

## WHERE WERE YOU IN 1962?

### A BRIEF HISTORY AND ORGANIZATION OF NORTH AMERICAN AVIATION [From the Employee Handbook, *The North American Way*, circa 1960]

#### EARLY YEARS

Formed in 1928 as a holding company, North American Aviation, Inc., in 1934, became strictly an aircraft design and manufacturing company, located in Dundalk, Maryland. After obtaining orders for a new trainer and an observation plane for the Air Corps, the company moved to California where the aviation industry was beginning to develop. What was a small North American plant in Los Angeles with 100 employees in 1936 has expanded to become, today, a corporation composed of many divisions and thousands of employees in several states.

#### DIVERSIFICATION

North American Aviation has built more airplanes than any other company in the world and has long been recognized as a leader in the aviation industry. Far from being content to maintain this position only in the field of military aviation, it has expanded to establish leadership in the fields of missiles, rocket engines, nuclear energy, and electromechanical equipment to accomplish a diversity that is unrivaled in the industry.

#### LOS ANGELES DIVISION

Charged with the responsibility for developing and producing manned weapon systems for the nation's aerial lines of defense, North American's Los Angeles Division is located at the Los Angeles International Airport.

Under development are the B-70 Valkyrie bomber, the F-108 long-range interceptor, the UTX utility transport trainer, the Sabreliner, and the X-15 rocket research aircraft, designed to take man higher and faster than he has ever flown.

It is here that the Air Force's first operational supersonic fighter, the F-100 Super Sabre, and the F-86 Sabre jet (which downed MIG's at a rate of 14 to 1 in Korea) were produced, as well as the famous T-6 Texan, F-51 Mustang, and B-25 Mitchell.

At the flight test facility in Palmdale, California, advanced type aircraft are operationally tested by the Los Angeles and Columbus Divisions.

#### COLUMBUS DIVISION

In 1950, the Columbus Division, located in Columbus, Ohio, was established. This division is an integrated design and manufacturing organization responsible for North American Aviation's business with the Navy.

It is here that the A3J Vigilante and the T2J jet trainer were developed; and the Navy Savages and the powerful Fury jet fighters, including the high-speed, carrier-based FJ-4, series were produced. The Columbus Division also augmented the production of the Los Angeles Division by turning out F-86 Sabres and F-100 Super Sabres for the Air Force.

This division is also engaged in manufacturing and erecting aluminum curtain wall for commercial buildings.

## **MISSILE DIVISION**

Soon after World War II, North American began research on guided missiles. This research led to the establishment of the Missile Division in Downey, California. It is primarily concern with the design, development, manufacturing, and testing of missile weapon systems, including ground support and other related equipment. In addition, the Missile Division conducts studies on various types of missiles for all three branches of the armed services.

This division engineered and produced the X-10 test vehicle for the Navaho and the ramjet-powered XSM-64 Navaho which have completed numerous successful test flights from the Cape Canaveral Missile Test Center.

Currently, the division is developing the GAM-77, a long range, air-to-surface missile for the Air Force.

## **ROCKETDYNE DIVISION**

The mightiest propulsive force known to man is created by the powerful liquid propellant rocket engines of the company's Rocketdyne Division. The nation's primary source for such power, Rocketdyne is producing engines for the major ballistic missiles of the Air Force and Army.

In addition to extensive research, development, and production in Canoga Park, California, Rocketdyne boasts the free world's most extensive rocket engine test center in the nearby Santa Susana mountains.

Rocketdyne's production plant in Neosho, Missouri, is engaged in the manufacture and testing of production models of rocket engines.

## **AUTONETICS DIVISION**

As speeds and ranges increased, North American engineers found it necessary to develop automatic navigation equipment for the control of aircraft and missiles. With this as its prime objective, the Autonetics Division, located at Downey, California, was formed.

Autonetics develops, engineers, and manufactures advanced electromechanical systems and components. Currently in production are inertial navigation and flight control systems for guided missiles and manned aircraft, armament controls, submarine navigation systems, automatic check-out equipment, data processing, computers, and various automatic control devices for the military and industry.

## **ATOMICS INTERNATIONAL DIVISION**

In Canoga Park, California, the Atomics International Division has created one of the world's most famous centers for the development of nuclear reactors for the new atomic age. This division has pioneered in two of the most important approaches to economical power from the atom, the Sodium Reactor Experiment and the Organic Moderated Reactor Experiment, which are being conducted for the Atomic Energy Commission.

Atomics International also produces nuclear research reactors which are being installed at home and abroad. Reactors are completed or being built for West Berlin, West Germany, Italy, Japan and Denmark and will soon be built in other countries throughout the world.

## **GENERAL OFFICES**

The Chairman of the Board, the President of the company, and the chief executive officers and their staffs are located at the General Offices, in El Segundo, California. They are responsible for developing policy and providing guidance to insure uniformity and continuity throughout the corporation. It is here also that plans for future growth and development of the company are formulated.