune, Jr. Colonel Terhune has long been associated with missile development. He was one of the small cadre of key officers that established the Ballistic Missile Division (then called Western Development Division) in a vacant church in Inglewood in August, 1954.

During the past 4 years, Colonel Terhune has served as Deputy Commander for Technical Operations.

Since his graduation from Flight School at Kelly Field in 1939, Colonel Terhune has been associated with the early development of jet aircraft, atomic, and thermonuclear weapons, and guided missiles. In between these assignments he has been associated with tours of duty with the original first pursuit group and was Commander of the 49th Fighter Group. He was one of the first Air Force officers to fly a jet aircraft during his work in the fighter branch at Wright Field in 1943.

Following his initial assignment to Guided Missile Development in 1947, he was appointed Chief of the Guided Missile Branch, Headquarters USAF in 1950. Subsequent to this assignment he was the Air Force Assistant to the Director of Guided Missiles, Department of Defense, where he helped formulate national guided missile policies and continuously reviewed the programs for the three Services.

Colonel Terhune was born in Dayton, Ohio, May 7, 1916. He was graduated from Purdue University with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1938 and received an advanced degree in Aeronautical Engineering from the California Institute of Technology in June 1941.

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