

Lt. Gen. Abner B. Martin, U.S. Air Force

Director
Defense Mapping Agency
September 1977– June 1979



Lt. Gen. Abner B. Martin attended Clemson College for eighteen months and then transferred to North Carolina State College, where he also served in the Army Enlisted Reserve Corps. He received an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy and graduated in 1949 with a BS in military engineering. He earned an MS in weapons systems engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1954 and an MA in international affairs from The George Washington University in 1965. He graduated from the Army War College in 1965 and the Advanced Management Program of Harvard Business School in 1968.

Lieutenant General Martin completed flight training in November 1950 and was assigned successively to the Air Training Command at Perrin Air Force Base (AFB), Texas; to the Air Force Armament Center, Eglin AFB, Florida; and to the Air Force Ballistic Systems Division, Air Force Systems Command at Inglewood, Los Angeles, and Norton AFB, California. In early 1967 Lieutenant General Martin spent approximately five months as Air Force Systems Command liaison officer in the Republic of Vietnam. He then served as director of Technical Operations, Office of the Deputy for Limited Warfare, in the Aeronautical Systems Division of Air Force Systems Command, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, and later was appointed commander, Air Force Armament Laboratory, at Eglin AFB. He was appointed deputy for Reentry Systems for the Space and Missile Systems Organization (SAMSO) at Norton AFB and one year later became deputy for Minuteman, SAMSO. He returned to the Aeronautical Systems Division, Air Force Systems Command, at Wright-Patterson AFB, in January 1974 for duty as the B-1 System Program Director.

As director of Defense Mapping Agency (DMA), Lieutenant General Martin responded to the growing demands for digital geographic data required by new aircraft simulators and the strategic and tactical variants of the cruise missiles. During his tenure, DMA production processes moved rapidly to the initial efforts to provide world coverage of digital data for weapon deployment. He retired on July 1, 1979.

Lieutenant General Martin's military decorations and awards include the Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with oak leaf cluster, American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, National Defense Service Medal with one service star, Vietnam Service Medal with one service star, Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon with six oak leaf clusters, and the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship. He was a command pilot who also wore the Master Missileman Badge.