

## Aerospace History News

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AIAA Houston Section History technical committee

# Orders of Magnitude, A History of the NACA and NASA, 1915-1990, by Roger E. Bilstein of the University of Houston

[2017 12 02, December 2, 2017, Douglas Yazell]

I discovered this book *Orders of Magnitude* about a month ago. Thanks to AIAA Houston Section history technical committee members Ted Kenny, AIAA Houston Section is still active with an audiobook project started a few years ago. It is based on another NASA history book, *Suddenly Tomorrow Came, A History of the Johnson Space Center*, a 1993 book by Henry C. Dethloff.

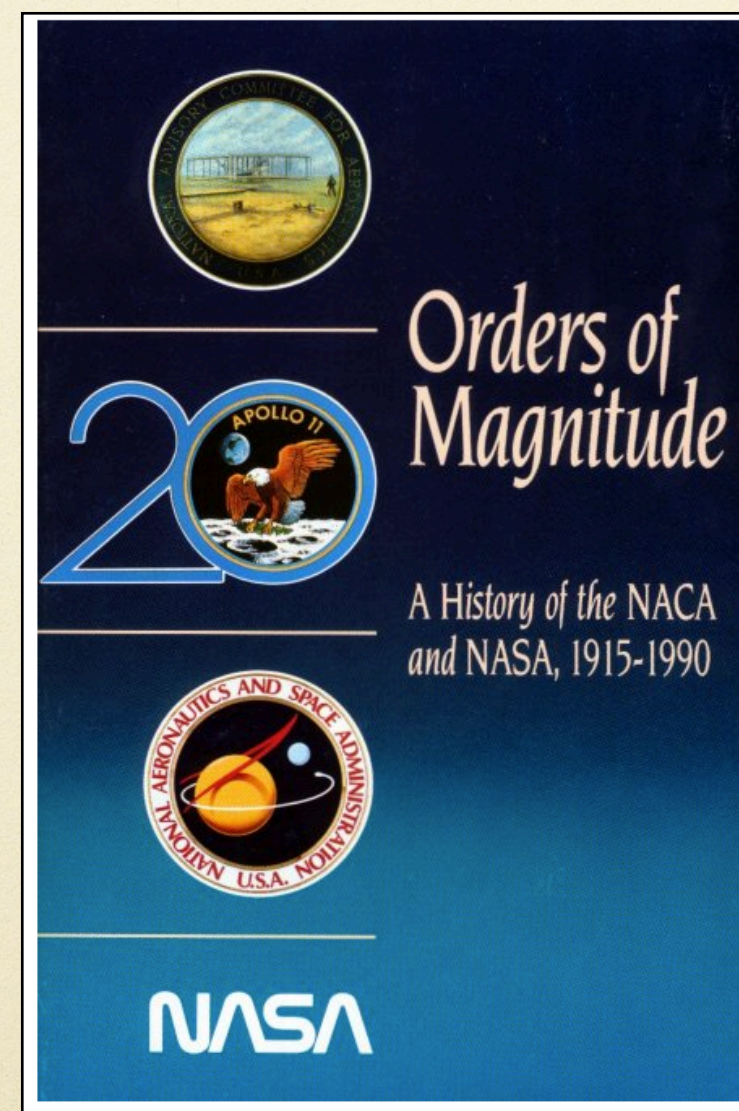
Here are a few addresses for NASA web pages for this 1989 book, *Orders of Magnitude, A History of the NACA and NASA, 1915-1990*, by Roger E. Bilstein of the University of Houston:

<https://history.nasa.gov/SP-4406/cover.html>

<https://history.nasa.gov/SP-4406.pdf>

<https://history.nasa.gov/SP-4406/contents.html>

Below: A cropped image of "the von Braun team." The original image is from Wikipedia Commons. Roger E. Bilstein used this image in his book *Stages to Saturn*, available on a NASA website.



Pre-World War I aviation technology. Military personnel struggle with a Wright biplane during trials at Fort Myer, Virginia, in 1908.

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### About the Author

Roger E. Bilstein is professor of history at the University of Houston. He is the author of *Flight Patterns: Trends of Aeronautical Development in the United States, 1918-1929* and of the official NASA history, *Stages to Saturn: A Technological History of the Apollo/Saturn Launch Vehicles*.

The heart of the "von Braun team" that led the Army's space efforts at ABMA before transfer to NASA: left to right: Dr. Ernst Stuhlinger, Director, Research Projects Office; Dr. Helmut Hoelzer, Director, Computation Laboratory; Karl L. Heimborg, Director, Test Laboratory; Dr. Ernst D. Geissler, Director, Aeroballistics Laboratory; Erich W. Neubert, Director, Systems Analysis and Reliability Laboratory; Dr. Walter Haeussermann, Director, Guidance and Control Laboratory; Dr. Wernher von Braun, Director, Development Operations Division; William A. Mrazek, Director, Structures and Mechanics Laboratory; Hans Hueter, Director, System Support Equipment Laboratory; Dr. Eberhard F. M. Rees, Deputy Director, Development Operations Division; Dr. Kurt Debus, Director, Missile Firing Laboratory; and H. H. Maus, Director Fabrication and Assembly Engineering Laboratory.