

WINGS

SPRING 2023
VOLUME 75 NO. 3

**A MILITARY
METAVERSE**
THE COMPLEXITIES OF TERRAIN SIMULATION

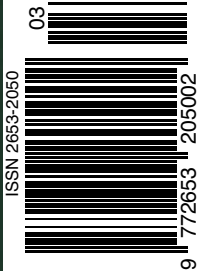
LOOKING UP
DEFENCE'S \$20BN SPACE PLANS



ALBATROSS

T O B E R E B O R N

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AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION MAGAZINE
- ESTABLISHED 1943 -

MANAGING EDITOR'S MESSAGE



WINGS HAS AGAIN presented an entertaining variety of topics in the Spring 2023 edition. As with all our editions, we attempt to expose some of the technology currently under development in Australia and the Aussie companies at the leading edge of that effort. In this edition, the focus is on sovereign space capabilities and digital technology.

The cover story introduces an entrepreneurial enterprise to modernise a legacy amphibian to fill a void in existing travel and communications capabilities, particularly in states without the terrain for conventional airports.

The X-Planes feature deals with lifting bodies and the exploration of atmospheric re-entry conditions and early hypersonic flight. Early sub-orbital concepts evolved, to a large extent, from research conducted by German scientists during WWII, and subsequently migrated to the US at wars end.

We conclude the snapshot of Ron Greens' experience as a test pilot working with the US to introduce the F-111 into service. Ron carried the responsibility to demonstrate the dump and burn routine that became a favourite airshow spectacle in Australia.

Once again we hope you enjoy this edition of *Wings*.

Ron Haack,
Wings managing editor

WINGS EDITORIAL DEADLINES 2023

Wings welcomes editorial submissions and letters to the editor. Please note the following deadlines for submissions.

EDITION	DEADLINE
Summer (December)	16 October

Please send submissions and letters to: managing.editor@wingsmagazine.org, including your name and details. Submissions may be edited for length and clarity. We cannot guarantee all material will be published.



AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

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The cover story introduces an entrepreneurial enterprise to modernise a legacy amphibian, the Albatross, to fill a void in existing travel and communications capabilities, particularly in those states without the terrain for conventional airports.

Our history section relates the story of the disappearance of a Beaufort bomber and her crew, while on an anti-submarine patrol in 1942, that remain missing to this day.

The X Planes segment deals with lifting bodies and the exploration of atmospheric re-entry

conditions and hypersonic flight. Early sub-orbital concepts evolved, to a large extent, from research conducted during WWII by German scientists who subsequently migrated to the US at wars end.

We conclude the snapshot of Ron Greens' experience as a test pilot working with the US to introduce the F-111 into service. Ron carried the responsibility to demonstrate the dump and burn routine that became a favourite airshow spectacle in Australia but was never adopted by the US.

We continue to embed QR coded links to video illustrations of the essence of selected stories to enhance the experience, so please don't forget to scan those codes.