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 and 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. ↓

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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 unequalled 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 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.
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 technical 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:


(cont’d. on Page 4 ⇒)
A BRIEF LOOK
(cont'd. from Page 3)


TOMAHAWK cruise missile.


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 expansion 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 halff-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 organiza-
ion 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 organi-
ation, to establish oper-
ting procedures, and to
provide service. For in-
stance, the Operations
VPs have had several
meetings to determine the
best method to hire pro-
fessional staff for the
operation of the current
Museum and are present-
ly in the search for a
Museum Manager. The
VP for Fundraising has
determined the require-
ment to raise funds for
current operations and
the requirement to raise
funds for new facilities
and museum-quality dis-
plays. Paul has started the process of
fund-raising for both re-
quirements. The VP of
Facilities has created a
number of strategies for
Museum location, sizing
and interface with local
government organiza-
tions. The VP of Public-
ity has created his work-
ing group and has con-
tacted the Directors for
publicity requirements.
Alice Campbell has cre-
cated a membership data-
based, 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 encour-
gaged to contact the ap-
propriate VP directly.

I hope all the above is
understandable, (reme-
ber 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
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