REMARKS FOR 3RD AEROSPACE COMPUTER SECURITY CONFERENCE
DECEMBER 9, 1987

I would like to be a little self-indulgent today and address my
remarks to the history of this conference. As a member of the original
organizing committee and as General Chairman of the Conference for the
past two years, I have some perspectives on why we began this activity
that I would like to share with you.

The initial idea for a conference which would address issues regarding
applications of computer security technology to aerospace programs came
from conversations between Harry Sheetz and Fred Tompkins (employees of
Mitre Corporation at the time) in July 1984. This idea was formally
supported by Mitre, which became a co-sponsor of the first conference,
along with NASA and the IEEE Computer Society. The first conference was
held in March, 1985 at Mitre facilities in Virginia, attracted
approximately 115 people to the one-day conference, and was acclaimed by
all attendees. The chairman for that first Conference was Bill Bisignani,
then of The Mitre Corporation, who is currently with Booz-Allen and
Hamilton.

Following the first conference, four of the organizers who were
interested in establishing this event on a continuing basis formed a
non-profit partnership, (now a corporation) named the Aerospace Computer
Security Associates (ACSA), to achieve this end. The four Associates are
myself, Dr. Marshall Abrams of Mitre, Fred Tompkins now of Management
mensions, Inc., and Bob Kovach of ORI, Inc. We were all professional
persons interested in the success of this fledgling venture and we
proceeded with plans for a second conference to be held in December, 1986.

We agreed that Mitre, as a private company, should not be included as a sponsor. Further, there was little interest at NASA at that time for participation after the initial sponsorship agreement for the first conference. Early agreements to sponsor the second meeting were made with the Computer Society and the American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS). Later, agreements were reached with DODCI to provide the necessary sponsorship and support to permit classified sessions (all sessions at the first conference were unclassified). It was strongly felt by the organizers that, despite the success of the first Conference, important progress could not be made without the addition of classified sessions.

Although there were initial discussions with AIAA to also act as a sponsor, these were proceeding casually until the Computer Society withdrew its sponsorship due to some confusion regarding their internal policies having to do with the sponsorship of classified meetings. At this point, discussions with the appropriate AIAA Technical Area Committee or TAC, proceeded more rapidly, and Lee Holcomb of NASA Headquarters, the Chairman of the relevant TAC, agreed to press for sponsorship. It was agreed by all parties that the Aerospace Computer Security Associates (ACSA) and its committee would provide arrangements for the meeting with liaison to the three sponsors.

We proceeded to enlist members of the organizing committee and were very fortunate in our efforts. We got Steve Walker to act as Program Chairman, and this was probably our biggest catch. Lewis Schneider of ASIS agreed to be Local Arrangements Chairman, another major catch since Lewis is a professional meeting planner and brought excellent credentials to the job. We also got Dr. Chris Perry as Tutorial Chairman, and Col. Vic Marshall at DODCI agreed to act as liaison to that agency (after he was transferred, he was succeeded by Lt. Col. Jim McDaniel. Finally, Carl ndwehr of NRL and Terry Lozonsky of DoD's C³I Directorate agreed to ..elp out.

As some of you know, the second Conference was held on December 2nd through the 4th at the Westpark Hotel, Vienna, Virginia, and was a great success. Over 190 persons attended the three day Conference. Classified sessions were held at a nearby Mitre facility and attracted over 100 people. The tutorials which were introduced proved very successful, with significant attendance at each. Comments received from attendees in a totally unsolicited way were very complementary.

On the heels of this heady prosperity, we began more ambitious planning for the Third Conference. We selected Orlando for a variety of reasons. First, because we felt a warmer climate might be more satisfying for our December meeting. Second, because ASIS had and continues to hold a number of successful meetings here. And third, because EXPO and Disneyworld are great ancillary attractions for attendees families.

Certainly, in numbers alone, this Conference can be called a success already. When we're through counting, we expect to have over 150 people here. This number despite a terrible mix-up with our mailing of the Advance Program, which delayed by nearly a month the acquisition of program information by prospective attendees fully meets our expectations. We've expanded the meeting to four days, have gotten permission from DoD to hold classified sessions at this wonderful hotel, and attracted some new user segments to this meeting.

The concept of the Conference has also matured to a point where acceptance of our role within the computer security field is being recognized. This role is centered about two primary objectives: first, to provide a forum at which issues regarding applications of computer security to planned programs and systems may be explored; and second, to provide educational experiences in computer security applications. Last year's conference had approximately 85 persons attend three tutorials on the first day, and approximately 190 people attended the classified and unclassified sessions during the next two days.

Planning for next year's meeting has already begun. Marshall Abrams will be General Chairman; Steve Walker, Lewis Schneider, and Bob Kovach will continue in their primary roles; Dixie Baker of The Aerospace Corporation has agreed to be Tutorials Chairman; and Terry Lozonsky and Tim McDaniel will stay on as committee members; yours truly will remain active and act as Finance Chairman. Most important, Steve Walker will again be assisted by Bob Morris of NCSC. We are all very happy, also, that Bill Bisignani of Booz-Allen, the first Chairman of this Conference has again found time to participate in the planning - he will be assisting Steve on preparing an outstanding technical program for next year.

Speaking of which - I'd like to formally be the first to invite all of you to join us again next year here in Orlando. Our meeting dates are set for December 12 through the 16, and we promise to have some more interesting surprises for you in our total program.