# AVIATION WEEK SPACE TECHNOLOGY

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# **Business Aviation Cleared to Climb**

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Flying the
Learjet 45

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# AVIATION Lear Le





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### **HEADLINE NEWS**

# Elevon vibration leads to F-117 crash

USAF grounds stealth fighter fleet after outer wing falls off at Maryland air show

## Air crashes mar 1997 safety record

Cohen orders 24-hr. suspension of U.S. training flights

# German, U.S. aircraft crash off African coast

U.S. and South African aircraft with infrared sensor and all-weather flight capabilities search for debris

## Lockheed Martin tests JSF propulsion system

Design can provide adequate airflow to the engine throughout projected flight test envelope

# Hughes to supply RAF with reconnaissance pods Will replace film-based system

# NASA defends Mir flights as shuttle readied

To garner support for continued U.S. astronaut flights to station 3

# Congressional leader urges end to astronaut stays on Mir

Wants NASA to reconsider plan for launch this week

# B-2's durability faces foreign test

30

Goal is to quell criticism that aircraft cannot maintain stealthy signature except near home base

# F-22 tests cut short

After built-in test showed faulty valve in landing gear area

# MGS begins Mars mission by finding magnetic field

Sensitive magnetometer also was able to measure interaction of solar wind with Mars magnetosphere

# Pentagon to spend big on NMD testing

BMDO to add up to eight flight tests to the 13 scheduled

### AIR TRANSPORT

### U.S. and Japan near new air services pact

New route rights, code-sharing for both nations' airlines are on table

### Aviation panel urges overhaul of FAA

Says U.S. air transportation system faces airport, airspace 'gridlock'

About the Cover

Learjet Inc.'s Model 45 lightweight business jet represents the companys first new design in 30 years (see pilot report, p. 52). The aircraft is a successor to the Model 35/36-series that has been out of production since 1992.

Photo by Paul Bowen.

# America West picks Airbus In effort to renew fleet and gain

growth capacity

### CIA aids FBI probe of TWA Flight 800

Finds no evidence that 747 was downed by a missile

# Shortages delaying Boeing deliveries

Boeing deliveries
Snag rapid production ramp-up

# Boeing sues airline over broken contract

After US Airways drops plan to buy \$2 billion worth of 737s and 757s

# Startup wins battle to offer new competition in Australia

Pact reached to provide Aussie Airlines with terminal space

### MIDDLE EAST AEROSPACE OUTLOOK

# Strategic tensions fuel weapons trade

Strong oil demand seen raising Middle East's military importance among energy-hungry rivals







### LEARJET 45 PILOT REPORT

Efficiency, value key to Learjet 45 design First all-new Learjet in 30 years fills a gap between 31A and larger 60 52

### **NBAA '97 PREVIEW**

Business flying shows new confidence Industry officials optimistic, but political, operational issues loom

Low cost key to fractional ownership Rapidly becoming affordable alternative to acquiring new aircraft 63

Asian market poised for long-term growth Inadequate infrastructure, government indifference remain blocks

Economic growth fuels rise in European business flying Many operators interested in acquiring new and larger aircraft 69

Epic avionics in flight test
First delivery set for mid-1998 70

Collins emphasizes
cockpit graphics
Joy sticks or track balls may be part
of system for corporate aircraft
71

# http://www.awgnet.com

Aviation Week's Web site offers selected articles from the current issue, as well as daily news updates, the Safety Resource Center, a gallery of photos and features from special issues. It's also a great jumping off spot for surfing to other aerospace sites. We're available on CompuServe, too; just GO AWG.

Learjet 45 avionics include EICAS display
First application in a lightweight business jet

### **SPACE TECHNOLOGY**

Commercial satellites zoom in on military imagery monopoly Could set new paradigms for how U.S. procures and tasks spacecraft

# **AVIONICS**

'Smart skin' antenna improves quality of communications
Increases range, quality of radio transmissions from aircraft

F-16 upgrades include color displays, mission computer
Part of F-16A/B Mid-Life Update program for European customers 79

# INTERNATIONAL PRODUCT NEWS

Latest fire detection system offers active reaction, flexibility

Air Faspak allows airlines to tailor the system to suit their preferences

**USAF receives first of new cargo loaders**60,000-lb.-capacity transporter can
carry a full load at up to 23 mph. 90

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