The Marine Corps University, Quantico, Virginia, holds the personal papers and archives of the late Air Force Colonel John R. Boyd. In the archive, Colonel Boyd's papers are divided into fourteen records series. The first series is composed of books, which he heavily annotated. The degree of importance Boyd placed on the information is witnessed by how heavily he marked the pages. Pages heavily underlined with stars across the top and bottom were of the greatest interest. Sometimes he wrote comments in the margins. He often bought two copies of the same title and edition at a time. One copy was the clean reference copy, the other the working copy with his annotations. In several instances, Boyd collected different editions and/or translations of works by authors whom he admired. For example, he had various editions of Sun Tzu's military classic: The Art of War. From time to time he would start to read a book in a book store, buy it, then once he got it home would not look at it again. Other books were given to him as gifts. The books are arranged by subject, there under by author.

The arrangement of the books is purely arbitrary, since some books could fall under more than subject. For example, a book on World War II German military tactics could be filed under either military strategy or military history. An annotated book is indicated by a bullet in front of the author's name. The number of copies of each book is also indicated. The second series is excerpts or photocopies of books, arranged alphabetically by author. The third series is Magazines This is arranged chronologically by magazine. The fourth is Articles, arranged alphabetically. The fifth is Miscellaneous Newspaper Clippings. The sixth series is Briefings, and is subdivided into two parts. The first sub-series is John Boyd's own briefings, arranged by briefing, there under chronologically by version. The second sub-series is briefings done by others, arranged alphabetically. Next is the Reports and Concept Papers series. This is arranged alphabetically.

Notes and Notebook series is composed of John Boyd's handwritten notes and drafts. Items that were together in an envelop were kept together. He frequently abbreviated terms. T-T-D scrawled across the top of a page means "things to do". "POC" is "Patterns of Conflict". The Course Syllabi and Seminars series, number nine, reflects John Boyd's work developing course curricula in professional military education. The Technical Material series, number ten, reflects his studies of business management. The eleventh series is Correspondence and Memoranda, arranged chronologically. The twelfth series, Yearbooks and Daily Diaries, is arranged chronologically. The General series, number thirteen, is composed of miscellaneous documents. The Photographs and Audiovisual series, number fourteen, consists of still photographs of Colonel Boyd and his family, and one of his briefings.

Series Description

Part I:

Books:

- Biography/History/Military History
- Biography
• General History
• Ancient Greece and Rome
• American Civil War/United States
• European: Napoleon Bonaparte
• European: Germany
• World War I
• World II
• Korea
• Vietnam
• Other Conflicts
• Special Operations
• Military Reform
• Military Strategy

Part II:

• **Political Theory/Philosophy/Math and Science**
• **Cold War and Espionage**
• **Equipment and Military Hardware**
• **Business Management**
• **General**

Excerpts from books:

• photo-copies of published material, mostly individual chapters of books 1.3 cubic feet

**Magazines:**

• 3 cubic feet

**Miscellaneous Newspaper Clippings**

**Articles:**

• reprints, magazine and journal articles, some annotated, memoranda, etc. 0.67 cubic feet
Briefings:

- abstracts, diagrams, transparencies and source list (John Boyd's required reading list) of briefings prepared by Boyd, critiques of Boyd's briefings, etc.
- 2 cubic feet

By Others

- abstracts, correspondence, memoranda, magazine and newspaper clippings, book reviews, thought pieces, manuscripts, etc.
- 1 cubic foot

Reports and Concept Papers:

- reports, correspondence, memoranda, papers, reprints, diagrams, etc.
- 0.8 cubic feet

Notes and Notebooks:

- handwritten drafts, typed manuscripts, correspondence, memoranda, magazine articles, mathematical equations, etc.
- 0.67 cubic feet

Course Syllabi and Seminars:

- correspondence, abstracts, magazine articles, concept papers, syllabi, pamphlets, etc. 0.5 cubic feet

Technical Material:

- factory management abstracts
- 0.165 cubic feet

Correspondence and Memoranda — 1970-1995:

- correspondence, notes, etc.
- 0.165 cubic feet

Yearbooks and Desk Diaries -- 1943-1986:

- high school and Air Force yearbooks, desk diaries

General:

Memoranda, abstracts, magazine and newspaper articles, federal legislation,
Congressional testimony, flight records, published material, short story, membership certificate, engineering drawings for aircraft, transcript of oral history interviews, handwritten notes, favorite quotes, resume, manuscript, travel itinerary, agendas, etc., 0.67 cubic feet

Artifacts:
- clothing, plaques, citations, awards, typewriter ball

Photographs and video tapes:
- still photographs and video tape recordings
- 0.5 cubic feet

Political Theory/Philosophy/New Age/Math and Science:


Paul Alexandroff; *Topology*, translated by Alan E. Farley, Dover


John D. Barrow; *Theories of Everything: The Quest for Ultimate Explanation*, Fawcett Columbine, New York, 1991 annotated with page notations inside back cover

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Notes

Notes

Notes

Notes

Notes

Notes

Notes

Notes

Notes

Rough Drafts

Spiral Notebooks

**Box 17**

20 spiral notebooks and notes written on cardboard

Course Syllabi and Seminars:

**Box 18**

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Miscellaneous

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jump suit

red silk scarf

leather brief case

2 Batori Jet Computer supersonic

type ball from typewriter used to type Patterns of Conflict

leather wallet with Colonel Boyd's discharge papers from the U.S. Army Air Force

plaque -- Major John R. Boyd, aeronautical engineering 1965

Citation of Honor, Air Force Association pays tribute to LtCol. John R. Boyd, for pioneering development of Air-to-Air Fighter Tactics Leading to Greater Combat Capability and Improvements in Aircraft Design, 1969

plaque -- 55th Tactical Fighter Squadron
The Harold Brown Award, Department of the Air Force presented to Col. John Boyd -- 1974


Photographs:

**Box 25**

Folder 15 -- Polaroid snapshots of Colonel and Mrs. Boyd's living room showing bookcases and Colonel Boyd's favorite chair before shipping material to Quantico

2 -- 3x5 color photographs showing John Boyd leaning against door frame talking to Morly Safer of 60 Minutes and Colonel James G. Burton (USAF)

1 -- Xeroxed image of the photograph from the New York Times showing John Boyd holding a model of the F-16

JRB -- College freshman photograph

JRB -- College graduation portrait

JRB -- As an enlisted man, U.S. Army

JRB -- About to dive into swimming pool

College yearbook photograph of Mary E. Bruce (the future Mrs. Boyd)

JRB and Mary Bruce -- college prom

Wedding photograph -- Mr. and Mrs. John Boyd

John and Mary Boyd cutting the wedding cake

JRB -- climbing out of F-86 cockpit

Official USAF portrait of JRB

Retirement photograph of Colonel Boyd with Secretary of the Air Force John McLucas

JRB in retirement

Folder 2 John Boyd and Pierre Sprey in front of photograph of the F-16 three images of the F-16 in flight

slides

Computer discs

multi-media CD-Rom: Air Command and Staff College "Education Tomorrow's Leaders"
AY 94 ACSC Curriculum

Addendum

Dr. Grant T. Hammond -- manuscript, biography of John Boyd

Top

Return to War, Chaos, and Business