

Farewell



IT seems like only yesterday but it was 23 years ago in 1969 that I received a telephone call from the late Dr. Gordon Dugger, Editor-in-Chief and founder of the *Journal of Spacecraft and Rockets*, asking me if I would serve as an Associate Editor of that journal. I said yes and thus began what would become an increasingly demanding, but always fascinating, continuous involvement with AIAA technical publications.

After serving as Associate Editor of the *Journal of Spacecraft and Rockets*, and a brief period on the Publications Committee, in 1975 I moved up to become the Editor-in-Chief. During the few years after I moved to this position, there was increasing interest in forming a journal dedicated to the control, navigation, guidance, astrodynamics, and dynamics communities of the AIAA. In February 1977 we published a special issue of the *Journal of Spacecraft and Rockets* dedicated to these interests as an experiment to test the viability of the concept. It seemed workable and I was asked to form a new journal while continuing to run the *Journal of Spacecraft and Rockets*. In January of 1978 we published Volume 1, Number 1 of what was then titled the *Journal of Guidance and Control*. This issue begins the fifteenth year of what has proven to be an increasingly successful operation. It is also the first year that I will not be directly involved as the Editor-in-Chief. Events in my professional life leave me with insufficient time to perform my duties properly, so I must retire after handling over 6000 manuscripts over the nearly quarter century of service as an editor.

A year ago I reported to you that I had decided it was time for me to do my civic duty by working in the government for a while. At that time I moved to Washington, D.C., to become the Deputy Director of Operational Test and Evaluation (Command, Control, Communications, and Intelligence) for the Department of Defense. This proved to be a rewarding and fascinating experience as I had the opportunity to supervise the process by which some of our most important weapon systems are tested in their operational environment. Desert Shield and Desert Storm were successfully executed during this period, making my stay even more interesting. During all of this I was able to keep up with managing this journal thanks to a combination of computer equipment at home, the wonders of direct electronic communication, the cooperation of Ms. Norma Brennan and her AIAA staff, and, most importantly, the hard work of Diane Bennett, my former secretary in Cambridge, Massachusetts. With her handling the many routine calls, paperwork, and management functions, all seemed to run smoothly in spite of our 500 mile separation.

The event that made this arrangement no longer feasible was President Bush nominating me to the post of Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition in September of last year. After hearings before the Senate Armed Services Committee, the United States Senate voted to confirm me in this position. I am now the number two acquisition official for the entire Department of Defense and, together with the Honorable Donald Yockey, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, am managing the acquisition of approximately \$130 billion of research, development, acquisition, logistics, and construction projects each year as well as being in command of six Defense Department agencies and all of its research laboratories. These duties leave no free time, even at night, to continue the time-consuming chores of serving as your Editor-in-Chief.

This journal will pass to the very experienced and capable hands of Dr. Kyle T. (Terry) Alfriend of the General Research Corporation. In addition to his 30 years of experience in government, industry, and academia, Terry has been a particularly active contributor to the AIAA. He served as an Associate Editor of this journal and as an Associate Editor and then Editor-in-Chief of the *AAS Journal of Astronautical Sciences*. He has been on the Editorial Board of the *International Journal of Celestial Mechanics* and has served as a member of the AAS Space Flight Mechanics Committee, the AIAA Guidance, Navigation, and Control Technical Committee, and the Astrodynamics Technical Committee. He has just completed a term as chairman of the Astrodynamics Committee. He has received a number of awards for his technical contributions and is a Fellow of both the AAS and the AIAA. It is with no concern that I turn over the helm to such an eminently qualified successor. I know he will do well and hope he feels some of the same satisfaction from his new position that I have garnered over the many years of my tenure.

Dr. Alfriend, on the next page, will introduce the 1992 team of Associate Editors. As my last act I want to thank all of those who have served in this capacity over my seventeen year tenure as the Editor-in-Chief of two AIAA journals. Their job is one of the hardest and thankless our technical society has to offer. Their work is largely invisible to everyone but requires many hours of detailed attention to the content of manuscripts, the choice of reviewers and the evaluation of their inputs, and the making and communicating of the fundamental decision of whether or not to publish. It often appears to be a never ending, continuous flow of paper and a responsibility to act in a timely fashion. I could not have led the evolution of this journal into a major international archival outlet without their tireless efforts.

Donald C. Fraser