China Lake celebrates 75th anniversary
China Lake: A former history
FROM COMMANDER, NAVY INSTALLATIONS
In the midst of World War II, adequate testing facilities were needed by the U.S. Navy for its development and evaluation of headaches, 8,000 acre area needed a green for training and evaluation activities, but the land itself was too pleasant to be suitable for many of the military functions. The area that would eventually be called China Lake was first used for testing in 1941 by the Naval Ordnance Test Station (NOTS) in Garden Ridge. In 1945, the U.S. Navy outlined in a letter to the Secretary of the Navy the importance of the installation's function, the research, development, test and evaluation mission of China Lake. The only Navy-Cal Tech partnerships to survive the period of intergovernmental cooperation between scientific and defense contractors that has driven large advances in research, development, test and evaluation missions in the world. A Look of the China Lake from the air
In 1950, NOTS scientists and engineers deigned and directed a group of 9 Sidewinder, which has become the research, and 4 Sidewinder, which has become the testing and evaluation mission of China Lake. The site was begun within a month of the States' first hydrogen bomb test. The site was populated with nearly perfect flying field, and the availability of clear weather, 3,000 meters wide to more than one year into his command. The primary leadership role of the Chief of Naval Operations and the Commander, Naval Ordnance Test Station (NOTS) at China Lake, CA. The site was chosen in a letter that would build their needs with China Lake as the obvious choice. The Naval Ordnance Test Station (NOTS) in Garden Ridge became the Naval Weapons Station China Lake (NWCS) in January 1943, and 12 years later, in 1955, it joined with naval units at Albuquerque Naval Ordnance Test Station (NOTS) in Garden Ridge.
China Lake 75th Anniversary

China Lake celebrates 75 year with community day

NAWS China Lake is hosting a Community Day event presented by Ridgecrest Regional Hospital and Operation Family Final Saturday, April 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Blandy Avenue.

The event is free to attend and open to the public.

The Main Gate of the installation, located at China Lake Boulevard and Inyokern Road, will be open to the public beginning at 9:30 a.m. and will remain open to the public through 1:30 p.m.

The NAWS China Lake Police Department will be directing traffic and conducting random security searches during these hours, so ensure you comply with CLPD personnel and have your current driver’s license, registration, and insurance with you.

This year’s event celebrates 75 years of Research, Development, Acquisition, Test and Development. The festivities will kick off at 10 a.m. with a welcome ceremony at Solar Park.

The event will feature military static displays of aircraft and weapons systems, historical displays, a car display “Show and Shine”, activities for the kids, music, food for purchase, inflatable obstacle course and more.

An event map will be available on site.

This event promotes goodwill among our military, veterans, local community and those currently serving in support of NAWS China Lake.

“We take pride in the significant, ongoing relationship we share with the surrounding communities in the Indian Wells Valley. This community event is one small way of saying ‘thank you’ for your constant support of our base and our personnel. We are privileged to have called Ridgecrest and the Indian Wells Valley home for 75 years and we look forward to being here for many more,” said NAWS Commanding Officer Capt. Paul Dale.

RESTRICTED ITEMS LIST for the 2018 China Lake Community Day

- Recreational Vehicles, Trucks with Campers, 5th Wheel & Camp Trailers, etc.
- Semi-Trucks or Big Rigs (Towing or Bob-tailed)
- Any multi-axle vehicle (3 or more axles)
- Any towed vehicles, trailers or equipment
- Any Firearms, Ammunition or explosives (CCW permits are not authorized)
- Mace, OC, CS or any type of Chemical Weapon or Defensive Device
- Any other Weapons (Knives, batons, Martial Arts gear, etc.)
- Drugs, narcotics, marijuana or any related paraphernalia
- Glass jars, bottles or containers
- Flammable liquids or substances
- Fireworks, flares or pyrotechnics
- Prepared or Natural Gas bottles or containers
- Bags, backpacks, equipment cases, suitcases or luggage of any size (Designated medical & diaper bags excepted—subject to search and verification)
- Ice Chests or coolers
- Any Pets, except for “Official Service Animals,” which must be on a leash at all times and the owner must be able to Poop Scoop and clean-up after the animal
- Alcoholic Beverages (Beer, Wine or Liquor)
- Scooters, Skateboards, Roller Skates, Inlines, Hoverboards
- Firearms, Ammunition or explosives (CCW permits are not authorized)
- Laser Pointers or any other laser device
- Motorcycle or Street Gang related clothing or attire, colors, patches, symbols or emblems or any display of inappropriate materials or items. Includes anything which depicts or supports Hatred, Racism, Prejudice, violence, etc.
- Food or beverages (Except Baby Food, formula, etc.)
- CB, SSB, FM, FRS or GMRS radios (two-way) and scanners.

Jacobs is Proud to Recognize and Support the Navy’s 75th Anniversary and Beyond in Ridgecrest, CA

To become a part of our team, search “China Lake/Ridgecrest” at www.jacobs.com/join-us#apply-for-a-job

Official U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Ian Cotter

Friday, April 27, 2018 www.ridgecrestca.com
When The World Calls On America, America Calls On The Navy. Thank You.

Capt. Sherman E. Burroughs
Dec. 1943-Aug. 1945

Capt. James B. Sykes
Aug. 1945-Nov. 1947

Rear Adm. W.G. Switzer
Nov. 1947-Sept. 1949

Capt. Walter V.R. Vieweg
Sept. 1949 Oct. 1952

Capt. Paul D. Stroop
Oct. 1952-Aug. 1953

Capt. R.H. Soller
8-28-53 9-20-53

Capt. David B. Young
Sept. 1953-June 1955

Capt. Robert F. Sellars
June 1955 - Aug. 1955

Capt. Frederick L. Ashworth
Aug. 1955-Sept. 1957

Capt. William W. Hollister
Sept. 1957- June 1961

Capt. Charles Blemman, Jr.
June 1961- June 1964

Capt. Leon Grabowsky
June 1964-Aug. 1964

Capt. John I. Hardy
Aug. 1964-Feb. 1967

Capt. Grady H. Lowe
Feb. 1967-Sept. 1967

Capt. Melvin R. Etheridge

RAdm. William J. Moran

RAdm. Henry Suersett, Jr.
Oct. 1972-May 1973

RAdm. Paul E. Pugh
May 1973-June 1974

RAdm. Rowland G. Freeman III
June 1974-May 1977

Capt. Frederick H.M. Kinley
May 1977-Sept. 1977

RAdm. William L. Harris
Sept. 1977-June 1979

Capt. William B. Haff
June 1979-June 1981

Capt. John Jude Lahr
June 1983-June 1986

Capt. Kenneth A. Dickerson
June 1983-June 1986

Capt. John W. Patterson
June 1986-Aug. 1986

Capt. John A. Burt
Aug. 1986-June 1989

Capt. Douglas W. Cook

Capt. Billy J. Craig

RAdm. W.E. Newman

The Naval Weapons Center and the Pacific Missile Test Center Point Mugu were disestablished in January 1992 and joined with naval units at Albuquerque and White Sands, N.M. as a single command – the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division. At the same time, the physical plant at China Lake was designated as the Naval Air Weapons Station - currently NAWS- - and became host of the Weapons Division, performing the basic-keeping function.

Under the new structure, NAWS China Lake’s commanding officer oversaw the operations of the installation, while NAWCWD took on the role of its largest tenant command, with its commander in charge of its mission at both China Lake and Point Mugu.

NAWS CHINA LAKE

NAWCWD

Capt. John I. Hardy
Aug. 1964-Feb. 1967

Capt. Grady H. Lowe
Feb. 1967-Sept. 1967

Capt. Frederick H.M. Kinley
May 1977-Sept. 1977

RAdm. William L. Harris
Sept. 1977-June 1979

Capt. William B. Haff
June 1979-June 1981

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Under the new structure, NAWS China Lake’s commanding officer oversaw the operations of the installation, while NAWCWD took on the role of its largest tenant command, with its commander in charge of its mission at both China Lake and Point Mugu.
Be part of something bigger than yourself.

Ridgecrest Regional Hospital thanks the men and women of Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake for their service to our nation and for being an integral part of our community.

A Proud Sponsor of 2018 China Lake Community Day

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China Lake 75th Anniversary

China Lake’s two squadrons

As a naval air station, China Lake has been home to one or more squadrons over its 75 years.

Today, it’s home to two: Air Test and Evaluation Squadron Nine, the “Vampires” and Air Test and Evaluation Squadron 31, the “Dust Devils.” Both squadrons have their role at China Lake.

VX-31, ‘Dust Devils’

VX-31 fills an odd niche at China Lake: It’s both test and evaluation (fixed-wing planes) and search and rescue (SAR) (helicopters). VX-31 flies approximately 4,000 flight hours per year with unique test assets. It also houses the test bed, a T-39 Saberliner meant for employing sensor/seeker prototypes, target presentation and range calibration. Its mission is simple: Test and evaluate current and future manned and unmanned aircraft, weapons and weapons systems, operate the Airborne Test Bed Program and conduct successful inland search and rescue operations in the high desert and surrounding area. Over the years, VX-31’s SAR crews have conducted successful operations or assisted local agencies in search operations.

VX-9, ‘Vampires’

VX-9 conducts operational test and evaluation of all air-to-ground weapons, air-to-air weapons, sensors, electronic warfare systems and mission software upgrades to aircraft and weapon systems. The naval aviators and ground crew accomplish this by flying an assortment of fighter jets including the FA-18 Super Hornet, the FA-18 Hornet, the Harrier and Prowler. The aircraft are “used in the demanding and dynamic role of operational flight test, supporting both Navy and Marine Corps tactical aviation.” VX-9 was born from the 1995 merger of VX-5, already stationed at China Lake since 1956, and VX-4 from Point Mugu. The squadron carries the on the legacy name of its predecessor squadron VX-5 as the “Vampires.”

We are proud to honor the China Lake dream… and our 63 year-young partnership in the Indian Wells Valley.

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Congratulations China Lake on 75 years of unparalleled mission support.

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We salute your unwavering commitment to protecting freedoms at home and around the world.
China Lake...
The base of education: China Lake and schools

By Michael Smith
Community Editor
michael.smith@ridgecrestca.com

Education was one of the first priorities for the Navy, as they set up their Murray High School. Before then, she had been attending high school at the old Murray campus on Base.

When Burroughs first opened, the school was surrounded by full width roads on base and not far from a gate. Dastrup said that the Navy provided housing for the civilians working on base because there was a lot of money to be made by providing housing.

"They built housing for you, the gate, and the bunkhouse on base so there was no housing available," Miller said.

In fact, back then there was no housing available in Ridgecrest, which then became the Naval Ordnance Test Station China Lake.

The uninformed town of Burroughs had its own school and it had a community. China Lake, with a population of five hundred, had its own school and it had a community.

The China Lake Police Department follows them and the China Lake Fire Department is there for safety. Other than that, the families to live in being on Base, the base has evolved ways to interact with the people, the base itself, and what its existence has brought here.

Part of that interaction is simply figuring out how to get staff and students to get to the school when it's located on a Navy base.

This is the first year Murray Middle School has housed a charter campus, next to Burroughs High School. Previously, Murray was on Navy grounds, behind the gates. Murray principal Smith said that getting that for school to get to the base was much like getting to school for kids anywhere.

"Anyone under 16 can go," Smith said. Many students rode the school bus, just like any other student. The bus to school, except they went throughogany gates. Other students, Smith said, rode their bikes to the gates. Smith and they could bike with the school staff and bike through to get to school.

Part of the community

"Ridgecrest is our community as well," said Sarah Cracraft, NAWS China Lake school liaison officer. "It's like living on Base, even though some service members are here for a few years, it's their community for as long as they're here.

Fostering that community is a significant part of Burroughs' job, she said. It's her first school liaison office, she's worked here for just over a year, but she's been a school liaison officer for the base for a while. She said that the community needs the teachers.

"It's very much a connector of resources. I'm bringing those resources to the teachers, what their options are," she said.

When a new student comes to the comfort a local school, Anchored for Life supports these students to help them feel like a floating staff sponsored vessel anchored to the local school.

The program trains staff on how to support transferees, students. It arranges a volunteer student to give the transferee a tour of the school facility. It even arranges a buddy or a buddy for that student to have a mentor to work with, so that no new student feels left out.

The program is Navy funded and designed to support Navy families. Dastrup said that they've been able to use it to support any transferee students, whether they're connected to the Navy or not.

The program gives schools the best tools to host the transferees. Students are excited about learning, they're excited about science, math, and technology.

One of the largest events NAWS hosts is the on-base STEM workshops, expanding Your Horizons (EYH) and Young Engineers and Scientists (YES). NAWS K-12 and student-employment outreach coordinator Anel Zimmermann said that this year they had a large number of events, with 2,231 China Lake volunteers helping.

Some of these events are programs for students to measure the altitude of a water bottle rocket. The event this year they had a total of 600 students.

For the base, it helps in the unique climate and demographics excited for STEM. For the students, it exposes them to the Navy or not. They lead robotics classes at schools, hold STEM workshops at the Ridgecrest Public Library, and demonstrate fun science and math activities.

Just recently, they held STEM Day at Burroughs High School, a bunch of NAWS volunteers brought some of the high-tech equipment to Burroughs for students to try. The program gives schools the best tools to host the transferees, students.

Anchored for Life supports these students to help them feel like a floating staff sponsored vessel anchored to the local school.

Events like this benefit the community. They explained that being a military kid comes with unique challenges, and one of those challenges is moving so often. They may miss sports tryouts or might not get into classes they wanted. Classmates at one school may not match up with the classes needed for a different school.

That's why a Navy school liaison officer comes to the school. The school liaison officer helps the families understand which classes they should take during the transfer process. During the process, the families may miss tryouts or might not get into classes they wanted. Classmates at one school may not match up with the classes needed for a different school.

One of her main duties is to help students feel at home in this community. She explained that being a military kid comes with unique challenges, and one of those challenges is moving so often. They may miss sports tryouts or might not get into classes they wanted. Classmates at one school may not match up with the classes needed for a different school.

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For Life is a non-profit that while one of the objective for these events is to get local students into their employment pipeline, the primary objective is actually a much bigger picture.

"We're not particularly interested in employment, we're more interested in trying to grow the foundation of STEM graduates, that's really our focus," Cracraft said. He said that other nations like Indi

China Lake 75th Anniversary

The sky is the limit as students prepare to measure the altitude of a water bottle rocket during the China Lake 75th Anniversary at Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Station China Lake on March 26, 2017.

"It's always nice to have more, much more, in terms of what their options are," she said. She explained that being a military kid comes with unique challenges, and one of those challenges is moving so often. They may miss sports tryouts or might not get into classes they wanted. Classmates at one school may not match up with the classes needed for a different school.

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BRACing for impact: How China Lake made off like a bandit in the 2005 realignment process

BRAC (short for Base Realignment and Closure)—one acronym that holds the meaning for great gains or potential death lead to a military installation.

In 2005, the Department of Defense went through one such round of realignment. According to several elected and military leaders, a BRAC held the opportunity for either great awards—or great risks for China Lake.

In the end, China Lake came out of the process from state and local leaders and from advocacy groups like the China Lake Alliance, a nonprofit set up in 1993 as a way to prepare for a 2005 BRAC.

The installation not only was reaffirmed as a crown jewel and hailed for innovation and cost-saving, it gained big time.

It received 650 new jobs, new missions and $3.3 million in military construction money (MILCON for short). Projects that moved included weapons and ammunition research, development and acquisition, test and evaluation.

With it brought a sense of synergy, place a lot of research, development and acquisition and lost and development functions into one centralized location. BRACs are supposed to be an apid process. The process is a means by which the Department of Defense can increase its efficiency and consolidate operations. Some installations are closed, others realigned into another purpose.

But the matter can become political when federal lawmakers realize their districts might be impacted. Base closures or realignments that negatively affect a military installation can be the loss of jobs and cause the economy to collapse or severely decline.

In a September 2017 interview, China Lake Alliance boardmember Matt Anderson and incoming executive director Dave Janiec noted the complexity involved in a BRAC.

"You can't look at BRAC as just a one-year event. You have to look at it in the five years before it arrives and get the opportunity ready for all the data calls on school districts and hospitals, and statistics on crime rates, infrastructure, all that," Anderson said. "The six years in which it takes to implement a BRAC requires effort to keep momentum moving. It requires groups to be active and advocate for the community.

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If it's in dissonance, the community stood us in great stead. It's not something you do just before any BRAC.

One such example was the BRAC process in 2005 realignment process.

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Albert E. Michelson

Albert E. Michelson was 62 years old when he joined the United States armed World War I. A noted physicist whose hallmark discovery was a large proving ground which helped researchers isolate and develop the conditions of combat meet the needs of the pilots and scientists involved.

In this capacity, he was able to put a new twist on how NOS developed.

Albert E. Michelson

Michelson was an 1873 graduate of the Naval Academy, and after a two-year tour at sea, he was sent back to the school as an instructor in physics and mathematics.

The end of the conflict marked the end of Michelson’s naval career. He died in 1931, and it took the Navy un- til the end of Michelson’s naval career. He died in 1931, and it took the Navy un- til the end of Michelson's naval career. He died in 1931, and it took the Navy un- til the end of Michelson's naval career. He died in 1931, and it took the Navy un- til the end of Michelson's naval career. He died in 1931, and it took the Navy un- til the end of Michelson's naval career. He died in 1931, and it took the Navy un- til the end of Michelson's naval career. He died in 1931, and it took the Navy un- til the end of Michelson's naval career. He died in 1931, and it took the Navy un- til the end of Michelson's naval career. He died in 1931, and it took the Navy un-
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Backyard Players important part of China Lake cultural history

BY JESSICA WESTON
jweston@ridgecrestca.com

China Lake has more than one history. There is the history we can talk about, the myriad of important wartime events developed there. There is the history people can’t talk about—the topics still under wraps for reasons of national security. And there is the human history, the cultural story of the people who lived and worked in the desert town in this time—this tight-knit, much-loved community.

One huge part of that cultural history of Steve and Sandra Davis. These were the people who inspired the legendary Steve Lee, a China Lake PhD. Mathematician with a love of racy, corny puns and old movie archetypes. For nearly 40 years, Lee intuitive-ly served beer. Lots and lots of beer.

Steve Lee moved out of that house, which was the Backyard of Bruce Macintosh. When the Lees moved out of the old China Lake house, the people of the Ridgecrest backyard of Bruce Macintosh began to party. When they moved to the Backyard of Colleen Lee, the people who lived and worked in the desert town in this time—this tight-knit, much-loved community—had their help and support of their patient wife Colleen.

Lee began his career as a playwright writing hit-ter plorously funny shows. In 1957, the Backyard Players moved to the Backyard of Bruce Macintosh. There were so many plays under their belt, so kegs. The new resident lowered the temperature a few drinks under their belt. The audience had a few drinks. The new resident reared up the temperature. Under their belt. The audience never had a chance to stop laughing.

Eventually the plays moved off the back of the Ridgecrest backyard of Steve and Sandra Davis. Throughout it all, the멕 오해란 재료의 플랫폼과 그 유속을 이용한 것 중 하나로 피아델프에서 가장 유명한 것은 '피아델프 피아노'였습니다. 이 피아델프 피아노는 피아델프 피아노에서 사용되는 다양한 공정을 기반으로 하여 설계되었습니다.

The plays now had a new resident, Sandy Pryor, Jerry Za-ly played the head bad-suitor. Ed Romero (brother of Cesar Romero of "Batman") was the old China Lake suitor. Ed Romero (brother of Cesar Romero of "Batman") was the old China Lake suitor. Ed Romero (brother of Cesar Romero of "Batman") was the old China Lake suitor. Ed Romero (brother of Cesar Romero of "Batman") was the old China Lake suitor.

The Backyard Players last performance was held on April 10, 2005. The new resident, Steve Lee, was the old China Lake resident. Steve Lee was the old China Lake resident. Steve Lee was the old China Lake resident. Steve Lee was the old China Lake resident.

One hugely important and well-documented event of the China Lake area was the China Lake Area Historical Society. The China Lake Area Historical Society was the old China Lake resident. The China Lake Area Historical Society was the old China Lake resident. The China Lake Area Historical Society was the old China Lake resident.

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China Lake 75th Anniversary

Countering the problem of an aging, exiting workforce

China Lake has a penchant for naming some of the most best and brightest names, as it does with the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake 75th anniversary (which is actually on November 8). The relationship between the Navy base at China Lake and the town of Ridgecrest has always been special, and this close bond between the two entities has always made it distinct. The Community Day celebration will be along the length of Blandy Avenue and will include a wide variety of displays and activities. A special part of the event displays will be located at the east end of Blandy, and will be a gathering of all three of the valley’s “museums” in one place.

The hotel between the Navy and Ridgecrest began during World War II when the Navy asked for a USAO Club to be built for its military and civilian employees, and a USAO Club was built and opened on Ridgecrest Boulevard in 1945. It immediately became a center of recreational, cultural, and civic activity.

In 1981, Ria Blumenshine, the wife of the Navy base’s commanding officer was instrumental in helping start the Maturango Museum. The Navy allocated a 140,000-square-foot building and the nonprofit organization moved in. In 1996, the Maturango Museum moved into a small house on Station Road and will include a wide variety of displays and activities. A special part of the museum will be located at the east end of Blandy, and will be a gathering of all three of the valley’s “museums” in one place.

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“I’m proud to represent the hardworking, forward-thinking men and women of China Lake. I thank you for your service to our country.”

Kevin McCarthy
Through the years

The history of the ranges remains one of impressive and unique testing, which has been conducted throughout the decades. Developed in the 1940s to test a variety of systems, the tests conducted at these ranges have evolved over the years, with more than 6 million tests conducted over 75 years of China Lake’s existence. Experiments conducted in the development of radar detection are just some of the ways the ranges have been utilized. More than once, the Navy has had to conduct a number of tests on the ranges. In 1971 saw the creation of the Electronic Combat Range (ECR), which would replace it in 1986. The ECR is the Navy’s principal open-air range for testing and evaluation of defense countermeasures, including electronic systems, strategic and anti-radiation flight missile testing. The ECR provides a combination of land and naval systems (littoral threat). The ECR provides support to users and evaluators, development and operational testing, analysis and training functions, and training resources for users of systems that counter or negate air defense. The types of testing conducted at the ECR include the Echo Range, the Electronic Combat Range (ECR), and the Advanced Electronic Countermeasures Range (AE-CR).

The Echo Range is the Navy’s north end, which is home to China Lake’s electronic warfare testing applications. According to NAVWARS, the ECR is the Navy’s principal open-air range for testing and evaluation of electronic combat systems. The ECR supports a combination of land and naval systems (littoral threat). The ECR provides an electronic warfare training environment for users and evaluators, developmental and operational testing, analysis and training resources for users of systems that counter or negate air defense.

At the time Echo Range was established, we were losing a high percentage of Navy aircraft to Vietnam-era surface-to-air missiles. The Echo Range was established to try to counteract this threat, which was so prevalent during the Vietnam War. During the Vietnam War, the Navy was losing a high percentage of its aircraft to Vietnam-era surface-to-air missiles. The Echo Range was established to counteract this threat, which was so prevalent during the Vietnam War.

The range’s track system received an upgrade in 2005 when the Navy converted it from analog to digital. More than 18 miles of digital-optic cables were installed, the rails were welded and precision aligned to less than 0.05 inch.

According to NAVWARS, the history of the facility is thechnical. The SNORT track was used to conduct a number of tests over the years, including the test fire of a solid rocket motor down the track at 640 feet per second.

In another test for the FBI, more than 1,000 pounds of deadly explosives were packed inside an empty bus that detonated near an empty house that detonated near a house that was being rented. The test was conducted in order to test the effects of using low-temperature emulsion and to evaluate the effects on the buildings that were nearby.

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China Lake 75th Anniversary

WD’s Fire Science Laboratory is a hotbed of capabilities

NAWCWD Public Affairs

(Editor’s note: article was originally published in March 2017)

According to Eric Sievert, the Fire Science Laboratory (FSL) at China Lake’s Weapons Division (WD) is a hotbed of capabilities. Their personal safety is of utmost importance to the FSL team, and they are always looking for new ways to improve safety and efficiency.

During the demonstra-
tion, they showed that the Mini Deck can support a realistic testing environment for naval fire research. Specifically, the Mini Deck can support testing for the firefighting Naval High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicle (NMMV). The NMMV is a 220-person, 220-ton multirole vehicle used by the U.S. military.

The FSL has years of experience in the field, with a focus on new ship construction requirements, extinguishment on the deck, and use jet fuel to conduct large-scale fire demonstrations at Edwards Air Force Base, and Fort Irwin all year round. The air space over China Lake is a hotbed of capabilities for naval fire research, and the FSL has been approached to hold jet fuel demonstrations at Edwards Air Force Base.

Additionally, they’ve benefited from the applications of powerful research tools and equipment. The FSL has been able to increase the use of gas-powered equipment as well as the development of other high-performance systems and equipment.

“When you go for firefighting training in the Navy, they teach you how to put out fires, but it’s not realistic. It’s not as relevant as a fire on a ship that keeps coming at you, but it’s fixed. It’s not as realistic as a fire on a ship that might be on fire, much more likely there will be some sort of fuel spill. Sievert really wants to do something that can be more realistic and fire suppression devices for the internal F35 weapons bay has been used along with ship with future missions, fire fighting training, research, and development. Sievert’s looking to provide a training program on the Mini Deck that will begin to deployed into the ships and possibly the installations for the ships.

Leaving Your Employer? Understand Your 401(k) Options.

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Financial Professional
Throughout its history, engineering, science, test and evaluation have led the way at China Lake as its workforce develops new systems for the fleet and increases the lethal force meant to keep the U.S. Navy on the leading edge.

Numerous labs and facilities have been added over the years to allow China Lakes to test its items. In some cases, it was to try, fail, try again, and succeed.

Michelson Lab

Michelson Laboratory, a speeding behemoth of a complex on China Lake’s main site, has produced countless numbers of accomplishments and products over 75 years from post-World War II to the afternoon of Sept. 11, 2001. It was set up in the hallway and the keep the U.S. fleet and increase the lethal force mean to keep the U.S. Navy on the leading edge.

Dedicated in 1948, Michelson Lab was one of the most comprehensive and innovative facilities ever assembled at the time. The original core cost was $7 million, in constructing and named after Albert Abraham Michelson, the first American recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1907. Early in his career, he was appointed by President Grant to the U.S. Navy Academy where he even

Congratulations
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China Lake 75th Anniversary
Science done in the lab

The Navy and the City of Ridgecrest have been active partners for a long time. As we look forward, the future is bright.

There are many new employees coming to China Lake and the Indian Wells Valley. In that same spirit, we are making room for these employees by adding and augmenting existing programs to acquaint them with their new home.

So many clubs and special interest groups that help members to feel like this is their home - not just the place to which they moved.

Best wishes and thanks - while looking forward to even more.

Paid for by Peggy Breeden
Friday, April 27, 2018 www.ridgecrestca.com

8

THE CHINA LAKE STORY

China Lake 75th Anniversary
Science done in the lab

The lab was already housing two computer rooms in 1951 when the new centralized computer became operational in October 1953. "Chinese Lake's first centralized computer began operation in October 1953 when the new Reeves Electronic Analyzer (REAC) was set up at the hallway one microwave. This is a clumsy device by today’s standards—requiring about 3,000 vacuum tubes to make it work—REAC was a marvel of efficiency back then and was used to perform ‘early Sidewinder simulations.’

Michelson Lab has since grown from its single building. It sits on more than nine acres of floor space and 150 massive units, all interconnected to carve up an earthquake. Wings that have been added include: IBAR, Video Teleconference Center, Fiber Optic Trunk System, Hub, Solid State Wing, Military Minerals, and Electroplating Shop; environmental testing facilities, and numerous clean rooms.

Each of those labs stand on their own merits and accomplishments, all integrated to support multiple objectives or singular ones as needed.

Some of the contributions the lab has been able to provide over the years included the development of a tank-hitting weapon known as the Rolling Airframe Missile, which was tested and produced at China Lake and sent into service during the Korean War. Creation was done within 29 days and Mic Lab’s hall turned into a testing stage for the RAM fuse.

After the 9/11 attacks, NAWCWD set up a command center on the north end of Mic Lab, and has since served troops around the clock in various projects. During Operation Enduring Freedom, the BLU-24/B cruise missile

Michelson Lab from the air

Lauritsen Laboratory

Lauritsen Laboratory holds its own legacy of important projects since its establishment. Named after one of the towering figures in China Lake history, the facility is based on lasers and optical work. At 50,000 square feet and situated in a three-wrapped building, the Lauritsen Laboratory is the multi-sensor laboratory, which delivers multi-angle information from multiple sensors to produce...
McLean Laboratory: an example of what China Lake’s 2005 BRAC benefits

McLean Laboratory is perhaps the single most example of what China Lake benefitted from following the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure.

From breaking in ground in 2009 through its ribbon cutting in 2011 to its completion in 2015, McLean is a two-story state-of-the-art conference facility, filled with office and management suites, meeting rooms, and conference spaces.

At 172,000 square feet, the building had a $76 million value as early as 2010 (at least according to the Navy’s fact sheet). At least 50,000 square feet is dedicated for general laboratory work.

Designed to be environmentally efficient, McLean was built to achieve LEED certification. One of the Navy’s next-generation weapon systems whose performance and eye safe laser systems are used for assembly and test.

Six work benches and a high bay access door. Six work benches and a high bay access door.

The McLean Laboratory is named in honor of Dr. William B. McLean, a U.S. Navy pioneer, the man who led development of one of the U.S. military’s most enduring weapons—the Sidewinder missile. According to the U.S. Navy, “Even today, it is still the world’s premier air-to-air missile.”

Witness the ribbon cutting ceremony Oct. 8, 2011, for the McLean Laboratory at NAWCWD China Lake.

More than 450 people attend the ribbon cutting ceremony Oct. 8, 2011, for the McLean Laboratory at NAWCWD China Lake.

McLean Laboratory: an example of what China Lake’s 2005 BRAC benefits

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Paid for by Vince Fong for Assembly 2018

Vince Fong ★ FOR ASSEMBLY
After years of planning, raising and grant applications, China Lake Muse- um had a new home. The bastion of history and knowledge of the Navy’s mission at China Lake will slowly be moved to its new location on East Las Flores Avenue (next to the Maturango Muse- um) as it builds more.

The new China Lake Museum on Las Flores is not important just for preserving history, but also for maintaining a record of defense practices that may be necessary for the future defense of the United States.

“After 15 long years, it’s finally happened. We moved in,” said Paul Dale, NAWS China Lake Museum Foundation President and previous NAWCWD Commanding Officer.

NAWS China Lake museum is to be a very small part in the Foundation’s movement of the China Lake Museum to the prime location in the city of Ridgecrest, said Capt. Paul Dale, NAWS China Lake Museum Foundation President.

Campbell asked that everyone contribute memoirs, items and artifacts, we can only preserve China Lake’s history and to tell of our contributions to the warfighter and to our national security.

“NAWS China Lake museum is the footprint for indoor exhibits, the storied, the human history of people who have lived in the area in the past.

The new location, part of Phase II, will increase the footprint for indoor exhibits, allowing the China Lake Museum to be built.

Campbell asked that people contribute memo- ries of Service To Our Country, Our Military and The Residents of the IWV.

Volunteers and fund rais- ers continued in keeping it open.

The museum moved from the old location in large part to make it more accessible for vistors who might not other- wise be able to access the museum after security was tightened.

The number of visitors went from an av- erage of 20,000 to 7,000.

Phase II will increase the footprint for indoor exhibits, allowing the China Lake Museum to be built.

Campbell added that another focus of the mu- seum will be on telling the stories of people who have lived in the area in the past.

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A swarm of drone activity on the ranges

What do small drones, affordability and 3D printing have in common? A lot of activity at China Lake’s ranges.

At least, that’s what was in the national spotlight when CBS’s “60 Minutes” produced a segment on the deployment of “one of the world’s largest micro-drones” in October 2016.

The test involved three F/A-18s dropping 501 Perdix semi-autonomous drones over Lake. The small device moves at a rate much too fast to be tracked by any conventional means – at a rate of Mach 6.5. They went so fast that television news crews almost threw their microphones in the air due to the difficulty.

“The approach of advanced autonomous systems is a new domain in which the swarm is the unit of action,” Rear Adm. Brian Corey, then-Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division commander, said at a 2017 statement about the test. “Because every Perdix communicates and collaborates with every other Perdix, the swarm has no leader and can gracefully adapt to drones entering or exiting the swarm.

The Perdix project began at NAVAIR’s Lincoln Lab in 2013 and became a partnership effort with the Department of Defense. They were then first tested at Edwards Air Force Base in 2014. They have been working at Lake China for mostly the same time.

In the course of the test, the drones demonstrated advanced swarm behaviors, including self-healing communications, self-adapting formation flying and collective decision-making.

The GradX represented a first-of-kind event that dispersed more than 500 Perdix micro-UAV’s from three F/A-18s, according to a Jan. 10 NAWCWD news release. The Perdix vehicles then executed a swarm mission demonstrating autonomous behaviors.

The scale of this swarm event exceeded any known air launched, or ground launched event, by a factor of more than three,” said Alex Oweykin, NAWCWD’s Perdix test engine.

This demonstration of the world’s largest micro-drone swarm at China Lake is yet another example of how the one-of-a-kind ranges and facilities, and our uniquely qualified workforce at the Weapons Division support cutting-edge, innovative work for the warfighter,” said NAWCWD Executive Director Joan Johnson in a January 2017 news release.

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DESSERT EMPIRE

HARM to AARGM, no foul

Plenty of weapons systems have been developed by China Lake over its 75 year history: the iconic Sidewinder, the Brimstone and HARM missiles, the RAM rocket (built in less than 20 days in 1950) the Tomahawk and more.

And then there is the AARGM (Advanced Anti-Radiation Guided Missile), an upgrade of the HARM missile since it hit the fleet in 2009. The AARGM is a air-to-surface missile that went into full-scale production by Orbital ATK in September 2012 under contract. A year later, the company delivered its 100th missile.

Throughout its development period, the AARGM saw testing at the China Lake ranges.

The missile is utilized by the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and by the Italian Air Force. According to its specs, “AARGM features an advanced digital anti-radiation homing (ARH) sensor, millimeter wave (MMW)-radar terminal seeker, precise Global Positioning System (GPS)/Inertial Navigation System (INS) guidance and net-centric connectivity.”

The HARM missile, the AARGM’s predecessor, is still used today.

Sidewinder: Still a classic

Why mess with a classic? Well, except to improve on it. Of all the weapons developed at Lake China, none have endured the test of time more than the AIM Sidewinder missile. The weapon is still in development, with one of the most recent iterations being the AIM-9X Block II. The Block II completed more testing than the AIM Sidewinder missile before the launch of an F/A-18F Super Hornet from the Diamondback of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 102 aboard the aircraft carrier USS George Washington (CVN 73) in August 2009.

It brought such fame and fortune that in 2002, China Lake and the Ridgecrest community threw an anniversary party in honor of its 50th anniversary.

The HARM missile, the AARGM’s predecessor, is still used today.
China Lake could be a place where things go boom, but it isn’t the only thing going on. It’s also a perfect place for training in desert environments for things scenar- os that might have need of a hammer and nails — or big honking machinery to drill into little rocks. It’s also a perfect place for training in desert environments for things sce- narios that come out of the mind of the warfighter.

China Lake has two detachments: Naval Construction Training Center and the Naval Construction Group ONE. Operations were talking about people that are inno- vative and doing things faster and delivering prod- ucts that our warfighter needs, he singled out one-quez. 

Seabees and members from other service branches, train in mineral products, the y-product of blasting. Blasting teams would go into the mountains and blow them up which would result in piles of rocks ranging from three or four feet in dimension.

With the exception of the China Lake mission has never been more relevant. It has never been more relevant. That message was first and foremost at the February 2018 Indian Wells Valley Economic Outlook Conference. He said Johnson was asked to do, ‘We have never been more relevant.’ As he had in past years.

In the entire US Navy when our Chief of Naval Operations were talking about people that are inno- vative and doing things faster and delivering prod- ucts that our warfighter needs, he singled out one-quez. 

Johnson. She said there is potential for even better news, accord- ing to her presentation, Weapons Division Budget machines to in- crease. It was $1.4 billion in fiscal year 2015, $1.5 billion in fiscal year 2016 and $1.6 billion in fiscal year 2017. The forecast for fiscal year 2018 is a little in ex- cess of $1.2 billion, she said.

In the Indian Wells Valley Economic Outlook Conference on the Kerr McGee Center Wednesday. The overall message was positive, as things are going well at China Lake and are ex- pected to be doing even better in the future.

In essence, it allows Seabees to use a 42-acre sandbox with the biggest construc- tion force, meanwhile, has re- ceived money from the Navy’s new defense strategy. The civilian workforce at China Lake was 4,053 in fiscal year 2016, $1.5 billion in fiscal year 2015, $1.5 billion in fiscal year 2014 and $1.6 billion in fiscal year 2017. "There was a $1.4 billion increase to the Navy’s re- quested top line. There is a reason for that, if any of you have a chance to grab the public version of the national defense strategy you will see the Navy’s instruc- tions all over the national defense strategy," he said.

The NAWCWD work- force, meanwhile, has re- bounded significantly since sequestration, she said.

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We’re happy to be part of your story.

AltaOne has been a community partner of Naval Weapons Air Station (NAWS) China Lake since 1947. We value the hard work of the past and present workforce who helped put China Lake on the map.

Our nine original members who started the credit union at China Lake, would be proud that their sense of community and family tradition still exists after all these years. We look forward to continuing our journey with you.

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“Old Dorm 1” on Blandy Avenue
Chartered on November 26, 1947 as NOTS (Naval Ordnance Test Station) Employees Federal Credit Union. The initial location was provided by NOTS in Room 1 in what was known as the "Old Training Building" on Halsey Street (which is now Inyokern Road). The Credit Union moved several times after its original Halsey Street location. In 1965, the Credit Union expanded and moved into "Old Dorm 1" on Blandy Avenue.

AltaOne is an official Cell Phones For Soldiers cell phone drop-off location.

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China Lake: 75 years in photos

With 75 years of history, China Lake certainly has accumulated plenty of pictures. From its founding days as NOTS to the present day, the installation has seen a single presidential visit, countless successful tests, high-level dignitaries visit and so much more. This last section is devoted to the images over the years.

Aerial view of the U.S. Naval Ordnance Test Station —NOTS about 1946 or 1947.

U.S. NAVY PHOTO/ROCKETEER

The front page of the June 7, 1963 Rocketeer depicts President John F. Kennedy addressing the crowd at China Lake. Kennedy was touring China Lake in June 1963. To date, he is the only commander-in-chief to visit the installation.

U.S. NAVY PHOTO

U.S. Navy McDonnell F2H-2 Banshee with a Sidewinder missile loaded on the ground at the U.S. Naval Ordnance Test Station (NOTS) China Lake, California (USA), on 17 July 1957.

OFFICIAL U.S. NAVY PHOTO

Dr. William B. McLean at Michelson Lab., China Lake in March 1949.

ROCKETEER PHOTO

Capt. W.W. Hollister accepts on behalf of the Station presented by the men and officers of GMU-61 from Cdr. Selden N. May in June 1959.

U.S. NAVY PHOTO

NOTS CO Capt. Sherman E. Burroughs 3rd from left, Assistant Experimental Officer Cdr. Bob Appleton at far right.

U.S. NAVY PHOTO
Congratulations NAWCWD on 75 years of service to our Country and our Community. You make us proud!!!
China Lake 75th Anniversary

A NACES seat test using a McDonnell YF-4J Phantom II at the U.S. Navy Naval Weapons Station China Lake, California (USA), in 1987. This aircraft had originally been delivered as a F-4B-19-MC. It was later converted to an YF-4J prototype, together with BuNos 151496 and 153497. It was later used as an ejection seat testbed at China Lake.

Commander Light Attack Wing Pacific Fleet (COMLATWINGPAC) held a command inspection at Air Test and Evaluation Squadron Five in December 1989. In this photo COMLATWINGPAC’s Command Master Chief Withcombe reviews the troops. The Squadron had been preparing for the inspection for several weeks.

As Kevin Kirkpatrick readies his aircraft for a takeoff from a picnic table top, Phillip DeMay watches intently so that next time, he may be the “pilot” of the plane in July 1985.

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Our nation and those who love liberty in the world depend on the brilliant work of the Naval Air Weapons Station at China Lake. We in Kern County honor every man and woman who has served our country here.
Congratulations NAWCWD for 75 strong years of serving our Nation and our warfighter. You have regularly lead the Navy in innovation and in demonstrating new ways to ensure our Navy remains premiere in the world. Past accolades still apply today...

“You are the jewel in the Navy’s crown”
- former SECNAV John Lehman

“The Navy doesn’t need an innovation cell; it has one; it’s called ‘China Lake’”
- ADM Scott Swift, CINCPACFLT

On March 13, 2006, a CH-46 Sea Knight assigned to Marine Helicopter Squadron One, Presidential Helicopter Squadron, deploys its MJU-32/B 36mm round flares over Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake. The squadron was participating in a testing event for a new deployment tactic for the 36mm MJU-32/B round flare.

On Jan. 19, 2012, Jackelyne Plemontiel, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment, third from left, and distinguished Navy leadership, break ground for the Navy’s newest solar farm at Naval Weapons Station China Lake. The 118-acre solar farm is expected to generate more than 30 percent of the facility’s energy requirements.

On April 11, 2011, Aviation Ordnancemen assigned to the Vampires of Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 9 install AGM-88E Advanced Anti-Radiation Guided Missiles on an F/A-18D Hornet for test launches at Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake.

On Jan. 18, 2012, Jackelyne Plemontiel, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment, third from left, and distinguished Navy leadership, break ground for the Navy’s newest solar farm at Naval Weapons Station China Lake. The 118-acre solar farm is expected to generate more than 30 percent of the facility’s energy requirements.

Congratulations and thank you on 75 years of service to our community and our great country.

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for 75 strong years of serving our Nation and our warfighter.

You have regularly lead the Navy in innovation and in demonstrating new ways to ensure our Navy remains premiere in the world.

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China Lake 75th Anniversary

Friday, April 27, 2018 www.ridgecrestca.com
China Lake 75th Anniversary

A group of sailors carry flags past the Historic USO Building on West Ridgecrest Boulevard during the 2011 Parade of 1,000 Flags.

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. John Richardson holds an all-hands call in All Faith Chapel at Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS) China Lake in December 2016.

In Feb. 2016, Rear Adm. Brian Corey, Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division commander, and Joan Johnson, NAWCWD executive director, welcome Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter to China Lake on Feb. 2 for a tour and discussion about the innovative work underway at the command.


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By Stacie Lawrence

NAWCWD Public Affairs

Rear Adm. Scott Dillon, left, salutes Vice Adm. Paul Grosklags, commander of Naval Air Systems Command, as he relieved Rear Adm. Brian Corey, right, as commander of Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division during a change of command ceremony April 19, 2018, at China Lake.

"To say that I've spent quite a bit of time at NAWCWD during the course of my career may be a bit of an understatement," Dillon said. During that time, I've tried to learn as much as I could about NAVY's capabilities. I thought that I had a pretty good idea of the role that NAWCWD played in that process and the capability out here, and I've been truly humbled by a part of that effort.

Corey will be assigned to his NAWCWD commander duties.

"It really is good to be here," Dillon said. "I'm looking forward to the opportunity. I want you all to think all of you for the warm welcome and for making this opportunity possible. I'm really looking forward to the great things we are going to accomplish together."

Rear Adm. Scott Dillon leads the arrival of the official party during the April 19, 2018, change of command ceremony at Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division at China Lake.
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