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## I. The Space Center

The Manned Spacecraft Center (MSC) did not yet exist as a physical entity. Center personnel and organizations were spread out in more than a dozen locations, mostly on the south side of Houston. Headquarters was located in the Farnsworth-Chambers Building, an old construction company office building that appeared to have been inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright's "organic" period. My unit was located in old, remodeled barracks at Ellington Air Force Base, which had been a pilot training facility about the time of World War I.

It was mid-August when I arrived, and the miserable Houston summer was totally oppressive. Austin could be hot, but the typical Houston summer climate is hot and humid, with about the same temperature and humidity statistics as Calcutta. For many years the British Consulate personnel working in Houston drew hardship

















