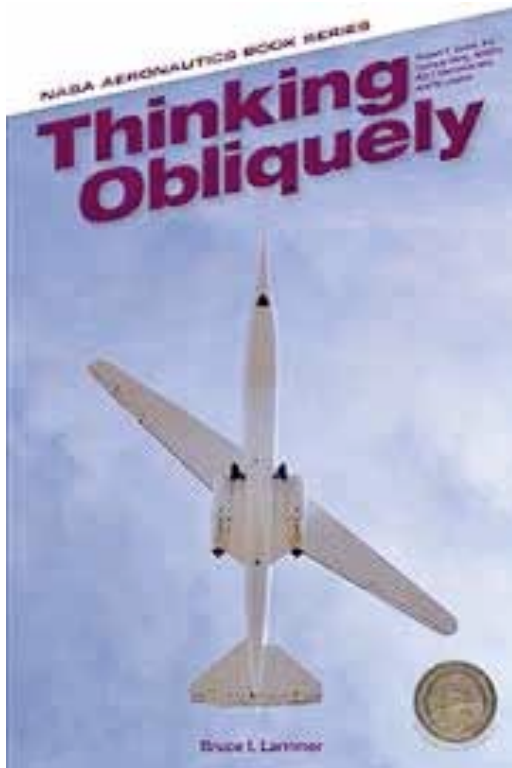


Karl,

I got the AD-1 book, "Thinking Obliquely" in the mail today; thanks for sending it. I found it is also available as a free PDF download here:

<http://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/files/ThinkingObliquely-ebook.pdf>



It is refreshing to see that the detailed story of oblique-wing research is now available to the public. I was especially pleased to see that the first Government contracts that my tiny company RAF had, back in the 70s, is now detailed in an accessible historical archive.

Please forward to the author, I do not have his email address.

On the downside:

I was disappointed that the fabrication program in long island was described only via NASA status reports. It would have been nice to read it from the prospective of the contractor, Herb Iversen, at Ames Industrial Corporation, whose potential slim profits were ruined by the Government's oppressive audits of his Fixed-Price

contract. One would think that someone at NASA would have had the sense to observe that the Government was getting a manned research aircraft at an unbelievably low cost, and thus allow the contractor to deliver without the continuous harassment. It would have also been nice to show photos of the fabrication process and interviews of those who worked with a passion to make the program a success.

I was also disappointed to see that the author did not have the courage (or the permission?) to describe the full story on how the development contract got its immediate approval at NASA Headquarters. The statement that "a number of NASA personnel thought they were approving the construction of an RPV..." obscures the real, interesting history. I do understand that this is what usually happens when the Government publishes a record of events in-house. This story needs to be told and it looks like my autobiography will have to be the one that tells it.

Attached is the multiple-exposure photo, taken with various skew angles by Herb, just before delivery. My wife Tonya came across it just last month and thinking it resembled a hummingbird, sent it to our local artisan, Dan Woodward who painted in for our cabin entry. It shows the sharp nose of the bird, drinking from a flower.



Still lookin up.....way up,  
Burt

[burtrutan.com](http://burtrutan.com)

On Sep 19, 2013, at 9:37 AM, "Bender, Karl A. (DFRC-R)" wrote:

Great news -- AD-1 book is here and signed!

Hope you enjoy --

**Karl Bender**

Librarian/STI Mgr

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