



# Smithsonian

*National Air and Space Museum*

## United States Supersonic Transport Program (Friedman) Collection

2002

National Air and Space Museum Archives  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	United States Supersonic Transport Program (Friedman) Collection
<b>Date:</b>	1960-1975 (bulk 1962-1965)
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.1987.0130
<b>Creator:</b>	Friedman, Robert K.
<b>Extent:</b>	5.45 Cubic feet ((5 records center boxes) (1 flatbox))
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Robert K. Friedman, Gift, 1987, 1987-0130, not NASM

### Restrictions

No restrictions on access

### Conditions Governing Use

Material is subject to Smithsonian Terms of Use. Should you wish to use NASM material in any medium, please submit an Application for Permission to Reproduce NASM Material, available at [Permissions Requests](#)

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## Biographical / Historical

The United States' Supersonic Transport (SST) program was initiated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in 1963. The program aimed for a Mach 2+ aircraft capable of carrying c.300 passengers with intercontinental range. The US aimed to outstrip the British Aerospace/Aerospatiale Concorde and Soviet Tu 144 programs through the use of advanced technology and materials. By the late 1960s contracts had been let to prime contractors Boeing (airframe) and General Electric (engines) but the program was four to five years behind the European and Soviet efforts, which had graduated to supersonic flight testing while the US program had yet to pass beyond the mockup stage. In 1971 the slow pace of technical development, environmental concerns, high costs, and questions over the commercial feasibility of the aircraft led Congress to cancel the program.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection is the files of Robert K. Friedman (Chief, FAA SST Support Division) on the development of commercial SST capability in the United States. The material consists primarily of technical and research reports, but also press releases, marketing procedures, proposals, assessment and evaluation reports on the entire SST program. The collection also includes material on foreign and U. S. military research, applications

of supersonics and sonic booms and marketing and presentation material from Lockheed, Boeing, North American and Convair. This collection also has miscellaneous items including copies of the first FAA anti-hijacking poster, seven open reel audio tapes (one on SST program, six on hijacking), and a set of charts used for demonstration and training on management of aircraft design and procurement.

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

### Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Aeronautics -- Safety measures
- Aeronautics, Commercial
- Aeronautics, Commercial -- United States
- Aircraft industry
- Aircraft industry -- United States
- Airplanes -- Design and construction
- Concorde (Jet transports)
- Concorde, Production Airframe
- High-speed aeronautics
- Hijacking of aircraft
- Supersonic transport planes
- Tupolev Tu-144 Charger Family

### Types of Materials:

- Audiotapes
- Charts
- Correspondence
- Photographs
- Posters
- Press releases
- Publications
- Reports

### Names:

- American Supersonic Transport Program
- Boeing Company
- Federal Aviation Administration
- Friedman, Robert K.
- General Electric Company