

# Tribute to André Motet

**Session of the Air and Space Academy on 15 June 2023 by Philippe Couillard**

André Motet was born in Paris in 1934. After Polytechnique, he chose SupAero and then joined the Service Technique de l'Aéronautique of the Délégation Générale de l'Armement. He stayed there for five years before joining SEREB, which was set up to build France's deterrent force.

André Motet's name is inextricably linked with the construction of the French oceanic deterrent force, and in particular with the development and production of the M4 and M45 missiles. From 1971 to 1982, he was director of these programmes at Aerospatiale. But above all he was a great engineer with an acute perception of systems aspects. He was interested not only in the missile itself but also in its implementation in the submarine. These were tricky achievements, but they were also very exciting because no more complex system was developed during the second half of the twentieth century. André Motet knew how to analyse all these phenomena in depth and determine the technical solutions to address them. He also played a major role in the study and implementation of penetration aids for these missiles.

The opinion of this great engineer was also regularly sought on other subjects. He was involved with the Huygens probe and the atmospheric re-entry demonstrator for the third flight of Ariane 5. On the whole, the reviews conducted by André Motet were both feared and appreciated.

He was elected a correspondent of AAE in 1986 and a fellow in 2001, shortly after his retirement in 1999. He was of course a member of our Defence commission, for which he served for some time as secretary. He was naturally very keen to maintain France's deterrent force.

André Motet was an Officer of the Légion d'Honneur, an Officer of the Ordre du Mérite and a recipient of the Aeronautics Medal.