Printing of Langley Working Paper No. 603

I want to thank you, Fred, and the publications printing group for the extremely high quality and expeditious printing of LWP-603 entitled "A Wind-Tunnel Investigation of the Application of the NASA Integral Supercritical Airfoil to a Variable-Wing-Sweep Fighter Airplane." Wayne Williams, James Joyner, Doris Whitaker, and Ben Franklin were extremely cooperative and made every effort to complete the job in the most rapid manner consistent with high quality.

As I mentioned to you on the phone, it is extremely important that this paper be put into the hands of the military and their contractors on FX and VFAX as soon as possible since the decision points for these new fighters are rapidly approaching. I hope the material in the paper will have a strong influence on their decisions.

Richard T. Whitcomb

RTWhitcomb@aecn
Subject: Transmittal of preliminary sketch of supercritical wing transport

Enclosed are several glossy copies of each of two versions of the sonic transport sketch. This is about all we can get out hands on in time to meet your deadline. I should point out also that Dick doesn't think too much of my side view. I've included it though to show the area rule shaping over the forward portion of the fuselage since he is using a similar approach on the wind-tunnel model.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas C. Kelly
Aero-Space Technologist

Enclosures
Mr. Philip Donely  
Chairman, Safety and Operating Problems Conference  
Langley Research Center  
Hampton, Virginia 23362

Dear Mr. Donely,

As an attendee at the recent NASA Aircraft Safety and Operating Problems Conference, I was highly impressed with the caliber of the involved NASA personnel and the obvious sound and practical approach to the solution of our many aviation problems.

Conversely, I am unimpressed with NASA's selection of superlatives to describe aeronautical phenomena. The case in point is the "super-critical wing". I am sure that a lot of people, including my mother, will never set foot in a transport that has a "super-critical wing." Further, it is my opinion that the adjective "super" is passe on the american scene and causes an undesirable reaction from several elements including congressmen who relate "super" with "super costs" and other unpleasant things.

I recommend a more mundane descriptive title be selected before the term "super-critical" is indelibly stamped on your most promising wing-form.

Sincerely,

R. A. ELDRIDGE  
Captain, U.S. Navy