

## *Fly With the Mind*

At Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, researchers hope they will develop the means for pilots to fly airplanes with their minds. The project is called brain-actuated control.

Writers Ron Kotulak and Jon Van say this is how it could work. The pilot would wear scalp monitors that pick up electrical signals from various points on his head. The scalp monitors would be wired to a computer. Using biofeedback techniques, the pilot would learn to manipulate the electrical activity created by his or her thought processes. The computer would translate the electrical signals into mechanical commands for the airplane.

Imagine being able to bank an airplane's wings, accelerate and climb another 10,000 feet, all by controlling what you think.

I don't know about you, but I'll pass on the test flight for the new system. Even with the most disciplined individuals, the mind is too easily distracted. Obviously, safeguards would be needed to deal with that contingency.

The brain is, however, an organ that has enormous potential that has not been tapped. Although controlling airplanes with the mind is yet to be developed, our mind already has tremendous control of one very important aspect -- our behavior.

And be assured: Sooner or later our thoughts lead to our actions.

So what's in your head today? Do you allow positive or negative thoughts to linger there?

--Beecher Hunter