

## Biography

### Frank W. Jennings

Frank (Francis) William Jennings was born June 17, 1917, in Missoula, Montana. His father was an accountant with the Northern Pacific Railway. Jennings attended elementary and high school in Missoula before enrolling at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln.



He was drafted during World War II and graduated from Quartermaster Officer Candidate School in Fort Lee, Virginia. After serving in 1945, as Chief Information Officer for Headquarters Central Engineer District, Army Forces Western Pacific in Manila, he was released from military service and appointed civilian director of Information Services, G-3, Hq PHILRYCOM, charged with directing and supervising the Troop Information Program for Army forces in the Philippines and Ryukus (Okinawa).

Frank returned to the United States in 1949, serving as Editor in Chief of the Armed Forces Talk pamphlets and guides to foreign countries in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. In 1954 he transferred to the Air Force as a civilian where he helped establish the Air Force Internal Information Program. For 26-years Frank wrote and edited the twice monthly Policy Letter for Commanders reporting on national, defense, and Air Force policy for key staff officers throughout the Air Force.

A major theme in many of his writings was the concept of the sky as a limitless military operational medium, and in 1957 Frank coined the word "aerospace." He wrote a major article, titled "Genesis of the Aerospace Concept," published in May 2001, in the journal of the US Air Force Historical Foundation.

Frank spent more than 40 years in military service, first in the US Army as a commissioned officer and later as a civilian employee successively in the US Army, the Office of Secretary of Defense and the US Air Force. He retired as an Air Force Reserve Lieutenant Colonel in 1972 and a civilian GM-15 from the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force in 1985.

In 1972, Frank received the Exceptional Civilian Service Award from the Department of the Air Force. In 1984, Jennings received a Citation of Honor from the Air Force Association for making a "major contribution to the effectiveness of the Air Force and the national security of America" and in March 1985, he was presented with a second Exceptional Civilian Service Award, this time by the Secretary of the Air Force. In 2001, the Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association presented Frank with their President's Award for "having coined the term 'aerospace' to define the Air Force's operating environment."

For many years Jennings was active in programs for the San Antonio Historical Association, and in 2004 he planned and organized San Antonio's first annual Founders Day to celebrate the many cultural groups who shaped the city's history and unique character.

A professional writer since his retirement, Frank was the author of SAN ANTONIO: The Story of an Enchanted City, a widely used 400-page history published in 1998 by the San Antonio Express-News, and in June 2001 by Eakin Press, Austin, Texas.

In 1988, Jennings began writing a column on San Antonio history for the Senior Citizens Council of Bexar County. He also wrote historical articles, from time to time, for the San Antonio Light, the San Antonio Express-News and Texas Highways magazine. He also wrote a number of articles on military doctrine for Airpower Journal and later, Aerospace Power Journal; for Air Force Times, a commercial national newspaper, and book reviews for Southwestern Historical Quarterly.

06-98

[Ed Note: Frank W. Jennings passed away in San Antonio on August 16, 2009. He was 92.]