Public Affairs Office
George C. Marshall Space Flight Center
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Marshall Space Flight Center, Ala. 35812

Current: 9/86

GEORG F. VON TIESENHAUSEN

Georg F. von Tiesenhausen is assistant director of the Advanced Systems Office in the Program Development Directorate at NASA's George C. Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. This office is concerned primarily with conceptual and feasibility studies of future space missions and systems.

Born in Riga, Latvia, on May 18, 1914, von Tiesenhausen received his education in Germany and graduated from the State College of Engineering in Hamburg.

His career in rocket development began in 1943 when von Tiesenhausen started to work at the German Rocket Center in Peenemuende where he held the position of section chief.

He joined the U.S. Army's research and development team at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, in May 1953. In July 1960, when the Development Operations Division of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency became the nucleus for the establishment of the Marshall Center, von Tiesenhausen transferred with the group to NASA.

At the Marshall Center, von Tiesenhausen has been directly involved in the development of the Saturn launch facilities, the lunar roving vehicles, and in the planning of manned orbital stations. His current assignments include studies of various future space missions, the assessment of applications of long tethers in space, the human role in space, and space applications of automation, robotics and machine intelligence systems.

Von Tiesenhausen is the holder of four patents. He has authored and co-authored some thirty technical papers on the subjects of lunar exploration, automation and robotics, human factors in space missions, tether applications in space, and many others. He designed the first self-replicating robotic system.

He received the NASA Exceptional Service Medal in 1985.

A resident of Huntsville, Alabama, since 1953, von Tiesenhausen became a U. S. citizen in 1962. He serves as organist at a local church.

Von Tiesenhausen and his wife, the former Miss Asta Esch of Hamburg, Germany, have three children: Evamaria, George and Jutta.

The Marshall Center has a leading role in the space program. During the sixties and early seventies, the Center was best known for development of Saturn launch vehicles and Lunar Roving Vehicles for the Apollo program, and for Skylab, the first U.S. space station. The Center has also developed satellite scientific experiments which have returned a wealth of data in astronomy, astrophysics, and other disciplines.

Currently, the Marshall Center is responsible for a wide variety of NASA projects ranging from development of the Edwin P. Hubble Space Telescope and production of the propulsion elements of the Space Shuttle to management of Spacelab Earth-orbital missions and other payloads for the Space Shuttle. Also, the Marshall Center has been given a substantial role toward the development of a Space Station, a permanent manned facility proposed by President Reagan to be in orbit by 1994. The station would offer the capabilities of scientific research and technology development by both government and industry; the commercial use of space in such areas as the manufacture of critical materials and pharmaceuticals not available on Earth; the assembly, servicing and repair of satellites and other large structures in space; and research focused on extending a human being's staying time in space as a first step toward even more ambitous manned space programs. The Center also conducts basic research in many areas such as space and environmental sciences, chemical propulsion, structures, materials, and electronics.