



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROSPECTUS

AIR FORCE FLIGHT TEST MUSEUM & EDUCATION CENTER

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— OVER

75

YEARS OF TEST

FLIGHT

RESEARCH



CHUCK YEAGER 1941 - 1975

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Air Force Flight Test Museum, located at Edwards Air Force Base, California, is education, and in particular Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education. Edwards AFB is aviation's hallowed ground. Pioneers, inventors and record breakers have made their way to the high desert and the unique weather and topography of the Antelope Valley since almost the dawn of flight. Edwards AFB and the Antelope Valley were the hub of the golden age of manned flight test popularized by Tom Wolfe's "The Right Stuff."

The area has seen significant milestones like testing America's first jet, the breaking of the sound barrier, rocket plane flights to the edge of space and the first glide flights of the space shuttle. The Antelope Valley remains a hub of developmental flight test to this day for all the same reasons. The Antelope Valley is also home to one of the largest density concentrations of STEM related workers in the nation. With several local major aerospace contractors, the federal research labs at Edwards Air Force Base and China Lake, along with the private aerospace industry housed in the Mojave airport, are constantly recruiting local STEM talent by offering high starting salaries and competitive benefits and in turn are strengthening the local communities. Furthermore, the need of STEM employees is also great at a national level as it has been documented by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the National Science Foundation. STEM is critical to nearly every aspect of life, from the cell phones we use to the medical care we receive to everything we build, from skyscrapers to spacecraft.

In cooperation with our partners, the Air Force Flight Test Museum and Education Center will make that history and direct connection to STEM accessible to everyone in the Antelope Valley. The Flight Test Museum seeks to not only preserve and educate the public to the history of flight test but also be the conduit to inspire the next generation of students from elementary school to college to choose careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.



ART THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN

OUR MISSION

The Air Force Flight Test Museum, which opened in 2000, is the only museum in the world dedicated to the mission of flight test.

Flight Test has shaped aviation, both civil and military, throughout the world, and aviation has influenced how we live our lives today through its impact on world events, society and technology.



MUSEUM MISSION

The Museum's mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, preserve and display the material history of the Air Force Test Center, Edwards Air Force Base, its antecedents, the history of flight test at Edwards and its surrounding area, including the Antelope Valley. The museum adheres to the US Air Force Museum System requirements as defined in AFI 84-103, serving as a leader in the museum community by maintaining the standards of museum professionals.

CURRENT FACILITIES

The Museum is currently located on the western edge of Edwards Air Force Base, California, seventeen miles east of the City of Rosamond and approximately one mile from the center of Edwards AFB. The current museum presently consists of a 12,000 sq. ft. facility which houses 8,000 sq. ft. of exhibits, a small theater, gift shop and administrative offices. A number of aircraft are displayed outdoors in an open air park. The Museum also occupies other facilities on base which are used for interior aircraft storage and restoration activities and secure artifact storage. Additionally, several large museum aircraft are stored on the South Base ramp.

Blackbird Air Park, located in the City of Palmdale at the entrance of US Air Force Plant 42, displays four aircraft on outdoor exhibit and a small building housing a gift shop. This facility is open two days a week (Saturday and Sunday) and is run by museum volunteers but overseen by museum staff.

The two display sites are visited by more than 55,000 people each year. These are complemented by a large number of visitors to both our Facebook and web site. The Museum's visitors comprise local people, students, national visitors from across the country, and a growing international base.

AUDIENCE PROFILE

The Museum's core audiences are local. In the Antelope Valley, this means greater diversification of backgrounds, origins and

ethnicity. Over the last years, there is a passing of the generations of those who grew up with the "glory days" (1940's, 50's and 60's) of flight test at Edwards AFB, and fewer members of the public with any experience in the military. The Museum needs to help them to understand the role of flight test to the nation and the world.

AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

The Museum will engage, inspire and connect audiences with the flight test story through its people and its collections by:

- Allowing visitors to discover, not to be instructed
- Allowing visitors to experience personal and emotional reactions
- Delivering interpretation throughout the museum that engages and includes all visitors at different levels, from casual to specialist (Equality; Inclusion; Accessibility)
- Incorporating activities that engage all the senses into the galleries, understanding that visitors have different preferred learning styles
- Ensuring that there is a clarity of communication from routing, signage to content
- Delivering key 'wow' factors supported by high quality displays and interpretation making use of modern technology
- Delivering displays, both permanent and temporary, that cover subjects from the origins of the flight test to the modern day and into the future

OUR FUTURE EXPANSION & GROWTH

Following the official ground-breaking on 23 March 2018, the Museum began construction to relocate its public access facility to an area just outside the Edwards AFB West Gate, commonly known as “Century Circle”. The West Gate is the best location for substantial Flight Test Museum growth and can easily accommodate multiple large structures as the museum grows. The new, larger facility will also allow for the inclusion of a theater and a large and dedicated education center, research library, gift shop, administrative offices, and interactive educational exhibits.

FACILITIES

Classrooms are to be dedicated to a fully operational, self-managed and self-funded Starbase education program. Starbase is currently located on Edwards AFB and started operations in early 2019. Additional classrooms will be dedicated for other museum and base use including Test Pilot School, Flight Test Museum/Flight Test Historical Foundation education programs and aerospace engineer training programs. Facilities dedicated to the education center will include break room, offices and storage.

The new facility allows for more diverse aircraft, most of which will be located inside the new building structure.

FUTURE EXHIBITS

Future Exhibits will include subject areas, such as: Test Pilot School, Panchos and the Happy Bottom Riding Club, Aviation Firsts, Black Aircraft & Stealth, The Mach Busters, Sled Tracks, Rockets, NASA, Prototypes, Flying Robots, Aerodynamics and Propulsion, and those are but a few.



EDUCATION

The Air Force Flight Test Museum education mission is to promote interest and generate excitement for K-12 students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) through educational outreach about flight test, aerospace, and Edwards Air Force Base. To achieve this goal, the Flight Test Museum is committed to providing open-access educational resources in STEM subjects for teachers, students, and families. These resources allow them to engage in exploration and understanding of STEM in aerospace and flight test, build learning opportunities for Southern California students, and provide an educational center where students can learn and explore.

The Museum will build on the existing successful learning experiences at both sites, main museum and Blackbird Airpark, where over 10,000 schoolchildren have engaged annually in formal programs. The Museum will embed interactive learning experiences into all new exhibitions, developing a 'classroom of the future' for both sites. It will ensure that delivery mechanisms support learning activities for the widest possible constituency, through formal education, outreach and informal lifetime learning activities.

LEARNING CENTER AT NEW MUSEUM

There will be multiple dedicated classrooms at the new museum location. Classrooms will be used for Starbase (education program at Edwards Air Force Base) and Junior Test Pilot School. In addition to specific classes, the Flight Test Museum will host special student tours and events throughout the year.

JUNIOR TEST PILOT SCHOOL

The Junior Test Pilot Summer Program is a free program typically hosted at Blackbird Airpark in Palm-dale, and offers classes focusing on science, technology, engineering and mathematics, with hands-on activities and presentations from professionals in the aerospace field. The program was developed by the Flight Test Historical Foundation and funded with generous support from our sponsors in the local aerospace community and Joe Davies Airpark.



OUR PARTNERS

The Air Force Flight Test Museum and the Flight Test Historical Foundation are honored and grateful for our partnership with The Society of Experimental Test Pilots (SETP) to house the entire SETP Archives at the new Flight Test Museum. Through their donation of funds and materials to create the 2500 square foot archival space, the Flight Test Museum will become one of the most in depth resources for flight test history.

In addition to the physical space, their commitment to our STEM mission and program will help preserve and protect the history of flight test and also be the conduit to connect it to a new generation. Students of all ages will have unique access to mentors, instructors and flight test archives provided by SETP.

The Flight Test Museum and the Flight Test Historical Foundation have also reached out into the aerospace community to partner with other organizations who are willing to help support our mission of STEM education. These include:

- 412th Test Wing STEM
- Outreach
- Air Force Research Laboratory
- Antelope Valley College
- Boeing
- DoD Starbase
- District
- Lockheed Martin
- Los Angeles County
- School District
- NASA
- Northrop Grumman PPG Industries
- Sage Cheshire
- Scale Composites Society of Experimental Test Pilots
- Society of Flight Test Engineers
- The City of Palmdale The Palmdale Aero Academy



THE FOUNDATION

The mission of the Flight Test Historical Foundation (FTHF) is to raise funds to support the development of the Air Force Flight Test Museum at Edwards AFB. A private, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, the FTHF's fund-raising efforts focus on museum improvements, exhibits and aircraft acquisition/restoration. They are actively engaged in STEM education and construction of a new, more accessible, museum facility.

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