The Descriptive Finding Guide for the Max Jespersen Personal Papers
SDASM.SC.10170

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San Diego Air and Space Museum Library and Archives
7/2016
2001 Pan American Plaza, Balboa Park
San Diego 92101
URL: http://www.sandiegoairandspace.org/
Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: San Diego Air and Space Museum Library and Archives
Title: Lt. Col. Max O. Jesperson Personal Papers
Identifier/Call Number: SDASM.SC.10170
Physical Description: 2 Cubic Feet
Description: The collection is housed in four boxes (10"x12.5"x15.5"). Content notes: Complete records of Jesperson’s military education and career, beginning with his application in 1942 to his final tour of duty at Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico.
Date (bulk): bulk
Abstract: Max Jesperson served in the Air Force for over 26 years and took part in World War Two, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.
Biographical / Historical
Max Oscar Jesperson was born in Tucson, Arizona, on March 3, 1922, to Oscar Fernando Jesperson and Martha Abegg Jesperson. He graduated from Phoenix Union High School in 1940 and enlisted in the Air Force Reserve Corps on September 12, 1942. He was accepted as an Aviation Cadet at Santa Ana Army Air Base in California, where he completed his primary training and was transferred to AAF Pilot School at Minter Field, in Bakersfield, California on August 25, 1943. He completed his advanced training at Luke Field in Phoenix, Arizona and was assigned to active pilot duty as a 2nd Lieutenant on January 7, 1944. He reported to Randolph Field in San Antonio, Texas for Basic Instructors Course, and upon completion, had received training in the B-17 and A-6 at Hobbs Army Air Field in New Mexico. On April 16, 1945, he was assigned back to Minter Field as a Flight Instructor and promoted to 1st Lieutenant on August 3, 1945. In August 1946, he was sent to Lechfield Army Air Base, Germany, and the 305th Bomb Group, where he participated in the “Casey Jones Project,” which was the mapping of Germany by air in a B-17. He separated from the service and went into the Reserves, joining the Arizona Air National Guard (Copperheads). He was recalled back to active duty in February, 1951, and served as a combat crew instructor at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, and then at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. Jesperson was promoted to Captain and flew the F-86 with the 12th Squadron, 18th Fighter Bomber Wing, at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, then went on to Korea. After Korea, he was assigned to George Air Force Base, California, where he flew the F-100. He flew the F-104 for six years, two years at squadron level, two years at headquarters level, and two years with the German Air Force, assigned to the 33rd Fighter Bomb Wing, German Luftwaffenamt at Buchel Air Base. He was promoted to Lt. Col. on April 17, 1965. After going through F-4 Phantom training at George Air Force Base, he was assigned to the 389th TFS, 366th TFW at DaNang Air Base, Vietnam, where he flew the F-4, C-47, and OV-2. This included 110 combat hours, including missions to Khe Sahn in support of the US Marines. His final tour of duty was with the Air Force Special Weapons Center at Kirtland Air Force Base, Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he was responsible for air support for underground nuclear testing at the Nevada test site and the Aleutian Chain.
During his 26.5 years of active duty, Jesperson served in three wars and received the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service medal, Air medal, Commendation medal, AF Outstanding Unit award, Combat Ready medal with 3 oak leaf clusters, Air Campaign medal, EAME Campaign medal, WWII Victory medal, Army Occupation medal, National Defense medal with silver star, Korean Service medal, Vietnam Service medal, AF Longevity with silver cluster, AF Reserve, Small Arms Expert, United Nations Service medal, RVN Commendation medal, and RVN Air Service medal.
He was married to Virginia “Ginny” Glendora Jesperson (Feb. 14, 1923 – Oct. 20, 2015) and had three children. Mrs. Jesperson served as President of the Hq 12th Air Force Officers’ Wives’ Club, Texas. Max Jesperson passed away on November 5, 2014 and is buried at Miramar National Cemetery.
Conditions Governing Access
The collection is open to research by appointment, some restrictions may apply.
Immediate Source of Acquisition
The collection was donated to the San Diego Air and Space Museum.
Scope and Contents
Description: The collection is housed in four boxes (10"x12.5"x15.5").
Content notes: Complete records of Jesperson’s military education and career, beginning with his application in 1942 to his final tour of duty at Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico.
Related Materials
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Series I: Personal Ephemera

Folder 1 - Personal/Recreational


Series II - Military Records

Folder 2 - Military Records


Folder 3 - Flight checklists and briefing guides
Folder 4 - Protocol Guide - MAAG Germany, 1958
| Folder 6 | “No Guts; No Glory” Flight Tactics |
| Folder 7 | “How to shoot down an F-100” by Capt. G. Elsea |
| Folder 8 | Fighter and Fighter/Bomber Tactical Air Operations manual, July 1953 |
| Folder 9 | Instructors Manual for Pressure Suit Training, Oct. 1958 |
| Folder 10 | In-flight refueling procedures, Dec. 1958 |
| Folder 11 | OAO - Orbiting Astronomical Observatory “Built by Grumman for NASA” n.d. |
| Folder 12 | Recognition and Classification of Structural Failures, USC, Aerospace Safety Division |
| Folder 13 | USAF Air University, Gunter AFB, AL - graded composition, Nov. 1961 |
| Folder 14 | Air War College Class of 1967 roster |
| Folder 15 | Nuclear Weapons Orientation and Advanced Course, Sandia Base, NM, Dec. 1969 |
| Folder 16 | Nevada Test Site, late 1960/early 1970s |

**Physical Description:**
2. Two booklets “NTS Nevada Test Site... america’s outdoor nuclear explosives laboratory,” June 1970
4. “NTS News,” August 1972

| Folder 17 | Officer Evaluations and Reviews made by Jesperson, 1970s |
| Folder 18 | “Briefing Material”- Air Support for Nuclear Testing |
| Folder 19 | “Lt. Col. M. O. Jesperson” notebook |
| Folder 20 | “Rulison” |
| Folder 21 | “Milrow” |
| Folder 22 | “Dial Pack” |
| Folder 23 | “Medusa” |
| Folder 24 | “Cannikin” |
| Folder 25 | “Flying Time/UH-1 Missions - Det 1” |
| Folder 26 | “Misc. #1” |
| Folder 27 | “Misc. #2” |
| Folder 28 | “Misc. #3” |
| Folder 29 | “Special Guidance Documents, Info” |
| Folder 30 | “Far East” Info #1 |
| Folder 31 | “Far East” Info #2 |
| Folder 32 | “Far East” Info #3 |

Box 2 of 4

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**Series II - Military Records (cont)**

- Folder 1 - Individual Flight Records 1943 - 1969
- Folder 2 - Radio School Study Sheets, 1940s
- Folder 3 - Pilot Training questionnaires, exams, study sheets, 1940s
- Folder 4 - Pilot Questionnaire (F-100C/F-100D)
- Folder 5 - Misc. Rosters
- Folder 6 - Misc. U.S. Air Bases

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**Series III: Maps**

- Folder 7 - Maps #1 - California
- Folder 8 - Maps #2 - U.S.
- Folder 9 - Maps #3 - Asia

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**Series IV: Newspapers**

- Folder 10 - Personal Newspaper Clippings
- Folder 11 - USAT General John Pope newsletters, December 1946
Folder 12 – Misc. Newsletters, 1946 – 1971

Box 3 of 4

Series II - Military Records

1. Four three-ring binders labeled “1942 to 1945,” “1946 to 1951,” “1956 to 1965,” and “1966 to 1973” containing Jesperson’s military records such as applications, account statements, status reports, orders, medical records, certificates, memos, etc.
2. One three-ring binder titled “OER’s” containing evaluations of officers done by Jesperson as Directorate of Nuclear Field Operations at Kirtland AFB, 1969-71.

Box 4 of 4

Series V: Books and Manuals

3. One untitled three-ring binder contains class notes, study sheets, course descriptions, officer directory (National Guard of Arizona, October 1950), misc.
4. One three-ring binder titled “Book II” contains “Post Regulations, February 1, 1942.”
6. One three-ring binder titled “Aerospace Safety Division, United States Air Force Flying Safety Officer Course.”