

Space Defense Placed on Exploration's Level

Lt. Gen. James Ferguson told members of the Dallas Air Power & Space Council that military defense in space has become as important as scientific exploration.

In view of Russian advances in orbital flight, their race for the moon and open antagonism for the United States, the Air Force officer said it only stands to reason to regard space as a major area in need of constant defense.

"We have fine air defense, the Strategic Air Command. We feel confident in land and naval defense. But could we defend ourselves from space attack?" he asked reporters on his arrival at Southwest Airmotive.

He said while scientific projects of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) are "about \$4,000,000,000 a year," the research and technology program for the U.S. Air Force, of which he is deputy chief of staff, spends only \$1,000,000,000.

Asked if he thought larger appropriations were in sight in the future, the general answered, "I'll tell you more about that in April."

Military projects in space will include improving current methods of detection, developing methods of reconnaissance, untangling communications problems from space to Earth and developing new and accurate geodetic mapping of the Earth's face from space, and of space itself.

"As you can see, scientific research and military might coincide in their aims and complement each other. We are working together."

He gave as an example of this the "man on the moon" project.

"As we discover better boosters, evolve space technology and study how man best survives in space, we find that all of these answers tie in to both the military and scientific advancement."

But he urged that military in space not become subjunctive to science.

"Based on history, and on the movements of the Soviet Union, we know man exploits anything—air, sea, land and now space—to gain his objective.

"We must be sure we are not leaving avenues of attack uncovered," he said.

Gen. Ferguson's Dallas visit was sponsored by the Dallas Air Force Association Squadron.



—Dallas News Staff Photo.

Gen. James Ferguson
... science and military
joined in space.