



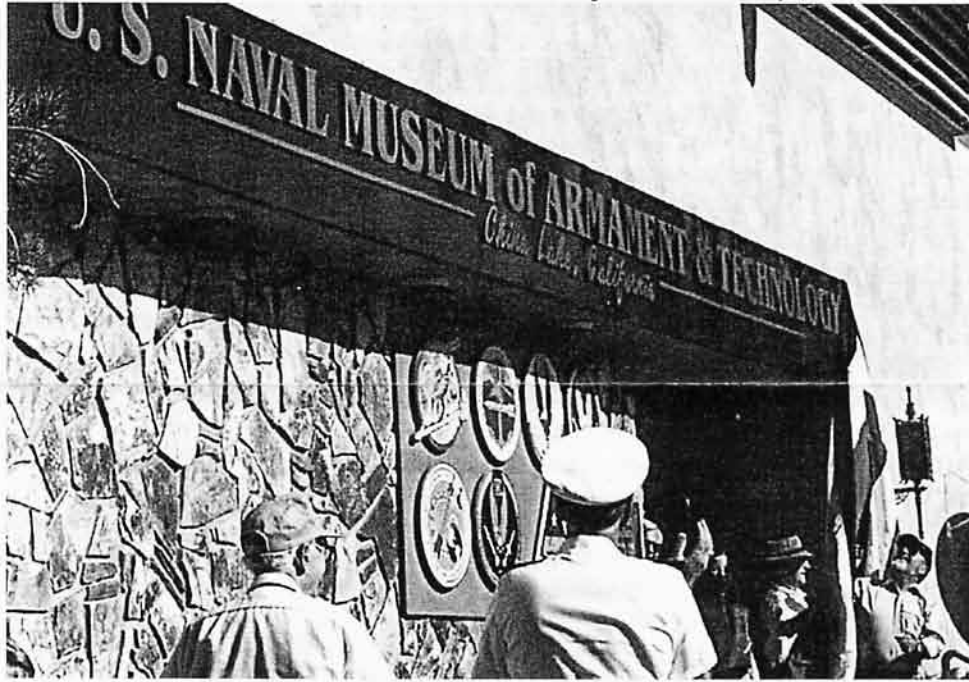
THE CHINA LAKER

Vol. 7, No. 1

Spring 2001

THE DREAM COMES TRUE!

"Provide the history of China Lake ... preserve the many lessons learned (just in case history repeats itself!) ... and provide the recognition that is justly deserved." In these words China Lake Museum Foundation President Burrell Hays proclaimed the purpose of the U.S. Naval Museum of Armament & Technology at the institution's ribbon cutting on 28 July 2000. Moments later he joined other dignitaries in unveiling the sign above the entrance to this latest addition to the roster of official Navy museums. ↓ (See boxed story on Page 2.)



Midsummer Mojave temperatures failed to deter the crowd of supporters who gathered under the midafternoon sun to witness the dedication ceremony and tour the impressive display of RDT&E aircraft assembled for the event. ↓



(cont'd. on Page 2 ⇒)

THE DREAM COMES TRUE!

(cont'd. from Page 1)

The enthusiastic applause that greeted vocalist Cassandra Baur's rendition of "Proud To Be an American" typified the China Lake *"esprit de corps"* perhaps unequaled in the Navy's far-flung organization" that was cited in the message sent for the occasion by Dr. William S. Dudley, Director of Naval History.

The roar of flyovers by a VX-9 AH-1 Cobra helicopter, an F-14 from the Naval Weapons Test Squadron Point Mugu, and two F/A-18s each from VX-9 and the China Lake Test Squadron drew thundering cheers from the well-wishers below.

Just two brief hours after assuming command of the Naval Air Weapons Station, Capt. Jim Seaman welcomed the crowd and introduced an imposing series of speakers that included Milton Burford, founding director of the China Lake Museum Foundation, RAdm. Bert Johnston, Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division commander; and Dr. Karen Higgins, Division executive director.

In the course of his remarks CLMF President Hays credited the personal involvement of RAdm Johnston, Capt. Seaman and former NAWS Commander Capt. John Langford, as a major factor in getting the Foundation's request for official Navy museum status "through the paperwork mill." He praised the ongoing efforts of NAWCWD's China Lake Museum Committee and the many and varied contributions of the CLMF volunteer corps.

"People all over the base have aided and abetted the collection of not only artifacts

but of support equipment and supplies," Hays told the crowd. "Help came from range operations and targets groups, from interested people within the technical and support codes, from EOD, DRMO and the magazines.."

Others acknowledged by Hays for their contributions included former China Lake Commanding Officers B. J. Craig and Doug Cook,, NAWC-WD Command

**CEREMONIAL "STRING-PULLERS"
TYPIFY CHINA LAKE
MILITARY-CIVILIAN TEAM SPIRIT**

Joining Burrell in the culminating moment of the dedication ceremony, Capt. Tom Pollock, representing China Lake's proud military history, and Frank Knemeyer, representing a civilian community of scientists and engineers serving the Fleet for more than 56 years, helped pull the ceremonial string that unveiled the Museum's brand-new sign.

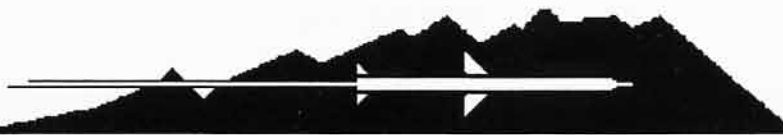
As commander of the Aviation Ordnance Development Unit One, Pollock was China Lake's very first test pilot back in 1943-44. And Knemeyer, who arrived here in 1948, worked on a host of significant programs and held several key management jobs, including that of Deputy Technical Director For Strike Systems.

Historian Leroy Doig, and "the Public Works, Public Affairs and TID folks who contributed to the facility and to the exhibits—notably Eric Bengtson who has put a lot of his own time and energy into supporting our efforts since the beginning ... And we owe the folks at the Test Squadron a great deal of thanks. Skipper Jerry Budnick has been very supportive, and Bob Coffland helped make our aircraft displays possible. Chief Ely and his crew deserve the

credit for getting all the aircraft here for the ceremony.

"In typical China Lake fashion," he continued, "we had a whole slew of unnamed folks show up at the last minute to make sure we made a simple ceremony into a major event followed by a great big party. So we acknowledge all those people who put together and manned and transported the temporary displays for this event; our sailors who put out chairs in 150-degree weather, and the folks who provided the awnings for shade!"

Your China Lake Museum Foundation was honored to sponsor this memorable event and the reception on the Lanai that followed.



The China Lake Museum Foundation
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Burrell Hays, *President*

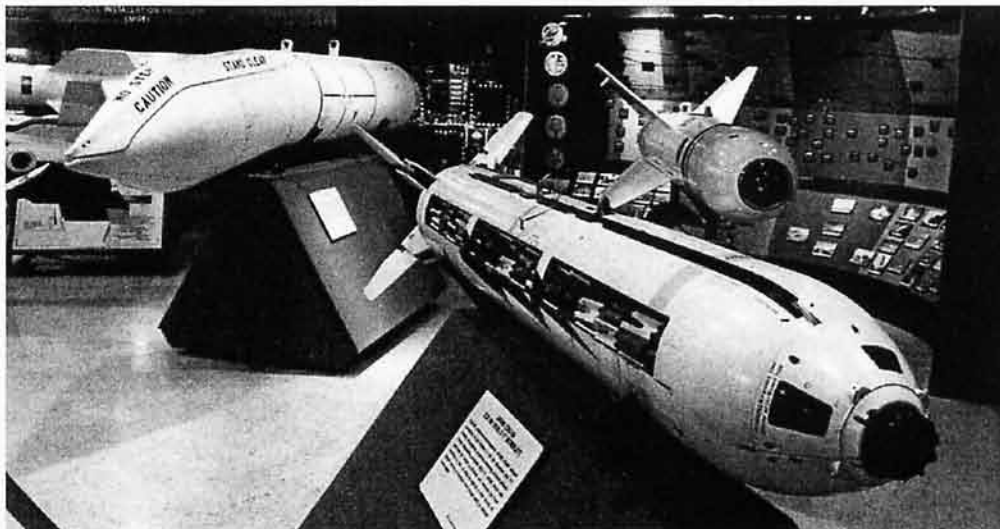
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|---|---------------------------------|---|
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| Admiral Wesley McDonald, USN (Ret.), <i>Trustee</i> | | John DiPol, <i>Director Emeritus</i> |
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| Ray Miller • <i>Facilities & Display Concepts</i> | | Duane Jack Russell • <i>Operations (acting)</i> |
| Frank St. George • <i>Operations (acting)</i> | | Betty Seaman • <i>Operations (acting)</i> |
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Volunteer coordinator

A GLIMPSE INTO "ONE OF THE FINEST"

For several China Lake Museum Foundation members who participated in the dedication of the U.S. Naval Museum of Armament and Technology at China Lake on 28 July, the route the new institution had navigated from dream to reality seemed as long, as twisted and as beset by perilous chance as some of the greatest sea voyages of battle and discovery accomplished by the military service the Museum is designed to honor.

The decade-plus journey—from Milt Burford's launching of the project in 1989 to last summer's gala ribbon-cutting—was documented in the 8 June issue of *The Weaponeer*. That report termed our facility “one of the finest publicly accessible collections of tactical air weaponry and technology anywhere.” Now that the collection has been awarded the status of an official Navy museum, we once again thank *The Weaponeer* for the following photographs, giving us a glimpse into just a few of the unique exhibits currently on view:

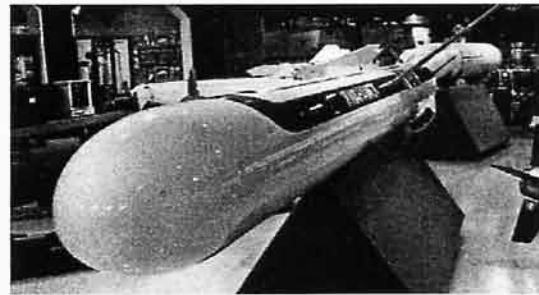


Foreground: APAM (CBU-59) advanced cluster weapon. Background left: Pave Knife laser-designator pod. Background right: Walleye II video-guided air-to-surface missile.
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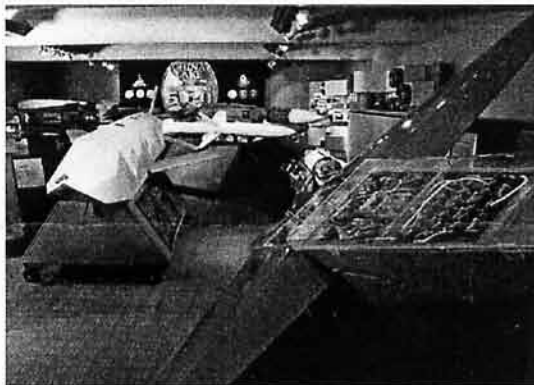
A BRIEF LOOK
(cont'd. from Page 3)



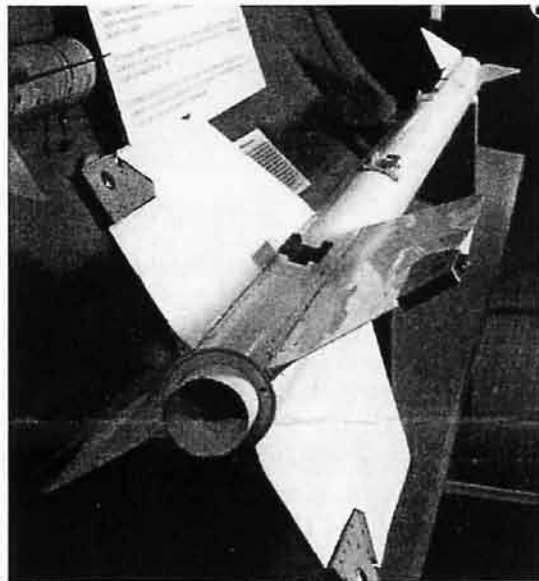
Foreground: HARM (AGM-88) antiradar missile. Right: Sparrow (AIM-7).



TOMAHAWK cruise missile.



Right Foreground: Bat guided missile. Left: Recoverable Test Vehicle. Background Center: Shrike (AGM-45).



Sidewinder, the jewel in the crown of China Lake's contributions to our nation's arsenal.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Since we got the good news of becoming an official Navy museum, the Board of Directors has been hard at work to create an infrastructure for the Foundation's organization to best serve anticipated future needs and requirements.

As you recall, our by-laws were updated last summer to allow expan-

sion of the Board and to create Vice President positions to accommodate the distribution of tasks.

Directors provided recommendations concerning possible tasks the Foundation may have in the near and far future and they made suggestions how the Board might be best organized for those tasks.

On Sept. 5 the Directors met on the base (old Chief's Club) for a half-day retreat to seek consensus on the initial setting of possible tasks to be accomplished and how those tasks could be organized. Results of that meeting provided the following:

(cont'd. on Page 5⇒)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(cont'd. from Page 4)

- 1) No need to fill the Chairman position at this time.
- 2) Continue with those positions and tasks currently required by the by-laws:
 - a) President b) Secretary c) Treasurer
- 3) Recognize the need for assignment of task responsibility for the following activities:
 - a) Current operation of the Museum and gift shop. Expanding the current operation by the creation of museum-quality presentations at the current Museum location and increased involvement with the public.
 - b) Fundraising
 - c) Facilities and Display Concepts
 - d) Publicity/Advertisement
- 4) Recommend to the Board of Directors that four Vice President positions be established, responsibility assigned, and Directors who volunteered to accept these VP positions be elected:
 - a) VP Operations (Frank St. George, Jack Russell & Betty Seaman)
 - b) VP Fundraising (Paul Homer)
 - c) VP Facilities and Display Concepts (Ray Miller)
 - d) VP Publicity/ Advertisement (Dennis Kline)

At a subsequent Board of Directors meeting, motions were made and the above organization was established with the following exceptions:

- 1) Responsibility for Display Concepts was assigned to VP Operations, and responsibility for Facility Display Concepts is the responsibility of VP Facilities.
- 2) Creation of VP for Membership. This was approved, and Ms. Alice Campbell was elected to that position.

Since this new organization was established, the individual VPs have been working to expand the number of Directors assigned to their organization, to establish operating procedures, and to provide service. For instance, the Operations VPs have had several meetings to determine the best method to hire professional staff for the operation of the current Museum and are presently in the search for a Museum Manager. The VP for Fundraising has determined the requirement to raise funds for current operations and the requirement to raise funds for new facilities and museum-quality displays. Paul also has

started the process of fund-raising for both requirements. The VP of Facilities has created a number of strategies for Museum location, sizing and interface with local government organizations. The VP of Publicity has created his working group and has contacted the Directors for publicity requirements. Alice Campbell has created a membership database, made contacts for increased memberships and is designing methods to recognize China Lakers and Members at the Museum.

A great deal of work remains to be done, but it would appear that the organization is set to ac-

complish the work. The new Directors and Vice Presidents are showing enthusiasm for moving the Museum forward. Members who would like to join in the planning and execution of the various tasks are encouraged to contact the appropriate VP directly.

I hope all the above is understandable, (remember this is an engineer trying to communicate), and is as exciting to you as it is to the Board. If you have suggestions to improve the Board, please either write the Foundation or give one of the Board Members a call.

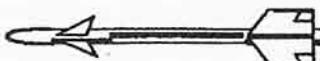
Thank you,

Burrell Hays

↑ See details on reverse: ↑
Annual Membership Dinner Dance
May 4

~~760-377-0056~~
~~1055 Sierra Vista~~
~~Robert and Alice Campbell~~

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CHINA LAKE MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP DINNER DANCE MAY 4
BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!

See the flyer inside, fill out the reservation information and membership application/renewal, clip and send back with your check or Credit Card number. Your membership payment is for the calendar 2001 year, so unless you have already sent in your check this year, you will need to fill out the membership renewal to continue receiving the newsletter, unless of course you are a life member.

For life members, the dinners for member and spouse/guest are free. Life members will receive special recognition of their generous donation on a plaque to be placed in the Museum.

The Membership Dinner Dance will start with a cocktail hour, dinner will be catered by Hitters, and the Big Band Express will entertain for listening and dancing.

There will be an opportunity to bid on some nice items in the Silent Auction, such as a Commemorative China Lake Larry Zabel print signed by previous Technical Directors entitled "50 Years of Navy RDT&E". Paid up Members, will have a chance to win a door prize such as jewelry from Jewelry To Go and some nice items from our Museum Gift Shop. We would appreciate donation of items or services for the Silent Auction to raise money for the new Museum, such as a dinner for 4 at your house or a nostalgic NOTS picture.

Please call Bob or Alice Campbell at 760-377-0056 if you have an item you'd like to donate.

Alice Campbell, Vice President for Membership