

Laurels for 1968

This has been a tough year for the aerospace industry. A large portion of its total effort has been absorbed in defensive battles against the problems created by its technical impact on its social and economic environment.

Here are the people we think have made significant contributions to U.S. aerospace in this tumultuous year:

■ **Dr. Edward C. Welsh**, executive secretary of the National Aeronautics and Space Council, for his indefatigable public crusade to explain the national space program to the taxpayers.

■ **Sidney Batterson** and **Upshur Joyner** of NASA's Langley Research Center for their work in developing runway grooving as a safety device on U.S. airports.

■ **William J. Sen** of USAF's Electronic Systems Division and **Dr. Irving Gabelman**, Rome Air Development Center, for their determined efforts to explore the bold concept of an Integrated Communications, Navigation, Identification (I-CNI) system using satellites and ground terminals.

■ **Malcolm Stamper** and his "Incredibles" of the Boeing Everett division for rolling out the first 747 on time and maintaining an extremely tight development and production schedule.

■ **Capt. Walter Schirra** for climaxing his brilliant career as an astronaut in Mercury and Gemini with a flawless performance in checking out the Apollo spacecraft system on the 11-day Apollo 7 mission and displaying the tart tone of command and an abiding sense of humor that proved to all the world that astronauts are people, not supermen.

■ **Dr. Franklin F. Offner**, former head of Offner Electronics, Inc., and now professor of biophysics at Northwestern University, for winning his long and lonely court battle with the U.S. Renegotiation Board, an historic decision that established the measure of technical contribution to the defense effort as a more valid criterion than an arbitrary percentage in determining reasonable profits.

■ **Allen Pepin**, airline sales manager of Beech Aircraft Corp., for his efforts in introducing new operational concepts to the commuter airline field with the Beech 99 aircraft, computerized route planning and effective maintenance and service systems.

■ **George Spangenberg**, head of the evaluation branch, Naval Air Systems Command, for his technical perception and integrity as they have influenced development of a generation of superior Navy fighting aircraft.

■ **Gen. Creighton W. Abrams**, top U.S. military commander in Vietnam, for his imaginative control and coordination of air and ground forces since taking command last summer. These new tactics

have proved effective in thwarting attempts at Communist offensives and have given allied forces their most dominating military position in the three years of large-scale operations.

■ **Scott Crossfield**, **Thomas Oakes** and **Emil Glanz** of Eastern Airlines for their leadership in that carrier's operations of the McDonnell Douglas 188/Breguet 941 STOL transport in the congested Northeast Corridor to develop the potential of this type vehicle for the short-haul transport business.

■ **Brig. Gen. Robert Duffy** of USAF's Space and Missile Systems Organization for his technical leadership and foresight in application of advanced guidance systems to aircraft and missiles.

■ **Leslie Barnes**, president of Allegheny Airlines, for introducing new concepts of local service airline operations which create a new type of regional carrier.

■ **G. H. B. (Hig) Gould**, president, and **Richard Friel**, vice president-marketing, of Gates Aviation, for engineering the comeback of the Learjet to the top of the business jet market this year.

■ **Joe Purcell**, NASA project manager for the Orbiting Astronomical Observatory (OAO), and **Nick Sinder**, his counterpart at Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corp., for their efforts that changed a potential disaster into an operational success.

■ **Col. K. P. Rice**, Marine Corps, for developing the flexible, effective tactics that Marines are employing with the North American Rockwell OV-10A in Vietnam. In addition to its standard forward air controller role, Marines have expanded the OV-10A missions to include helicopter escort and close air support of ground troops.

■ **Lt. Gen. Sam Phillips**, for his vigorous and effective management of the Apollo program that brought it from disaster to initial operational success with the Apollo 7 mission.

■ **George Spater**, president of American Airlines, for his bold and perceptive challenge to the Civil Aeronautics Board for a new regulatory concept modernized to cope with the realities of the expanding airline marketplace.

■ **Edwin (Duke) Ducayet**, president, **Bart Kelley** and **Hans Weichsel**, vice presidents, Bell Helicopter Co., for privately financing development of the HueyCobra armed attack helicopter in the face of official Army indifference. Operations of the HueyCobra in Vietnam this year proved it was a badly needed addition to the Army's capability.

■ **Air traffic controllers** at major airports whose skillful and dogged efforts keep an obsolete and overloaded air traffic control system working in relative safety.

—**Robert Hotz**