



THE CHINA LAKER

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SKYRAY AND SUPERTIGER TO JOIN BOAR AND POLARIS OUTDOOR EXHIBITS

Duane Jack Russell

Work is continuing on the restoration of several historical weapons and aircraft and their display in front of the China Lake Weapons Exhibit Center. In the last issue of *The China Laker* the mounting and display of the Polaris and BOAR weapon shapes were reported as well as China Lake's role in their design and development.



Current efforts are concentrating on the restoration of the XF4D-1 Skyray and F11F-1F Super Tiger world record setting aircraft. This work is being coordinated by Dick Bauers.

These aircraft have been sitting in the open air for a number of years in the stricken aircraft storage area. Damage and deterioration was unavoidable. Willie Goodman and several of his coworkers from Kay and Associates have been doing the detailed repair and painting on their off-work hours.

At the same time the grounds in front of the Exhibit Center are being prepared for the arrival of the two aircraft. A volunteer work party of Ed Brooks and his son Eddie, Joe Seibold, Chris Peterson and Frank St. George did the back breaking labor of sod removal. Jerry Morrison was instrumental in measuring and laying out the areas for the aircraft pads.

A Bombardment Aircraft Rocket (BOAR) is launched from a McDonnell F2H Banshee on the China Lake ranges, probably in the early 1950s. A full-scale shape of this weapon has been mounted on the exterior wall of the Exhibit Center near the main entrance.

(See OUTDOOR EXHIBITS, Page 3)

UNIQUE SIDEWINDER HARDWARE ADDED TO COLLECTION

Frank St. George

The China Lake Sidewinder project office has offered a historical collection of Sidewinder hardware to the China Lake Museum Foundation for display in the Weapons Exhibit Center. The collection includes technology components, cut-away missile seekers and a cut-away full-up missile on a missile launcher.

The seekers represent the Aim-9B, 9-D/G, 9-H, 9-L, 9-M and the Aim-9R. This magnificent hardware clearly shows the evolution not only in design technology but also the advances made in manufacturing and production. The technical advancements made by the China Lake Sidewinder program over the years led to extensive airborne infrared (IR) target signature measurement programs, application of IR sensors for space borne platforms, follow on missile developments such as Chaparral, Agile, Stinger, IR Maverick, and dual mode IR/RF seekers such as RAM.

The CLMF is looking at display case concepts in which to exhibit and protect the Sidewinder components and seekers.

WEBSITES: CHECK 'EM OUT!

Duane Jack Russell

Check out the updated websites for the China Lake Museum Foundation and the Weapons Exhibit Center. Go to:

<http://www.ridgecrest.ca.us/~clmf/clmf/clmf.html> and follow the links to learn about the Foundation and view China Lake history and weapons. We wish to thank Eric Van Bronkhorst for volunteering his time to update these sites.

At the same time visit the new website for the China Lake Museum Foundation Gift Shop at:

<http://www.ridgenet.net/~clmf>

Most all of the products for sale at the Gift Shop are shown as well as an ordering form. Any of these products can also be ordered over the phone at (760) 939-3530.

POTENTIAL NEW ANTI-RADIATION SEEKER DISPLAY

Ray Miller

Recently, Frank St. George and I visited the ARL (Anti-Radiation Laboratory) to see the Anti-Radiation Missile display. Tex Hoppus was our host and explained (along with Bob Corzine) the items in the display. Moreover, Tex is willing to turn the ARM display over to NAWC Historian, LeRoy Doig so that it can become a part of the Exhibit Center. We have assured him that the CLMF would like to have the display and will work hard to provide display space into which the seekers and antennas can be directly transferred. In the opinion of Tex and Bob, there are no classification issues or ownership issues to be concerned about.

Cornucopia of Archival Hardware

The display currently consists of two tables of items. The first holds about 20 seekers. Sarah, Shrike, Harm, Sidearm, Standard Arm, Tacit Rainbow and several experimental seekers from the Erase program are represented. The second table holds 8 seekers and 5 antennas. Harm LCS, Standard Arm, Shrike and experimental items are represented.

Expertise on Tap

In addition to the items listed above, Tex believes he can find an ARP seeker. He will also find us a radar dish that has been penetrated by an ARM missile to include in the display. Bob Corzine indicated his willingness to interpret the items to help us with signs and display ideas. Tex will also provide his expertise to the effort.

Frank and I think this collection can be an extremely valuable exhibit asset and have recommended that the CLMF Board work with LeRoy to get a display area and a display concept laid out for ultimate transfer of the items to the Exhibit Center. The Board concurs. Funding for display cabinets may be a problem, but perhaps we can find the necessary resources.

OUTDOOR EXHIBITS

Duane Jack Russell

(Cont. from Page 1)

Many, Many Thanks!

We are indebted to Lt. (j.g.) Manny Hernandez, CEC, and BU2 Dan Rose of the SEABEE/Self Help office for doing the excavating and concrete work for the pads. Ridgecrest Concrete was generous in the discount they gave for the concrete. Day & Zimmermann Services rerouted the watering systems. Ensuing effort will involve construction of curbing and laying down weed barrier and decorative ground cover.

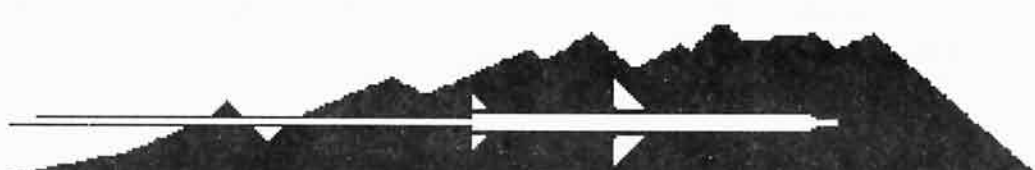
When the two aircraft are in place in front of the Exhibit Center The China Laker will tell their history and China Lake's involvement.

FLASH!

Shortly before press time we received the long awaited letter that directs the establishment of the Naval Museum of Armament and Technology. The letter was signed by Secretary of the Navy Richard Danzig. The Foundation will work with the NAWS and NAWCWPNs to transition the China Lake Weapons Exhibit Center to the new Museum. We will keep you informed with a special issue of The China Laker as plans develop.

HISTORY CHANNEL VIDEOTAPES AT EXHIBIT CENTER

On May 18 a professional video production crew working for the History Channel visited the Exhibit Center. They videotaped two prominent NAWCWD personnel who discussed the development of the Sidewinder missile. They also taped our displays of other missiles that played key roles in Desert Storm. The producer indicated the program will air November 1 of this year.



The China Lake Museum Foundation

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