



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Edward J. Martin Papers

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2025

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Edward J. Martin Papers
Date:	1955-1996
Identifier:	NASM.2025.0022
Extent:	.25 Cubic feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Edward J. Martin Papers consists of .25 cubic feet of publications, postal covers and a photograph created or collected by Edward J. Martin and chronicling his career from the 1950s to the 1990s. The papers document his pioneering career in satellite communications at the Communication Satellite Corporation (COMSAT), where he led the team that developed Marisat, the world's first commercial mobile satellite system.
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Formal portrait of Edward J. Martin, NASM.2025.0022, Box 1, Folder 11

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Jay Martin, Gift, 2025, NASM.2025.0022

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Sarah LeClaire, 2025.

Preferred Citation

Edward J. Martin Papers, Acc. NASM.2025.0022, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Edward J. Martin began his career in 1954 at the United States Air Force Cambridge Research Labs and Lincoln Labs where his work focused on communications. After leaving the Air Force as a Captain, he re-entered the workforce as a civilian in the Department of Defense. In the mid-1960s, he led the Communications Satellite Corporation's (COMSAT) efforts to establish an aeronautical satellite system. In the 1970s, he was Project Manager of the team that developed the Marisat, the world's first commercial mobile satellite system. In 1979, he formed COMSAT's Inmarsat division and managed the transition from the U.S. to the International Marisat system. As the U.S. representative to the International Mobile Satellite Organization Council, he served as its first chair of the Finance Committee and as chair of the Council. Also at COMSAT, he served on the Intelsat Board of Governors in various capacities, including Vice President of Maritime Services. After retirement from COMSAT, he worked as a consultant to such clients as Hughes Network Systems, Loral Space and Communications, GE Aerospace, Motorola/Iridium, Inc., Honeywell and Bell Atlantic International (now Verizon Communications Inc.). He passed away in 2013 at the age of 90.

Scope and Contents

The Edward J. Martin Papers consists of .25 cubic feet of publications, postal covers and a photograph created or collected during his lengthy career in satellite communications.

Arrangement

This collection was arranged by document type chronologically. The publications contains articles written by Edward J. Martin.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Communication -- History
- Publications
- Satellites, artificial
- United States Air Force

Container Listing

Box 1	Air Force Cambridge Research Center Report: VHF Extra-Diffraction Propagation Bandwidth at 200 Miles, by L. A. Ames, E. J. Martin and T. F. Rodgers, ARCFC-TR-55-121, June 1955
Box 1, Folder 2	Air Force Cambridge Research Center Report: The Possibility of Extending Air-Ground UHF Voice Communications to Distances Far Beyond the Radio Horizon, by L. A. Ames, E. J. Martin and T. F. Rodgers, ARCRC-TR-56-111, June 1956
Box 1, Folder 3	IRE Transactions on Communications Systems, vol. CS-5, no. 1, March 1957
Box 1, Folder 4	IEEE Spectrum, July 1967
Box 1, Folder 5	Astronautics and Aeronautics, April 1974
Box 1, Folder 6	Signal, November-December 1974 (2 copies)
Box 1, Folder 7	COMSAT: The First Ten Years, 1973
Box 1, Folder 8	IEE Program: Third International Conference, June 7-9, 1983
Box 1, Folder 9	The Evolution of Mobile Satellite Communications, June 1996 (2 copies)
Box 1, Folder 10	Marisat/Comstar postal covers, 1976 (3)
Box 1, Folder 11	Photograph of Edward J. Martin