

Lieutenant General Forrest S. McCartney
Inducted 2002



Lieutenant General Forrest S. McCartney was born on 23 March 1931 in Fort Payne, Alabama. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from the Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn in 1952 and a Master's degree in nuclear engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson AFB in 1955.

General McCartney's first became acquainted with Air Force missile and space programs as a Second Lieutenant during 1952 -1953 when he served on an engineering team that installed some of the original communication systems at Cape Canaveral. He subsequently became a project officer on various programs dealing with special weapons and their delivery systems, as well as for studies on nuclear weapons safety systems. His first true affiliation with Air Force space programs came in 1959 when he was assigned to the newly formed Air Force Satellite Control Facility in Menlo Park, California, where he became one of the first satellite controllers. With the operation when it moved to Sunnyvale, General McCartney recalled being on the console when Discoverer XIV snapped the first pictures of the Soviet Union. He also led the transition effort needed to command the first Midas missile detection satellites and served as one of the original controllers on the Samos satellite project.

In autumn 1961, General McCartney became project officer for the Titan III rocket at the Office of Space Activities, Air Force Systems Command. He also had responsibility for the Agena upper-stage program, and he worked with Lincoln Labs on some of the first Air Force communications satellite projects. In 1967, General McCartney joined the HQ USAF, Directorate of Space as the program element monitor for satellite communications programs and other space-related efforts. He next transferred to Patrick AFB to become director of range engineering at the Air Force Eastern Test Range from 1971-1974. Then, moving to Space and Missile Systems Organization at Los Angeles AFS, he became in 1976 deputy for space

communications systems, with practically all the military communications satellite programs under his purview: Air Force Satellite Communications (AFSATCOM), Fleet Satellite Communications (FLTSATCOM), and Defense Satellite Communications System (DSCS) II and III.

In 1979, General McCartney transferred to Norton AFB to become the Vice Commander of the Ballistic Missile Office. He became the Commander of the Ballistic Missile Office and Director of the M-X Program in 1980. In 1982, he was appointed Vice Commander of Air Force Systems Command's Space Division. The following year, he assumed the "dual-hatted" position of Commander of Space Division and Vice Commander of the fledgling Air Force Space Command. Shortly after activation of the United States Space Command in September 1985, he relinquished the latter "hat" but continued serving as Space Division commander. In the wake of the Challenger accident, General McCartney was appointed Director of the Kennedy Space Center on loan from the Air Force. He retired from the Air Force in August 1987, but NASA continued to employ him as Director of the Kennedy Space Center for another four years.

After consulting on the flight worthiness of space hardware for approximately two years, General McCartney accepted a position in 1994 as the vice president for launch operations at Lockheed Martin Astronautics. In that capacity, he had responsibility for consolidated operations at Cape Canaveral Air Station and Vandenberg Air Force Base. He remained with Lockheed Martin for six years.

General McCartney is the recipient of the 1984 General Thomas D. White Space Trophy, the 1993 Goddard Trophy, and the 1987 Military Astronautical Trophy.