

# SPECIAL BULLETIN

O F F I C E O F T R A I N I N G

No. 2-74

24 January 1974

TO : Agency Training Officers

SUBJECT: Dr. Wernher Von Braun - Next CIA  
Guest Speaker

Dr. Wernher Von Braun will be the next lecturer in the CIA Guest Speaker Program in the Headquarters Auditorium on Tuesday, 12 February 1974, from 4 to 6 p.m. He will speak on "The Future of Space Exploration and the Uses of Space Technology."

Dr. Von Braun has been intimately associated with the U.S. missile and space programs since their inception. As Director of the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, and as Deputy Associate Administrator of NASA, he, perhaps more than any other individual, has been responsible for the monumental achievements of the U.S. Space Program.

Born in Germany in 1912, Dr. Von Braun received his Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Berlin in 1937. In his spare time as a student, Von Braun assisted in early experiments to test liquid fueled rocket engines. His university research led to full time employment as a rocket development engineer with the German Army Ordnance Department. During World War II he became Technical Director of the Rocket Center at Peenemuende, where the V-2 long-range ballistic missile was developed.

Dr. Von Braun and his colleagues came to the U.S. in September 1945 under Army contract. He first directed high altitude firings of the V-2 at White Sands and subsequently became director of guided missile development at Fort Bliss, Texas. In 1950, Dr. Von Braun's group was transferred to Huntsville,

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Alabama, where he was Chief of the Guided Missile Development Division, Redstone Arsenal and later Director, Development Operations Division of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency. During these years the Redstone--the first large guided ballistic missile system in the U.S. defense inventory--the Jupiter and Pershing missiles were developed. It was the Jupiter-C, originally intended as a nose cone re-entry vehicle, which successfully launched the first U.S. satellite, Explorer I.

In July 1960, Dr. Von Braun and his Army Ballistic Missile Agency team transferred to NASA. During his ten years as Director of the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville the Saturn series was developed and successfully placed in operation. One of these, Apollo 11, accomplished the historic first manned landing on the moon in July 1969.

Under Dr. Von Braun's direction, the Marshall Center also undertook the development of Skylab, a first-generation manned earth-orbiting space station, and began studies on advanced space transportation systems.

In March 1970, Dr. Von Braun became Deputy Associate Administrator, NASA with responsibility for planning of future U.S. space missions. Dr. Von Braun left NASA in July 1972 to become Corporate Vice-President for Engineering and Development at Fairchild Industries, Germantown, Maryland.

Admission to the talk will be by ticket only until 3:55 p.m., at which time admission will be open to all. For further information call [REDACTED] OTR Special Programs Officer, Extension [REDACTED]

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