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Beyond the Wild Blue: A History of the U.S. Air Force, 1947-2007

Von Walter J. Boyne

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BEYOND THE WILD BLUE





A HISTORY OF THE
U.S. AIR FORCE,
1947-2007

2ND EDITION

WALTER J. BOYNE

NEW FOREWORD BY GENERAL
RICHARD B. MYERS USAF (RET.)

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Von Walter J. Boyne : Beyond the Wild Blue: A History of the U.S. Air Force, 1947-2007 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Beyond the Wild Blue: A History of the U.S. Air Force, 1947-2007:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Boyne's book is an excellent account of the U.S. Air Force!Von Ein KundeThe tone for this compelling and comprehensive history of the Air Force as a separate military service is exquisitely and movingly cast in the foreword by the distinguished journalist Hugh Sidey. Describing the overflight of Air Force One at the funeral of President Kennedy,

Time Magazine's chronicler of Camelot reveals that he interpreted this tribute to the fallen leader of the free world as "an enduring promise that the Air Force would hold the heavens. . . ." Walter Boyne, a retired Air Force bomber pilot and a former Director of the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum, proceeds to fill in the details of just how the Air Force kept that promise in this remarkably thorough study. With the advantage of having lived through much of the history he writes about, Boyne offers up an intriguing and fact-filled narrative of the personalities and events that shaped the Air Force. This is a book that anyone interested in the Air Force or military aviation must read. On the outskirts of Dayton, Ohio, not far from the expanse of prairie land where the Wright brothers instructed fledgling Army aviators, like future Chief of Staff Henry "Hap" Arnold, is the enormous infrastructure of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, home of the service's research and development efforts, the Air Force's window into the future. At one point in his illustrious career, Arnold commanded the base, and in cognizance of the value of military tradition the Air Force has preserved in period motif the stately officer's quarters once occupied by Arnold. One can imagine the great airpower strategist, if he were alive today, attired in his pinks and greens, jodphurs and leather belt with chest strap, relaxing in one of the Arnold House's fluffy chairs with a gas lantern glowing nearby, reading and enjoying Walter Boyne's outstanding book about the history of the service that the general himself had willed into being. If the leaders of today's Air Force were smart, they would make Boyne's beautifully written history required reading for all officers under their command.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Beyond the Wild Blue-And Beyond! Von Ein Kunde To anyone wondering what Beyond the Wild Blue: A History of the U.S. Air Force 1947-1997 is about, I would recommend a careful look at the title. The title tells one exactly what the book is and is not. It is not a history of American Airpower, although the development of the Army Air Corps is briefly presented as background. It is not a history of the Air Force in war, although the war record of the Air Force is given its due. Beyond the Wild Blue is the history of the U.S. Air Force during the first 50 years of its existence. It is, in essence, an organizational history of the Air Force. Reviewers often report that an historical book "reads like a novel". I would say that Beyond the Wild Blue develops like a novel. At the end of a novel the reader often realizes that it possesses a theme or a point to which the whole book has contributed. That is the case with this book. The ultimate point of Beyond the Wild Blue is that the Air Force has been an organization which has constantly striven, through a continuing research and development program, to achieve its mission through the advancement of aerospace technology. Through his telling of the story of the Air Force as it developed from a stripped down force in the years after World War II to the technological marvel which won the Gulf War, Walter Boyne brings us to realize how the organizational strategy of the Air Force has brought it to the point at which it is the power which it is today. He also makes us realize the degree to which the Air Force depends on the technical expertise of its officers and enlisted personnel in achieving its mission. Throughout this book, Boyne mixes facts with his candid assessments of personnel who have affected the history of the Air Force. Generals, Secretaries of Defense and the Air Force as well as politicians all come in for forthright praise or criticism. Two of Boyne's heroes figure prominently in the story. General of the Air Force Hap Arnold, who had commanded the Army Air Corps in World War II, guided the Air Corps to its birth as an independent service and inspired its quest for technological superiority. General Curtis LeMay, more than any other officer, imprinted his personality and ideals on the Air Force, much to the benefit of the service and the nation. Through this book we see the Air Force, at its inception, as a force poorly equipped with World War II leftovers. Ill-prepared at the start of the Korean War and handicapped by politically imposed rules of engagement, the Air Force was, nonetheless, able to establish air superiority throughout the peninsula and, thereby, contribute to the United Nations' successes. Through the Cold War years of the fifties and early sixties, the Air Force preserved the peace largely through its capability to deliver nuclear weapons, both by manned bomber and ICBM. The Vietnam War was, for the Air Force as well as all of the American military, a frustrating conflict. The handicaps imposed by politically inspired rules of engagement were more serious even than those imposed in Korea. As an example, pilots were forced to risk their lives trying to destroy trucks individually, while being prevented them from destroying freighters full of trucks in North Vietnamese ports. After Vietnam, the Air Force continued its technological improvement at an uneven pace, varying with the political winds of the day. The ultimate payoff for the Air Force research and development programs would come in the Gulf War. In this war air control was established, not by defeating an enemy challenge in the air, but by preventing the challenge from arising. The destruction of Iraqi radar and communications kept the enemy planes hunkered on the ground. The ability of air power to pick apart Iraqi defenses and destroy and demoralize its ground forces proved the ultimate vindication of the Air Force research and development programs. Throughout this book, Boyne presents an agreeable blend of narration about individuals, equipment, organizational concepts and war stories, detailed enough to hold the interest without leading to boredom. This book addresses all aspects of Air Force service. Fighters, Strategic and Tactical bombers Air Lift and refueling all are given proper attention. The recent reorganization of the Air Force Commands was clearly explained. The changing demands of the American public that victory must be swiftly achieved with few casualties, either of friendly or enemy forces or noncombatants, and the Air Force's ability to meet those demands were presented as a logical result of the continuing research and development programs. I was particularly impressed by the description of the refueling capabilities which can now keep aircraft flying virtually indefinitely. Equally impressive is the story of

the B-52, which may have a useful life of 75 years from first flight to final retirement. At the conclusion we are presented with an Air Force which has the potential to deliver military punch of unprecedented scope and dimensions. In an era in which the availability of overseas bases may be limited, the Air Force has the capability, through refueling, of delivering ordinance to virtually any place on earth through missions originating in the United States. Although beyond the temporal scope of this book, the continuation of the technological advancement was seen in the Bosnian operation in which bombing runs originated and ended in Missouri by warriors who would spend their nights at home with their families. This book is a fitting tribute to the men and women who have carried the story of the United States Air Force into the Wild Blue and Beyond. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A great manuscript that was never edited.... Von Ein Kunde Col. Boyne, author of "Beyond the Wild Blue" is already established as a great author of military and aviation history. Unfortunately, his latest work "Beyond the Wild Blue" shows clear evidence of a rushed manuscript that was poorly edited and should have been extensively re-written before descending on the paying public. The book sets out to tell the history of the US Air Force from its emergence as an independent service in 1947, through the rise of SAC in the 50s, to the Crucible of Vietnam in the 60s and its apotheosis in the 1991 Gulf War. That's a lot of history. Unfortunately, the book is not that enjoyable. It alternates between extreme detail that dulls interest and cursory examination of very important topics that defies logic. Its style changes randomly between topics in ways that does not suit the flow at all. This book should have been extensively re-edited by its publisher before going to print. It is a basic manuscript that seems to have been checked for grammar and spelling and not much else. No doubt there was some deadline that made a rushed job necessary: perhaps the 50th anniversary of the USAF. That's not a good reason to spend \$30 on it. I eagerly look forward to Col. Boyne's next work and hope that it will be ready for print when it is actually published. Brian D. Liddicoat, Attorney At Law, San Francisco, CA

Kurzbeschreibung The second edition of *Beyond the Wild Blue*, an update of the popular history originally released in 1997, is a fascinating look at sixty turbulent years of Air Force history. From the prop-driven armada of World War II to the most advanced Stealth weaponry, from pioneers like General Henry "Hap" Arnold to glorious conquests in the Gulf War, *Beyond the Wild Blue* is a high-flying study of the triumphs (and failures) of leadership and technology. In three new chapters, Walter Boyne covers an eventful ten years, including 9/11, the invasion of Afghanistan, and the second Gulf War, describing in detail the technological advancements that led to highly efficient airstrikes in Iraq. He also takes stock of the Air Force's doctrine and mission statements as this unique sector of the military grapples with an ever-changing world. **Pressestimmen** "Boyne...has pieced together a tightly packaged saga of the Air Force's origins and evolution."--Space News "A survey of Air Force history from the time it succeeded the old Army Air Corps after WWII. A comprehensive study of the development of the Air Force and a spirited argument for the necessity of long-term planning."--Kirkus s "[Boyne] writes as fluently and gracefully as ever."--Booklist **Kurzbeschreibung** The second edition of *Beyond the Wild Blue*, an update of the popular history originally released in 1997, is a fascinating look at sixty turbulent years of Air Force history. From the prop-driven armada of World War II to the most advanced Stealth weaponry, from pioneers like General Henry "Hap" Arnold to glorious conquests in the Gulf War, *Beyond the Wild Blue* is a high-flying study of the triumphs (and failures) of leadership and technology. In three new chapters, Walter Boyne covers an eventful ten years, including 9/11, the invasion of Afghanistan, and the second Gulf War, describing in detail the technological advancements that led to highly efficient airstrikes in Iraq. He also takes stock of the Air Force's doctrine and mission statements as this unique sector of the military grapples with an ever-changing world.