Dedication

This work is dedicated to all of the many people without whose patience and support it could never have been achieved. Those people are too numerous to all be mentioned here, but they include:

- My wife, Heather. Her patience with me was often stretched to the breaking point, but she nevertheless refused to allow me to let go of the dream, and she worked very hard to support us in my quest, even though she believes (still) that the answer can always be found by simple cross-multiplication;

- My parents, who raised me to be too stubborn to quit, and/or too foolish to know *when* to quit;

- Professor Eric R. Johnson of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. This is his work as much as it is mine, or possibly more. Thank you, Eric;

- The other instructors who undertook to convey their knowledge to me: from my preschool teachers, through high school, military training and all those long, hard years of college education. I don't remember all of your names or faces, nor all of that which you tried to teach me, but I know I couldn't have done it without you. Well, maybe without some of you Navy guys.

In addition, this work is also dedicated to my dogs, Nathan and Sheldon. You're right, guys -- sometimes a good face licking *is* the best medicine. Now if you'd just learn to come when called....

Acknowledgments