Frederick O. Detweiler began his aviation career in 1933, when, after graduating from Denison University with a degree in economics, he joined Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Division. He held various accounting posts with that division until 1943, when he was transferred to Kansas City to become Divisional Accountant and Secretary of Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Corporation of Missouri. In 1945, he was appointed Acting Manager of the plant and supervised its post-war closing. He became Divisional Controller of Sikorsky Aircraft Division in 1946, He was appointed Assistant General Manager of Chance Vought in 1948, and became General Manager in December 1949. He later became President of Chance Vought Aircraft, Inc., when the company separated from United Aircraft Corporation.

