New Book Highlights High-Flying Tech Transfer

BY ALLISON BALLEW

A new, picture-packed book has joined the ranks of the prestigious “NASA History Series.” It is the first publication devoted completely to aeronautics.

In *Airborne Trailblazer: Two Decades with NASA Langley's 737 Flying Laboratory*, author Lane Wallace not only tells the history behind this able-bodied research plane, but also explores the creative methods of technology transfer which the 737 made possible during its 20-year career at Langley.

There are several “technology transfer myths” which the author puts to rest -- including the idea that industry automatically “gobbles up” new technology as soon as it is received; that a “better mousetrap” is self-evident and doesn’t need setting; that “exciting and valid” technology will “automatically” be used.

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Since its early days with NASA, the Langley 737 aircraft has been a testbed for cutting-edge research, including aircraft safety, efficiency and reliability.

Wallace describes how the research conducted by Langley’s 737 was instrumental in changing future aircraft. The book also tells the practical research provided by the 737, including “glass cockpits,” the microwave landing system, the Global Positioning System and airborne wind shear detection.

Wallace is an aviation writer who has published over 200 articles on aviation and aerospace topics. Her writing includes new developments in NASA research and military aircraft technology. She graduated with honors from Brown University in 1983, with a degree in semiotics, a philosophical study of signs and symbols and their function in languages. She owns and flies her own airplane, a 1946 Cessna 120.

The painting, *The Wind Shear Flight Tests*, is on the cover of the book. The artist is John Clark.

The same process of distribution used for Langley’s 75th anniversary book, *Winds of Change*, will be used for *Airborne Trailblazer*. Each civil servant at Langley will be sent a copy directly.Copies will also be sent to the head offices of contract companies for their distribution. Retirees may request a copy of the book by calling the Public Mail Center at 864-3293.

**ORDER INFORMATION:** *Airborne Trailblazer* can be ordered by mail from the Superintendent of Documents, P. O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954 or by FAX to (202) 512-2250. GPO price for the publication is $27 which includes shipping and handling. The GPO stock number is 033-000-01140-7.