



In the Beginning of AAAA Fifty Years Ago

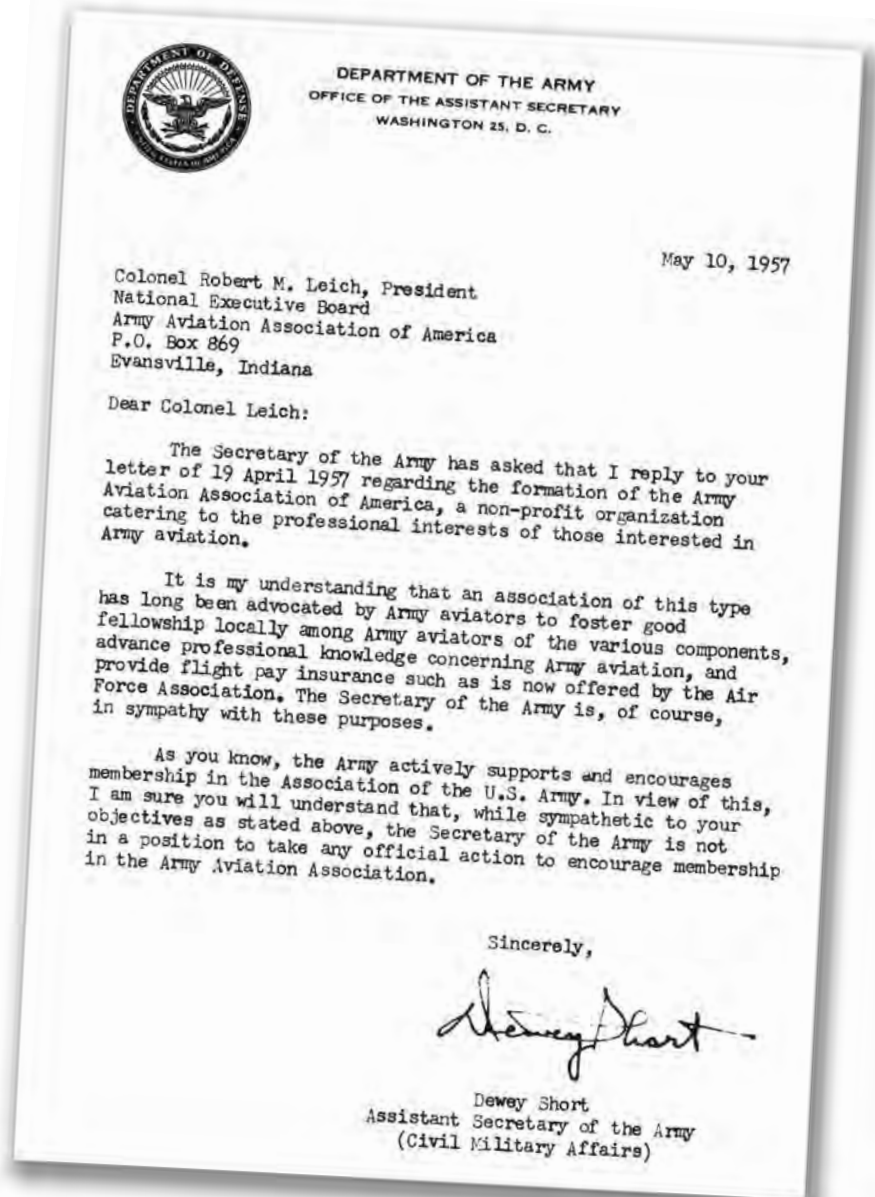
Editor's note: The following is an excerpt from a forthcoming article by retired LTG Bob Williams, the AAAA's first Executive V.P., on the "Conception" of the Association, which is to be published in the 50th Anniversary Special Edition of ARMY AVIATION magazine in the spring of 2007.

In 1957, the need for an organization to represent and serve all the many facets of Army Aviation was seen by a group of World War II artillery cub pilots. This group had seen the problems and prospects for Army Aviation from an Army staff position (Bob Williams), National Guard (Glenn Goodhand), Reserves (Art Kesten), community relations (Bob Leich), helicopter industry (Bryce Wilson), fixed-wing industry (Joe McDonald), and from personnel management (Elmore Swenson).

Connected only by communications, long friendship and a dedication to Army Aviation, this small group examined what would be required to form an association. The normal procedure would be to prepare a charter and bylaws, hire a staff and let the staff administer the association, including the publication of a magazine and contracting for services, such as flight pay insurance.

We had no Aviation branch at that time; no organization to start the action and no money to hire a staff. Fortunately the solution was there ahead of us.

Art Kesten had formed a company four years earlier, Army Aviation Publications, Inc. (AAPI), to publish a magazine, initially for the USAR-ARNG aviators in the First U.S. Army area, that had already expanded to many subscribers throughout the Army.



We contracted with Art and Doty Kesten to take on the entire job done by the paid staffs of other organizations and to do so at no cost to the association.

They received the normal subscription fee and retained ownership of the magazine. In return, they pro-

vided complete administrative support for all association programs.

This arrangement has continued to this day and has been vetted many times during the past 50 years. Each time it's been shown to be the most efficient, effective and least costly way to handle our Association..."