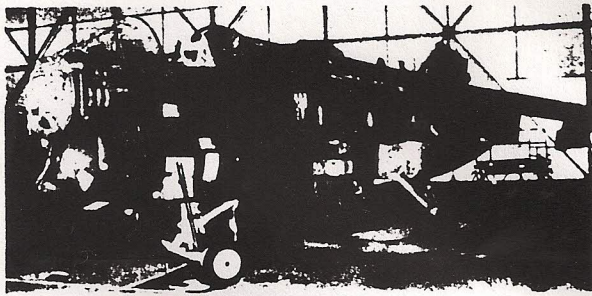
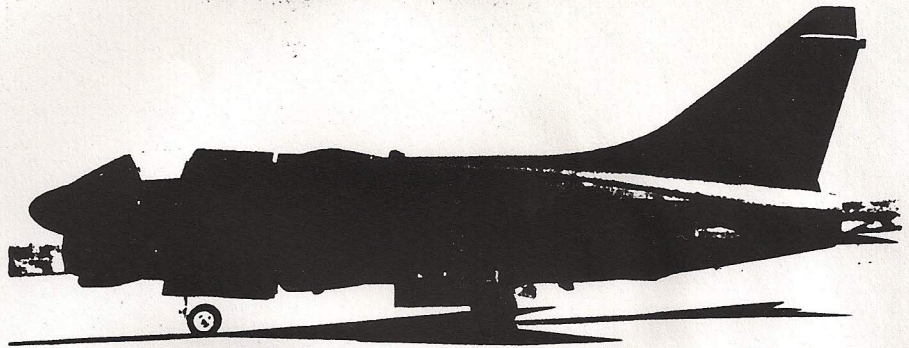


BEFORE AND AFTER — The photograph below shows A-7D No. 70-0935 soon after it arrived at VOMC. At right is the same aircraft ready for delivery to the customer. Approximately 30 to 40 employees worked on the crash-damaged A-7D in which an opossum made its home before refurbishment began.



VOMC refurbishes crash-damaged A-7

When A-7D No. 70-0935 was trucked through the Jefferson Avenue gates, some thought it was beyond repair. Vought Overhaul and Modernization Center employees accepted the challenge of restoring the crash-damaged Air National Guard aircraft. Last week refurbishment was complete and it was ready for flight

testing. Joe Engle of integrated logistics support projects said. "The guys that worked on that airplane are more than mechanics and technicians. They're artisans. It's a real beauty."

The Air National Guard A-7 had run off the runway at Wurtsmith Air Force Base, Mich., flipped over and burned. The wing was a total loss; 50 to 60 percent of the fuselage skin area was destroyed, and the vertical fin had been cut off.

John Daugirda, manager of manufacturing operations, VOMC, with liaison engineers John Kelly and Paul Taylor, had inspected the crashed aircraft in Michigan. "I said we could fix it," said Daugirda. "And we did."

"When you start looking at that aircraft, you see how durable the A-7 really is. It's a tough airplane that will take a lot of punishment."

Dave Hopkins, manager — manufacturing engineering, VOMC, said, "It was a real challenge to those who were going to work on it. We are proud of our accomplishment, a team effort from start to finish."

The aircraft was torn down to a hull and placed in a modified dolly. "It looked like a fish skeleton," Daugirda said.

Nothing could be salvaged from the damaged wing. The major wing attach points were destroyed. The electrical harnesses in the wing cavity and wheel wells had to be replaced.

VOMC workers found more than damaged parts inside the hull. As they began taking it apart, an opossum scurried out. Employees thought it had probably taken refuge there from the Michigan cold.

Replacement parts were taken from surplus aircraft when available. "Others were fabricated or machined," Daugirda said.

He and Hopkins estimate 30 to 40 employees worked on the aircraft during various stages of its overhaul, but the people who were involved daily were Burt Noble and Bud Sabatino, liaison engineering, and Alex McCoy and his "junkyard dogs" of unit 562-9.

It was the fifth crash-or battle-damaged aircraft VOMC has repaired. Two others are in house and two more are under contract for repair. Daugirda and Hopkins agree that No. 70-0935 is an excellent example of craftsmanship and teamwork.

Email ready 'for the screen'

Electronic mail at Vought Aero Products Division is "ready to swing into action or, better yet, appear on your screen." The central structure for the system — training schedules, support personnel and key computer hardware and software components — are in place. VAPD management and data processing representatives learned Monday during Email briefings.

Email is being implemented by the information services department and will allow employees to send written messages and documents to each other via computer terminals, personal computers and word processors.

The system will save the time and cost of manual delivery and will allow employees with access to certain computers and word processors to prepare, store, retrieve and distribute inter-office correspondence and Western Union messages. For users not on the system a nearby printer could be their mailbox.

Managers heard an overview of Email, learned the status of the project and saw a demonstration of PROFS, Professional Office System, which is the primary electronic mail system installed at VAPD.

Departmental data processing

representatives were also informed of the training, support and software available to aid implementation of Email.

Ron Childs, Email project leader for information services, said the next step is the appointment of Email coordinators in each department and office system consultants for each work group.

Email coordinators, working with information services specialists and data processing representatives, will assess the needs of each department and the equipment and/or training required to fill those needs. Childs said this will result in Email systems exactly suited to the needs of each department.

Office system consultants will serve as a liaison for each work group and information service Email specialists. Classes of PROFS for office system consultants are scheduled.

Email and PROFS classes have been available through information services computer education since the

beginning of 1986. Childs said this training can be done in the users' work areas if equipment is available.

The value of PROFS has been demonstrated in the maintenance machine repair department, according to T. L. Heisch, superintendent. The department is a three-shift, seven-day operation. Maintenance foremen use computer terminals in three remote repair cells for retrieval and input of information into the maintenance information management data base. Inter-shift and inter-cell communication is extremely important, he stated.

Before VAPD had the VM computer and PROFS software, all the departmental correspondence relating to machine repair operations was via telephone or written on daily reports. Heisch stated that PROFS provides a timely and efficient manner to send instructions, schedule meetings, and document repair activities.

Email is an action project of the Office Technology Modernization Program.



Profile

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Communication Services
M. B. McConal, Editor

ITV Aerospace and Defense

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

EMAIL — Electronic mail will soon be available on many word processors and personal computers at VAPD like the one in the office of Don Dimos, vice president — finance, VAPD.