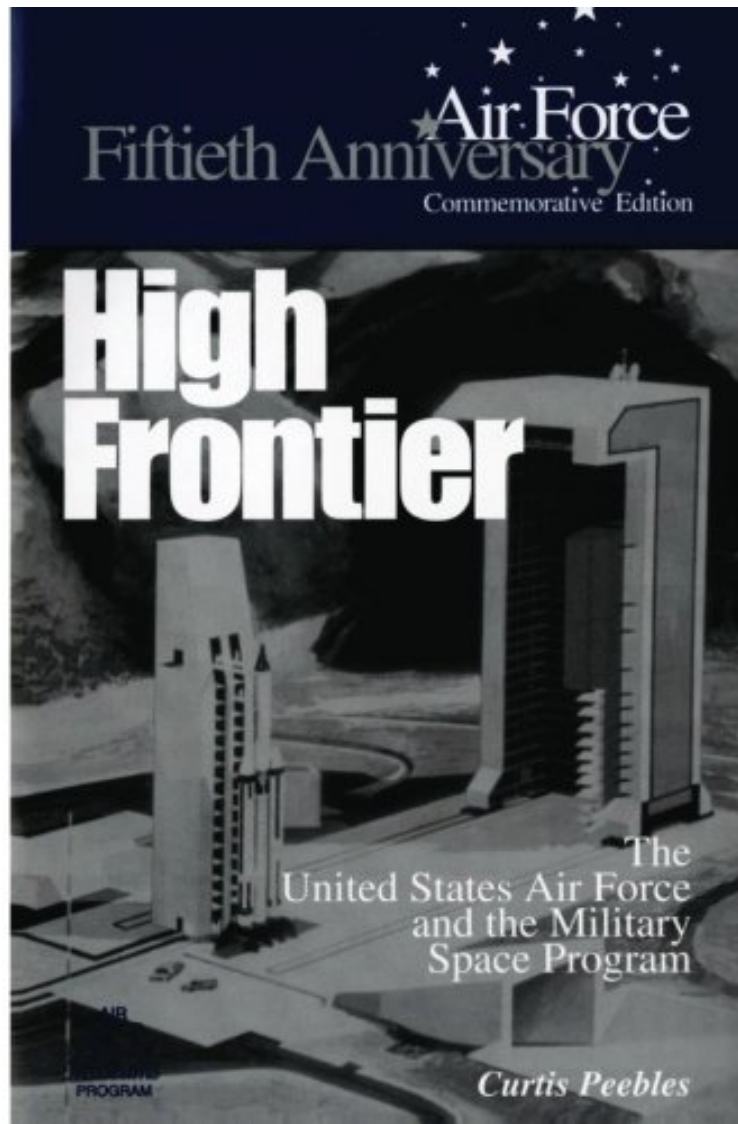


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High Frontier: The U.S. Air Force and the Military Space Program

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0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good book - but available for free elsewhereBy Brian J. SikkemaFirst off, I know this is my own fault for failing to research thoroughly before I bought. But before you spend any money on this book, be aware that it is available online, for free, legally. At only 80-some pages the download is very reasonable, and since it's such a short read it won't strain your eyes too much. I won't bother posting a link as

locations change, etc, but be assured some careful searching online will come up with the links you need, straight from the Air Force. Of course there are advantages to a paper copy, especially for taking notes, etc. And I will certainly use my copy now that I have it. But it would have saved me some time and money if I had known what I know now. As for the actual book, it's a very interesting but easy read on various aspects of early military space. The book is broken down by category - surveillance, weather, communications, etc. Within each section a brief history is given to the development in that area leading up through basically the early 90s. The book is quite short, and a very quick read. A great choice for a crash course in military space history.

The United States military space program began at the end of World War II when a few people realized that space flight was now achievable and could be employed to military advantage. Science and technology in the form of advance radar, jet propulsion, ballistic rockets such as the V-2, and nuclear energy had dramatically altered the nature of war. Army Air Forces Commanding General Henry Arnold wrote in November 1945 that a space ship "is all but practicable today" and could be built "within the foreseeable future" The following month the Air Force Scientific Advisory Group concluded that long-range rockets were technically feasible and that satellites were a "definite possibility."