

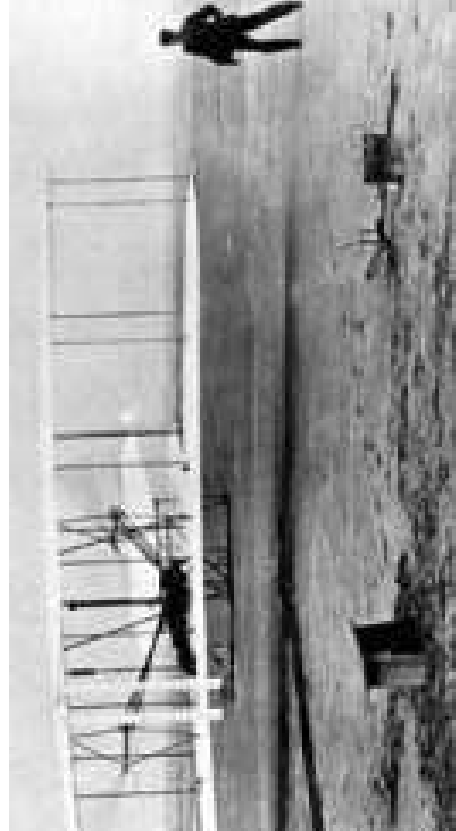
Space Policy -- Where Are We Now?

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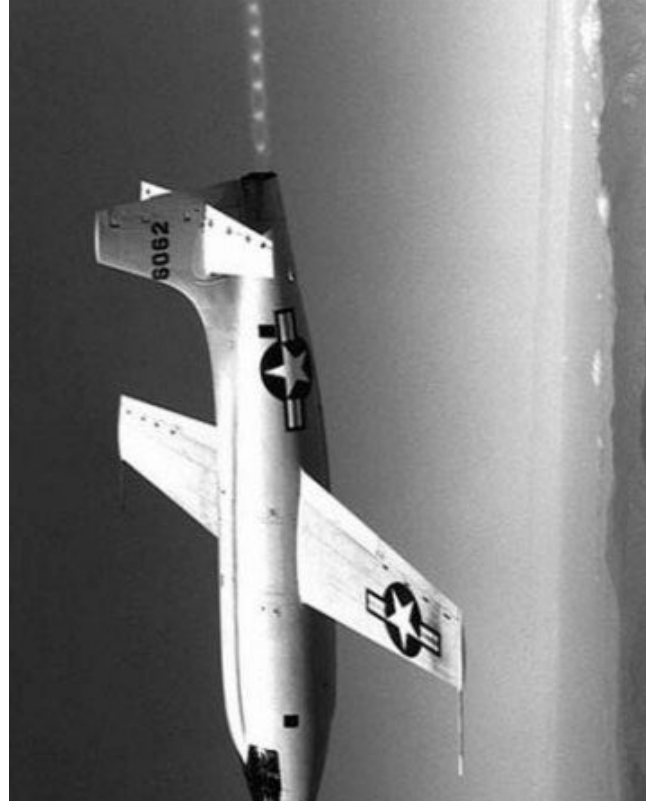
Wernher von Braun Memorial
Symposium
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Aviation After 50 Years (1953)



- Number of airports in operation: 6,237
- Number of civil aircraft: 88,544
- Number of licensed pilots: 580,574
- Number of revenue passengers carried: 24,668,950



50 Years (2011)



Number of launches: 289
Number of people who have
been to space: 529



Why the Difference?

- Some possible explanations:
 - Technical difficulty and complexity
 - Challenging environment
 - Risk
 - Cost
 - Government operation versus commercial operation

A Time of Transition

Up to this point, the government has dominated our human spaceflight activities.

Going forward, private industry will play a key role, especially for flights to low-Earth orbit and for suborbital missions.

How Should the Government Respond

Some Potential Options:

- Ignore
- Resist
- Enable

Key Policy Questions

- What is our current policy?
- What are our current capabilities?
- What actions are underway to improve those capabilities? (Are we implementing the policy?)

Recent Presidential Commissions on Space

- Commission on the Future of the United States Aerospace Industry (Walker Commission) - 2002
- Aldridge Commission - 2004
- Augustine Committee - 2009

All called for increased reliance on private industry.

Current National Space Policy (June 28, 2010)

A robust and competitive commercial space sector is vital to continued progress in space. The United States is committed to encouraging and facilitating the growth of a U.S. commercial space sector that supports U.S. needs, is globally competitive, and advances U.S. leadership in the generation of new markets and innovation driven entrepreneurship."

The NASA Administrator shall...

Seek partnerships with the private sector to enable safe, reliable, and cost effective commercial spaceflight capabilities and services for the transport of crew and cargo to and from the ISS."

Current Capabilities and Potential Commercial Markets

- Satellite Launch
- Commercial Cargo
- Commercial Crew
- Suborbital Research
- Space Tourism

Conclusions

- This is a crucial time for our nation -- we're truly at a fork in the road when it comes to our space program.
- The decisions we make in the months ahead on both programs and budgets, and the way we execute those programs, will be key factors in determining whether the U.S. can regain its international leadership in space.