

ATLAS ICBM (SM-65)

389TH STRATEGIC MISSILE WING
F.E. WARREN AFB, WYOMING

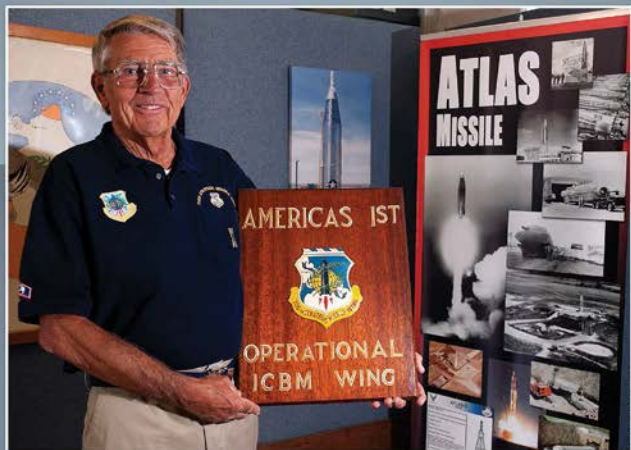
564th Strategic Missile Squadron
565th Strategic Missile Squadron
566th Strategic Missile Squadron



AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS AGENCY PRESENTS
**VETERANS
IN BLUE**



VOLUME V



JIM WIDLAR

BIOGRAPHY

Airman First Class (Sep.) Jim Widlar enlisted in the Air Force on December of 1960 and was assigned to the Strategic Air Command's 706th Strategic Missile Wing (ICBM-Atlas) at Francis E. Warren Air Force Base (AFB), Wyoming. He was an Atlas-D Missile Mechanic assigned to a launch maintenance crew with the 389th Missile Maintenance Squadron. His primary duties were to provide periodic maintenance to the SM-65D weapon system. He was also on alert returning missiles offline for scheduled maintenance to "Ready State A" during the defense readiness condition 2 Cuban Missile Crisis, and again following President Kennedy's assassination in 1963. Other duties included loading, off-loading and escorting airlifted missiles on the Douglas C133B Cargomaster. He also had a temporary duty assignment to Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, to assist in four Atlas-D missile launches. Upon deactivation of the Atlas-D weapon system in 1964, he received an early separation from the USAF and relocated to Silicon Valley, California, where he finished his career in the electrical construction industry. Widlar, now semi-retired, lives near Boulder, Colorado, as a founding member of the Association of Air Force Missileers, and as a volunteer at the F.E. Warren AFB Heritage Museum where he served nearly 50 years ago.



AIM HIGH ... FLY, FIGHT, WIN

ATLAS-D MISSILE MECHANIC JUNE 1961 TO OCTOBER 1964

Assigned to an APCHE Crew
in Launch Maintenance
389th Missile Maintenance Squadron
Francis E Warren AFB, Wyoming

Operational Vandenberg AFB Launches

- 12-May-62 * Atlas 127D * "Cannonball Flyer"
- 15-Jan-63 * Atlas 39D * "Big Sue"
- 12-Mar-63 * Atlas 64D * "Tall Tree II"
- 15-Mar-63 * Atlas 46D * "Tall Tree I"



ATLAS-D (SM-65) ICBM

- (1) Height 82' 5"
- (2) Diameter 10"
- (3) Radio-Inertial Guidance
- (4) Stage and Half Propulsion System
- (5) Airframe (He) Pressurized Cres 301 Stainless Steel
- (5) Forward Bulk Head .010" @ Boil-Off Valve
- (6) Aft Bulk Head .047"
- (7) Fuel RP-1 11,500 Gal loaded in 4.5m @ 3,500 GPM
- (8) Oxidizer LO2 18,600 Gal loaded in 4m @ 5,500 GPM
- (9) Empty Weight 25,000 lbs.
- (10) Fueled Weight 267,000 lbs.
- (11) Mass-Ratio of 10 to 1
- (12) Thrust 368,000 lbs.



Atlas 34D (58-2205) * 564th SMS LSB A-3



Atlas 71D (58-7066) on LC-11

Start of Countdown T-15

Boil-Off Valve Closed T-:32s

Lift-Off T+3s after 95% Thrust

Booster Engine Cutoff (BECO) T+2

Booster Section Jettison @ T+2:3s

Sustainer Engine Cutoff (SECO) T+5

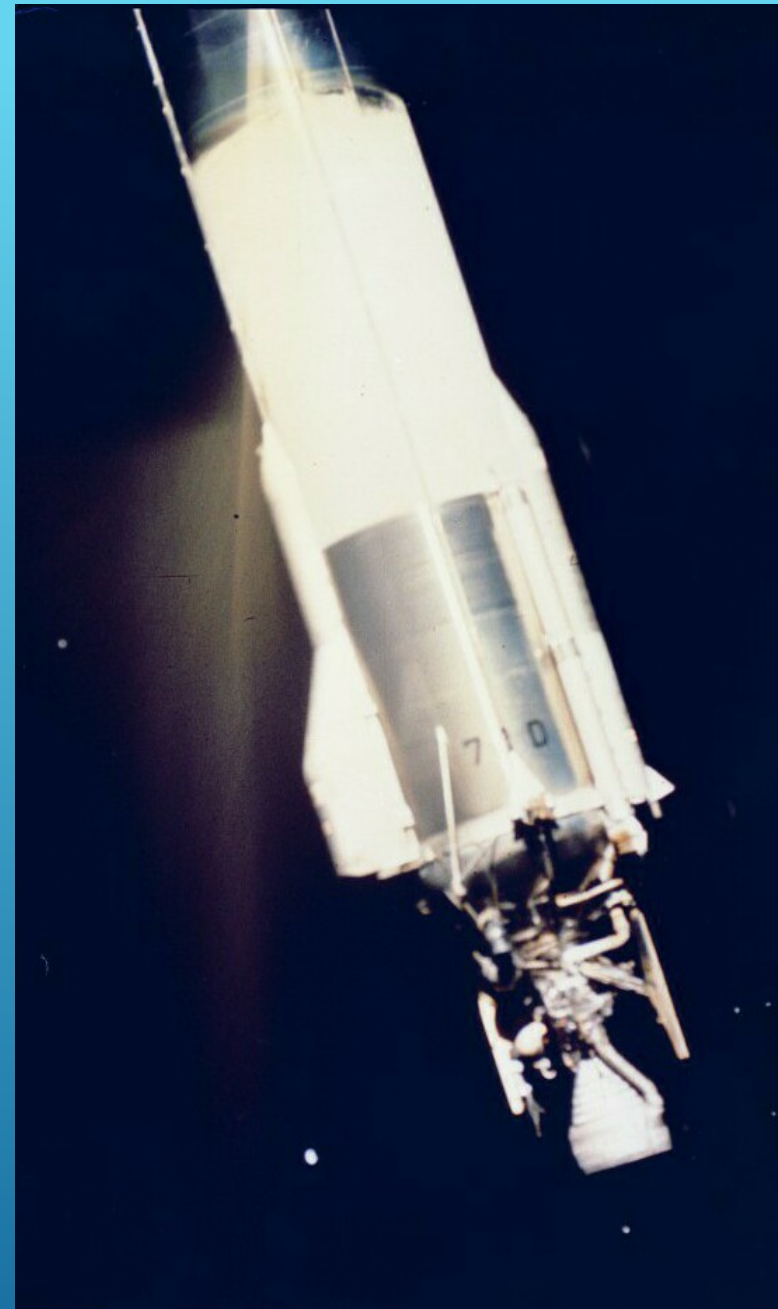
Vernier Engine Cutoff (VECO) T+5:17s

R/V Separation T+5:35s

Apogee T+18

Over Target T+30

13-OCT-60



Atlas 71D (58-7066) Suborbital



Convair Astronautics Assembly Building 5 * San Diego, CA



Convair Astronautics Assembly Building 5 * San Diego, CA



FE Warren AFB's 1st Atlas 34D (58-2205) at the Convair Astronautics San Diego, CA



Atlas 34D (58-2205), at Weight/Balance Station * 22-Sep-59



FE Warren AFB's 1st Atlas 34D (58-2205) at the Convair Astronautics San Diego, CA



28-Sep-59 * 1st Atlas 34D (58-2205) arriving in Wyoming a 5-day overland convoy from San Diego, CA



28-Sep-59 * 1st Atlas 34D in Cheyenne after a 5-day overland convoy from San Diego, CA



28-Sep-59 * 1st Atlas 34D (58-2204) arrived at Gate 2, FE Warren AFB, WY



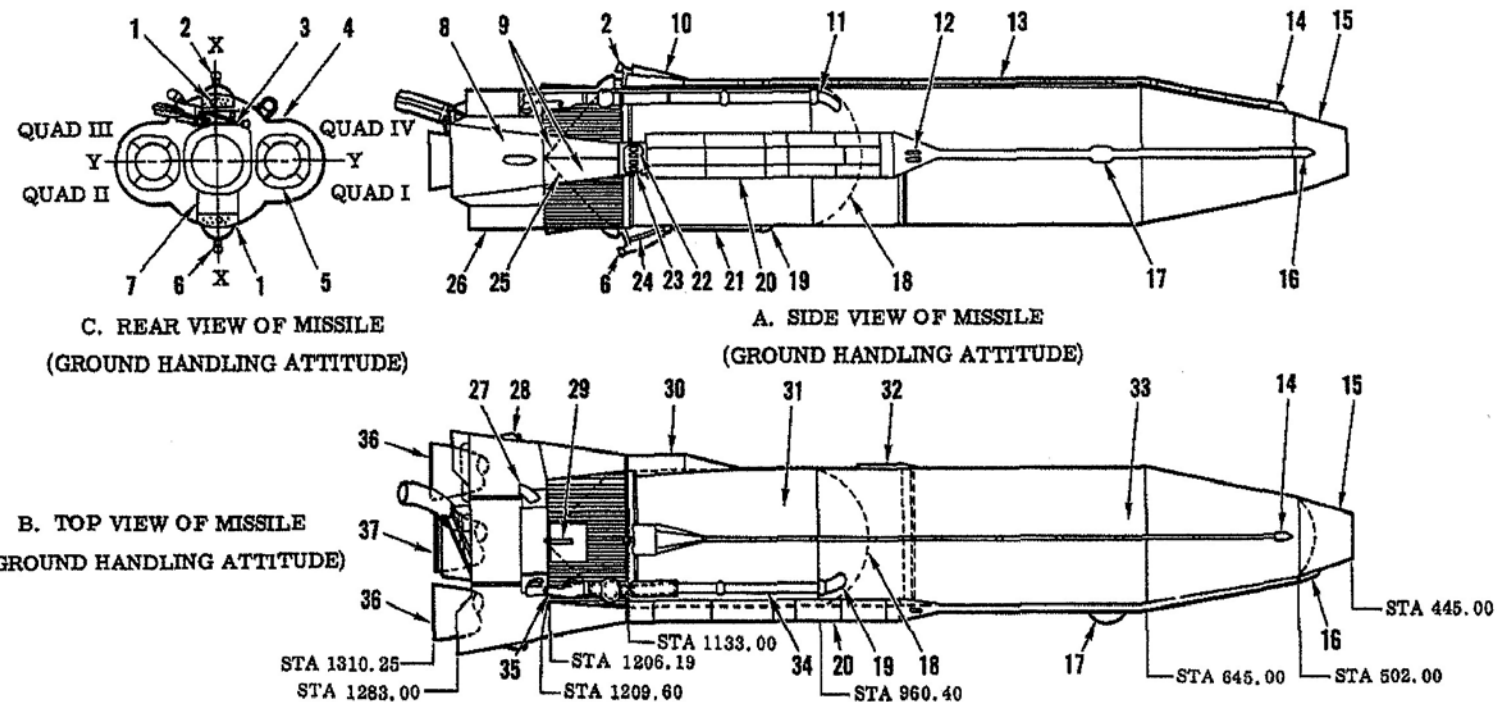
3-Nov-59 * 1st Airlifted ICBM Atlas 35D (58-2206) from Miramar to Cheyenne Airport on C-133B Cargomaster



3-Nov-59 * Atlas 35D (58-2206) the second ICBM arrives at Gate 2, FE Warren AFB,WY

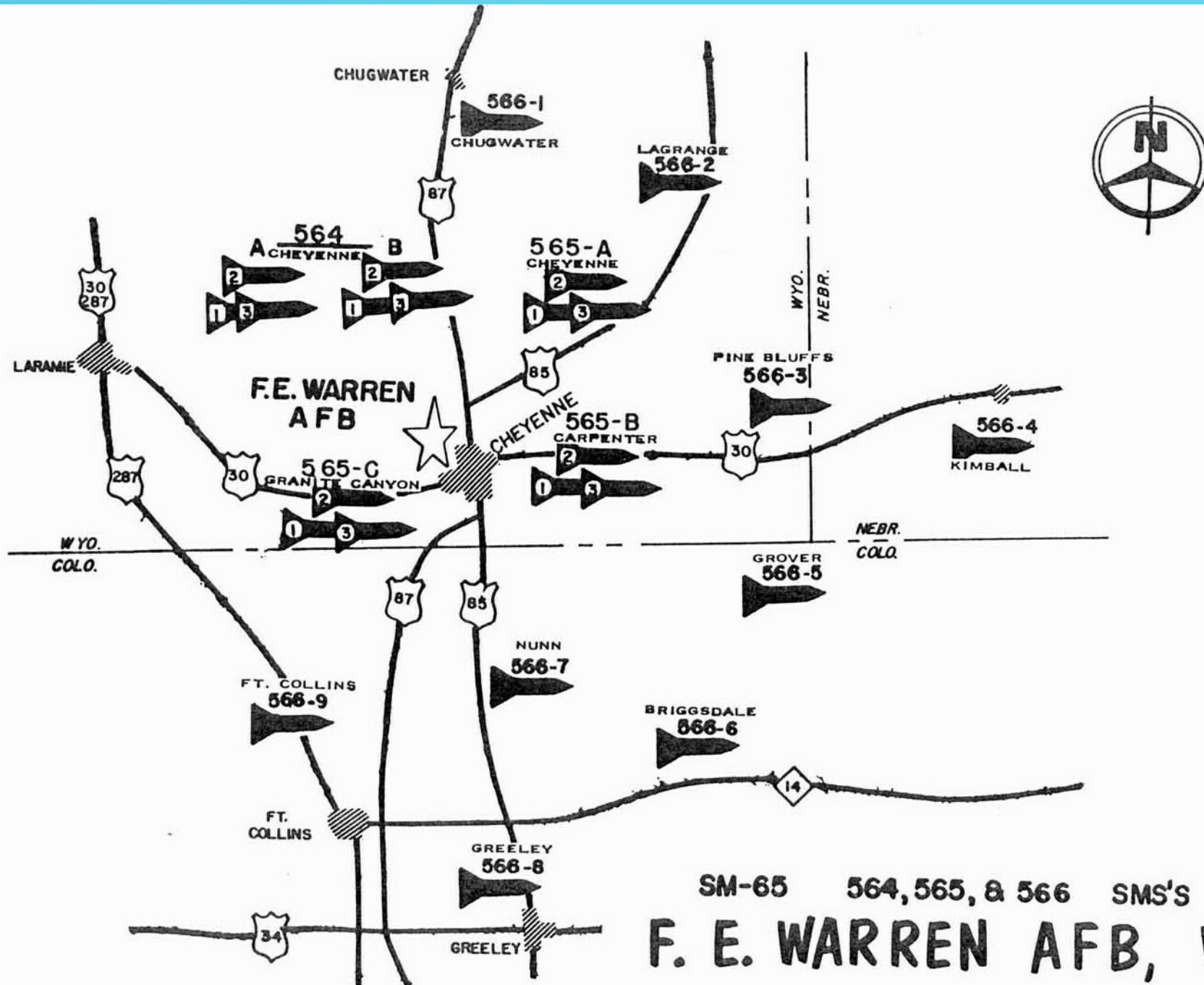


Atlas 38D (58-2209) being prepared for airlift to FE Warren AFB, WY * 10-Nov-59



- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 RISE-OFF DISCONNECT PANEL - PAINTED ALUMINUM ALLOY | 20 EQUIPMENT POD - ALUMINUM ALLOY |
| 2 NO. 1 VERNIER ENGINE | 21 FUEL TANK PRESSURE SUPPLY LINE - CRES |
| 3 SUSTAINER ENGINE RADIATION BOOT - PAINTED FIBERGLASS CLOTH | 22 UMBILICAL RECEPTACLES - PAINTED ALUMINUM ALLOY |
| 4 BOOSTER HEAT RADIATION SHIELD - INCONEL-REFRASIL | 23 EQUIPMENT POD AFT FAIRING - PAINTED FIBERGLASS |
| 5 BOOSTER ENGINE RADIATION BOOT - PAINTED FIBERGLASS CLOTH | 24 NO. 2 VERNIER ENGINE FAIRING - PAINTED FIBERGLASS |
| 6 NO. 2 VERNIER ENGINE | 25 FUEL TANK AFT BULKHEAD - CRES |
| 7 BOOSTER ACCESS DOOR - INCONEL-REFRASIL | 26 BOOSTER SECTION FAIRING - PAINTED FIBERGLASS |
| 8 AFT NACELLE - PAINTED FIBERGLASS | 27 FUEL FILL-AND-DRAIN CONNECTOR - ANODIZED ALUMINUM ALLOY |
| 9 FORWARD NACELLE DOOR - PAINTED FIBERGLASS | 28 AFT NACELLE SHOCK ABSORBER FITTING - PAINTED ALUMINUM ALLOY |
| 10 NO. 1 VERNIER ENGINE FAIRING - PAINTED FIBERGLASS | 29 MISSILE BALANCE FITTING - PAINTED ALUMINUM ALLOY |
| 11 OXIDIZER PRESSURE SUPPLY LINE ELBOW - CRES | 30 STUB POD - ALUMINUM ALLOY |
| 12 RETARDING ROCKET BLOW OFF COVERS - CRES | 31 FUEL TANK - CRES |
| 13 OXIDIZER TANK PRESSURE SUPPLY LINE - CRES | 32 ANTENNA (BUBBLE POD) FAIRING - PAINTED FIBERGLASS |
| 14 OXIDIZER PRESSURE SUPPLY LINE ELBOW FAIRING - PAINTED FIBERGLASS | 33 OXIDIZER TANK - CRES |
| 15 RE-ENTRY VEHICLE ADAPTER - PAINTED ALUMINUM ALLOY | 34 MAIN OXIDIZER LINE - CRES |
| 16 CABLEWAY FAIRING - PAINTED FIBERGLASS | 35 OXIDIZER FILL-AND-DRAIN CONNECTOR - ANODIZED ALUMINUM ALLOY |
| 17 RATE-GYRO FAIRING - PAINTED FIBERGLASS | 36 BOOSTER ENGINE THRUST CHAMBER |
| 18 INTERMEDIATE BULKHEAD - CRES | |
| 19 FUEL TANK PRESSURE SUPPLY LINE ELBOW FAIRING - PAINTED FIBERGLASS | |
| 40.42-2B | 37 SUSTAINER ENGINE THRUST CHAMBER |

Figure 2-1. SM-65D Missile Airframe Components, General Arrangement and Composition



SM-65 564, 565, & 566 SMS'S
F. E. WARREN AFB, Wyo.



564th Strategic Missile Squadron Site A & B * Operational 8-Aug-60 * Off Alert 15-May-64



Major McGarry
565th SMS Site C
Commander
"Fort McGarry"

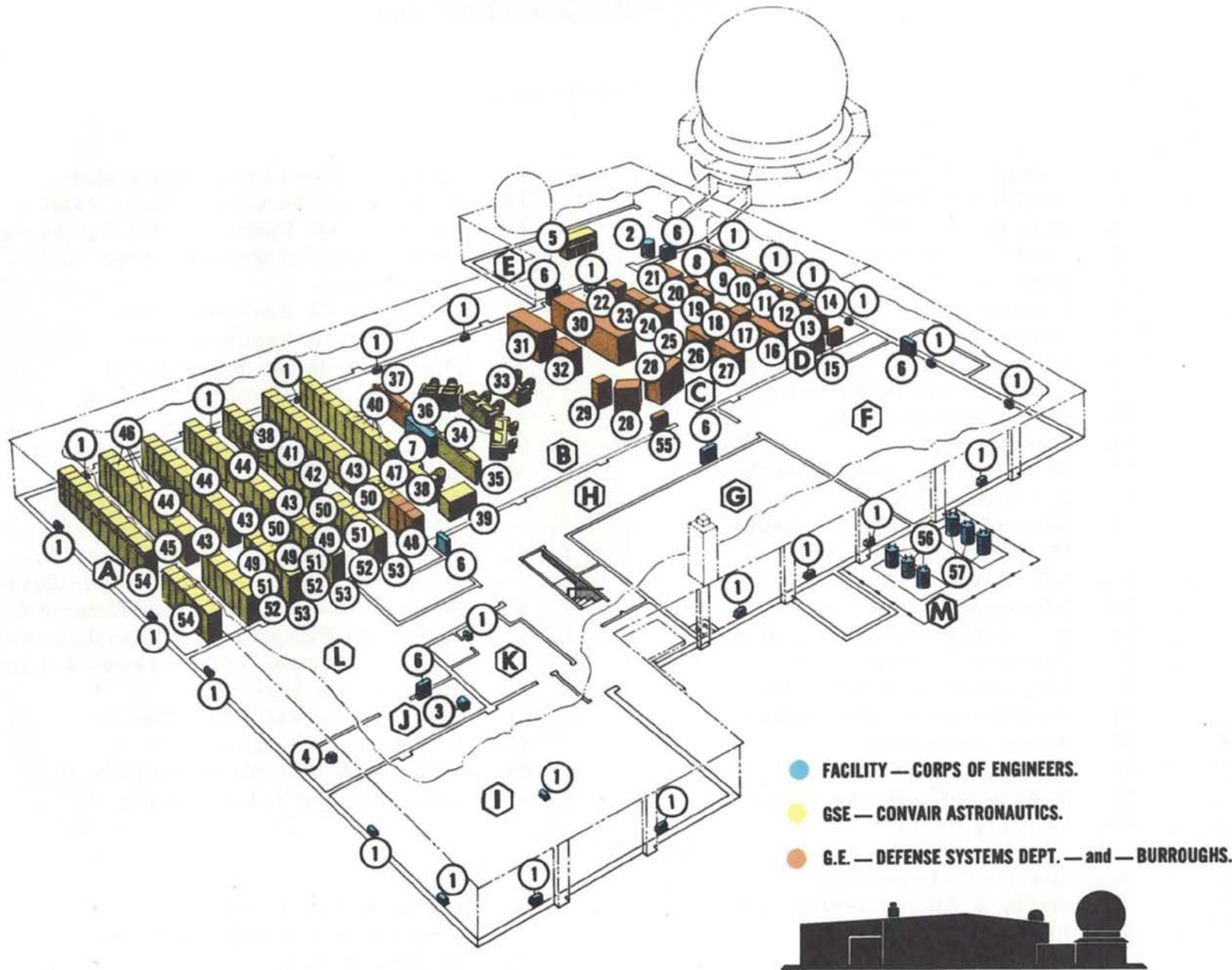
565th Strategic Missile Squadron * Operational 4-Mar-61 * Off Alert 1-Jul-64



549th Strategic Missile Squadron Offutt AFM, NE * Operational 30-Mar-61 * Off Alert 1-Oct-64



566th Strategic Missile Squadron * Operational 12-Dec-61 * Off Alert 3-Jan-65



FACILITY & G. S. EQUIPMENT LAYOUT-LAUNCH OPERATIONS BUILDING 1st FLOOR

LAUNCH OPERATIONS BUILDING (Type A)

EQUIPMENT KEY.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| 1. Fan Motor of A/C Unit. | 20. Track Signal Junction Box. | 39. Card Storage Rack. |
| 2. Hot Water Heater. | 21. Track Power Distrib. Unit. | 40. Time & Events Recorder. |
| 3. Power Roof Ventilator. | 22. Lo-Rate Power Amplifier. | 41. Rocket Engine Simulator. |
| 4. Cold Water Circulating Pump. | 23. Rate Driver. | 42. Guidance Checkout Test Set. |
| 5. Status Recorder. | 24. Hi-Rate Power Amplifier. | 43. Checkout Switching Unit. |
| 6. Lighting & Power Distrib. Panel. | 25. Rate Local Oscillator. | 44. Cable Distribution Unit. |
| 7. Power Panel. | 26. Rate Doppler Simulator. | 45. Key Station. |
| 8. Track Transmitter. | 27. Rate Data Extractor. | 46. Power Distribution Unit. |
| 9. Track Servo Cabinet. | 28. Guidance System Console. | 47. Checkout Fault Location Unit. |
| 10. Track Translator. | 29. Printer. | 48. Re-Entry Vehicle Pre-Launch Monitor and Control Unit. |
| 11. Track Range Angle. | 30. Computer. | 49. Control Sequence Unit. |
| 12. Track Recorder. | 31. Computer Simulator. | 50. Signal Verification Unit. |
| 13. Track Data Angle. | 32. Range Oscillator Test Set. | 51. Sequencer Unit. |
| 14. Track Checkout Transmitter. | 33. Launch Officer Control Console. | 52. Pressure Measuring Unit. |
| 15. Rate Junction Box. | 34. Operator & Analyst Console. | 53. Time Sequencer Unit. |
| 16. Rate Power Distribution Unit. | 35. Standby Status Panel. | 54. Terminal Cabinet. |
| 17. Rate Signal Junction Box. | 36. Facility Remote Control & Monitor. | 55. Guidance Confidence Signal Cabinet. |
| 18. Rate Recorder. | 37. Guidance Monitor. | 56. 100 KVA 440V Transformers. |
| 19. Track Recorder. | 38. APChE. | 57. 100 KVA 208V Transformers. |

AREA KEY.

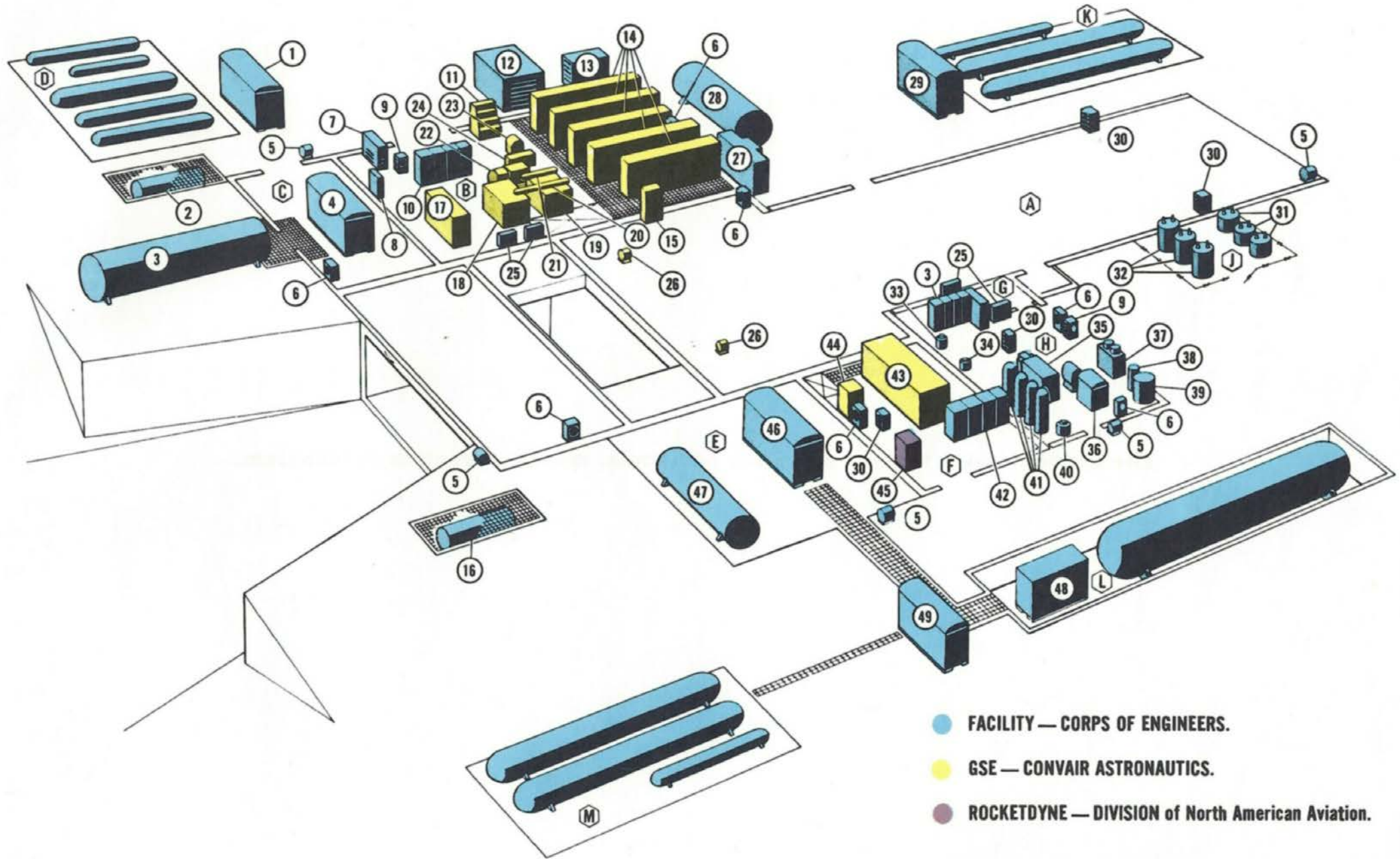
- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| A. Launch Control & Checkout.
Equipment Room. | E. Control Rate Antenna. | J. Kitchen. |
| B. Launch Operations Area. | F. Communications Room. | K. Toilet. |
| C. Computer Area. | G. Spares Storage Room. | L. Messing Room. |
| D. Guidance Operations. | H. Corridor. | M. 440 208V Substation. |
| | I. Dormitory. | |



564th Strategic Missile Squadron * Site A Launch Operation Building



Launch Operations Building Radio-Inertial Guidance Antenna



LAUNCH AND SERVICE BUILDING EQUIPMENT LAYOUT

EQUIPMENT KEY.

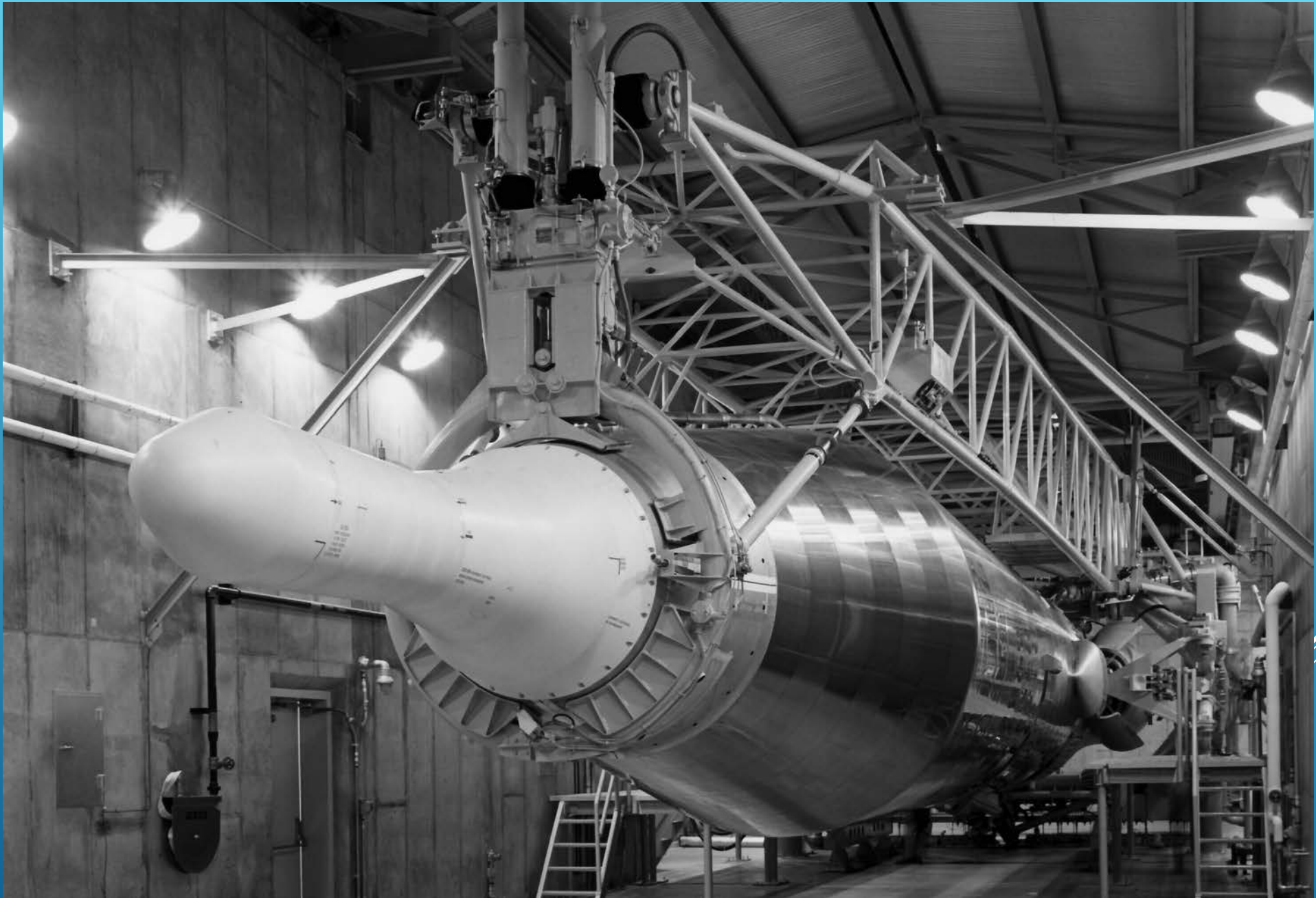
1. Nitrogen Transfer Valve Skid No. 1.
2. Fuel Catch Tank.
3. Fuel Storage Tank.
4. Fuel Control Valve Skid No. 2.
5. Door Motor.
6. Exhaust Fan.
7. Rack-Air Conditioning Unit.
8. Firm Alarm & Exit Light Panel.
9. Heating-Ventilating Unit.
10. Motor Control Center.
11. Standby Battery.
12. Missile Air Conditioning Unit.
13. Air Cooled Condenser.
14. Electronic Equipment Racks.
15. Nitrogen Charge Panel.
16. LO₂ Catch Tank.
17. Nitrogen Control Unit.
18. Pressurization Control Unit.
19. Dynamic Checkout Unit.
20. LO₂ Ullage Simulation Unit.
21. Fuel Ullage Simulation Unit.
22. Motor-Generator.
23. Battery Charger.
24. Ground D. C. Power Supply.
25. Lighting Panels.
26. Launcher Head Positioner Motor.
27. LN₂ Storage Panel & Control Valves.
28. LN₂/He Heat Exchanger & LN₂ Storage Tank.
29. Helium Control Valve Skid No. 5.
30. Unit Heater.
31. 3 37.5 KVA Transformers.
32. 3 100 KVA Transformers.
33. HWC Circulating Water Pump.
34. Reheat Circulating Water Pump.
35. Boiler.
36. Air Compressor-Control Air System.
37. Dryer-Control Air System.
38. Filter-Control Air System.
39. Receiver-Control Air System.
40. Pneumatic Water System Pump.
41. Backup GN₂ Storage-Control Air System.
42. Erection Mechanism Motor Control Center.
43. Hydraulic Pumping Unit-Missile Systems.
44. Hydraulic Power Unit-Erection & Launcher.
45. Service Unit-Solvent.
46. LO₂ Control Valve Skid No. 8.
47. LO₂ Subcooler Tank.
48. LO₂ Fill & Vent Valve Skid No. 9.
49. LO₂ Transfer Valve Skid No. 7.

AREA KEY.

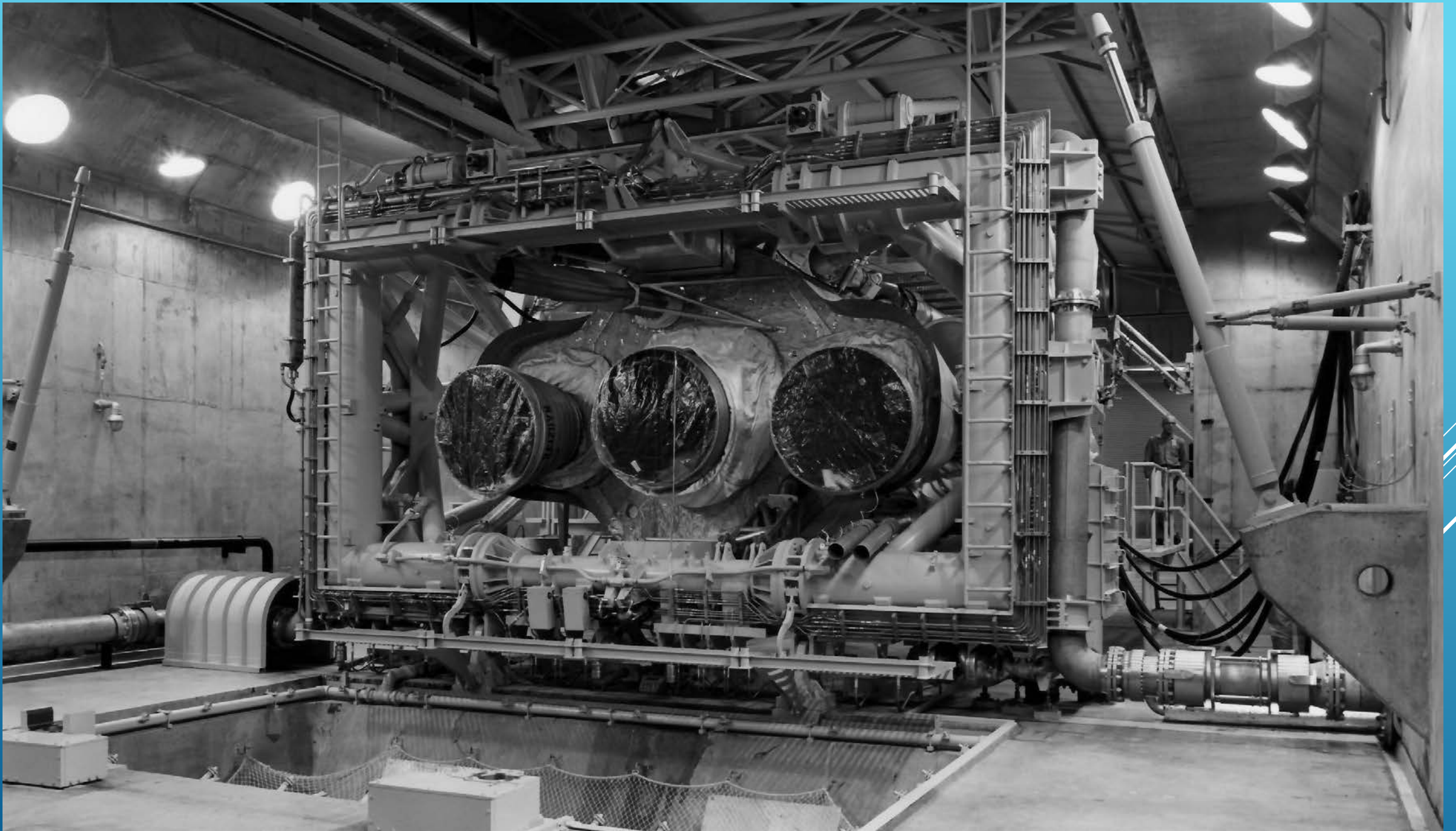
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| A. Missile Storage Area. | G. Toilet. |
| B. Mech. & Elec. Control Room. | H. Utility & Boiler Room. |
| C. Fuel Transfer Area. | J. Transformer Substation Area. |
| D. Nitrogen Storage. | K. Helium Storage. |
| E. LO ₂ Transfer Area. | L. LO ₂ Storage. |
| F. Equipment Room. | M. Oxygen Storage. |



Atlas 34D (58-2204) * 564th SMS LSB A-3 * FE Warren AFB, WY



Launch and Service Building Missile Bay



Launch and Service Building Missile Bay



Atlas 72D (58-7067) Dual Propellant Loading (DPL) Exercise

Presidential Launch

Major Simonson presenting the Guided Missile Insignia to President Kennedy after the launch of Atlas 134D (60-5476) on 23-Mar-62 @ VAFB, CA





Operation " Cannonball Flyer" Atlas 127D (60-5469) Vandenberg AFB CA 11-May-1962

~~SECRET~~
UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ATLAS "CANNONBALL FLYER"

MISSILE: 127D (S/N 60-5469)

LAUNCHED: 1731:48.7 hours PDT; 11 May 1962; Pad 576-B-3

COUNTDOWN HISTORY: Terminal count started 6 minutes behind schedule at 1331 PDT, delay being attributed to confusion over termination of "minimum radiation period" between STRATAD Command Post and PMR. All systems were operating normally through fuel and LOX complete except for failure indications during loop tests with operator console readouts of Vernier #1 yaw and Sustainer yaw gimbals "red" and programmer reset "red". A second loop test was performed with identical results. IN HE was stopped and vented and LOX drained to allow red team access to LSB for trouble shooting. After 4 more unsuccessful loop tests and considerable trouble shooting at LSB, the faulting condition was traced to instrumentation wiring that had been installed during the autopilot shake test at R-40 and not subsequently removed. These wires were disconnected and the seventh loop test proved good. Terminal count was reinitiated at approximately T-15 at 1600 with LOX loading. The 99.8% LOX probe failed (console indicated wetted probe) and shut down LOX rapid and fine load simultaneously with wetting of 90% LOX probe. LOX was drained and checklist # 32 was complied with in re-wiring the AGE to the 100% Acoustica spare probe. LN2 was reservised during this technical hold. The count was again picked up at approximately T-15 at 1716 with lift-off occurring at 1731 PDT. Technical holds totalled 3½ hours.

FLIGHT PERFORMANCE:

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>NOMINAL (SECONDS)</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
BECO	138.7	140.7
JETTISON	141.7	143.8
SECO	272.6	279.8
VECO	289.4	295.15
PRE-ARM	VECO + 12	309.85
R/V SEPARATION	SECO + 35	315.1
TIME OF FLIGHT	1655	1614

MOD III guidance acquired solid lock in the first cube at 81.9 seconds, 15 N. miles range, 0.5° high and 0.5° left of cube center. GERSIS beacon was not aboard for this mission. The lower-than-nominal trajectory explains the late BECO and short time-of-flight. Sustainer thrust measured some 5000# below nominal and caused the late SECO.

IMPACT DATA:

	<u>SHORT</u>	<u>RIGHT</u>	<u>RADIAL</u>
MOD III IP (N.Miles)	0.6	0.58	0.82

REMARKS: This 10th Atlas D CAT III launch was directed by MCCC Maj Flaughter and crew of 565th SMS, Warren AFB. Pad damage was very minimum and rehab was complete at 1200 hrs, 14 May (less than 3 calendar days) except for one umbilical not received in the rehab kit.

Calculated propellant residuals of 1882# LOX and 1347# fuel would provide 2433 N. Miles additional range for total 6818-N. Miles range along ~~initiated~~ target azimuth.

DECLASSIFIED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED UNDER 25 YEARS
EOD MAY 30, 2010

~~SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
UNCLASSIFIED
5275-5370666
5 Aug 1965

Operation Tall Tree

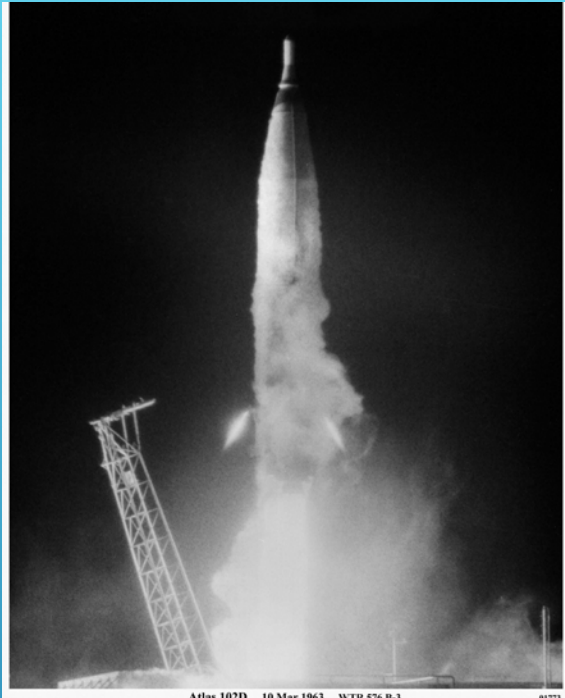
10-Mar-63 * Atlas 102D (TT III)
Pitched 340d at 3500ft
Self Destroyed

12-Mar-63 * Atlas 64D (TT II)
Success 4386nm

15-Mar-63 * Atlas 46D (TT I)
Failure impact 500nm
downrange

16-Mar-63 * Atlas 63F (TT V)
Success 4386nm
RV Self Destroyed at 50,000'

24-Mar-63 * Atlas 52F (TT IV)
Failure Self Destruct at T+90s



Atlas 102D 10 Mar 1963 WTR 576 B-3 01773



Atlas 64D 12 Mar 1963 WTR 576 B-2



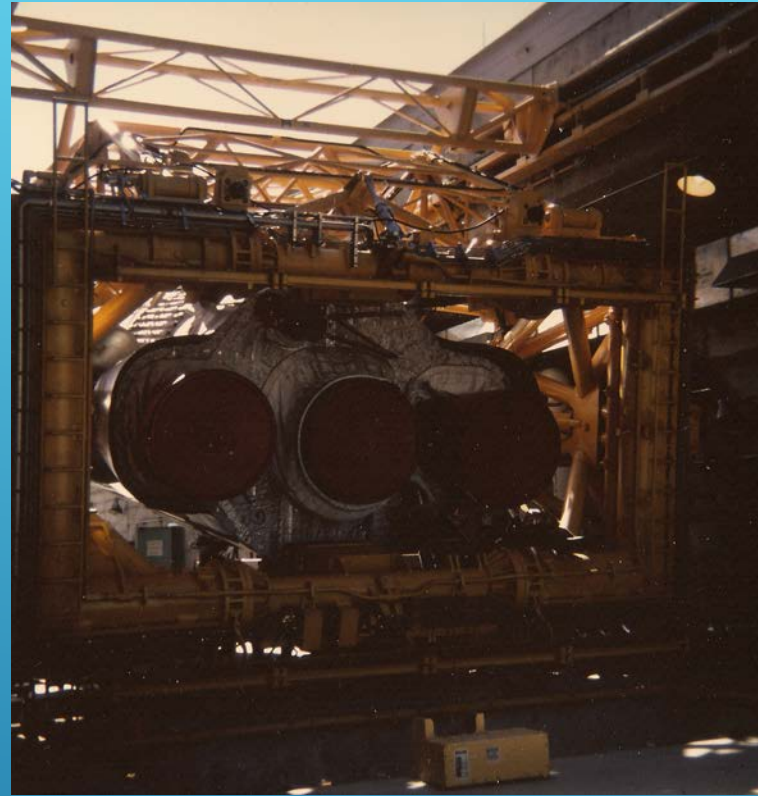
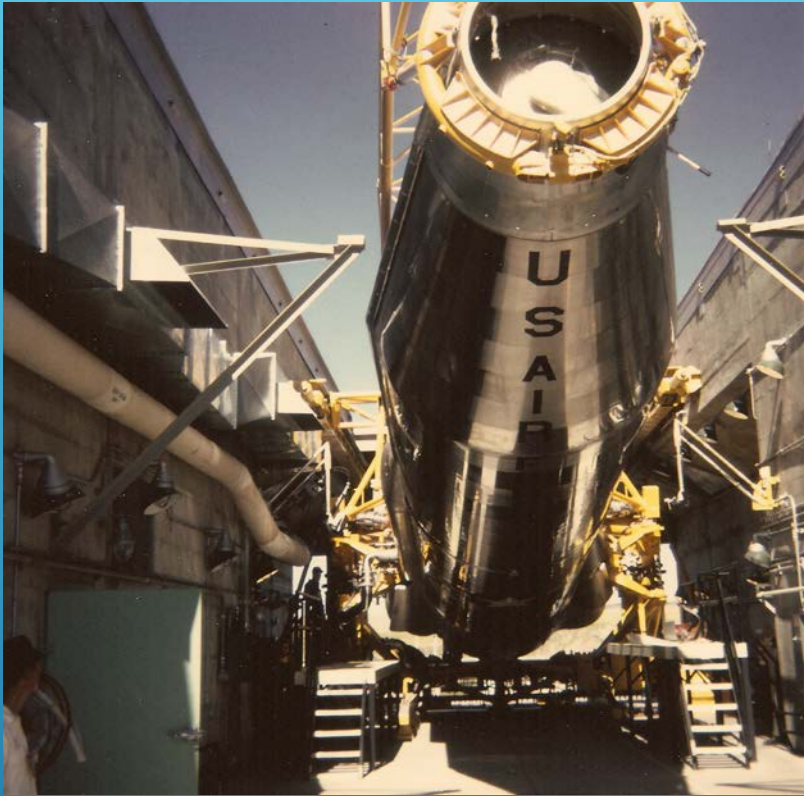
Atlas 63F 16 Mar 1963 WTR 576-D 01748



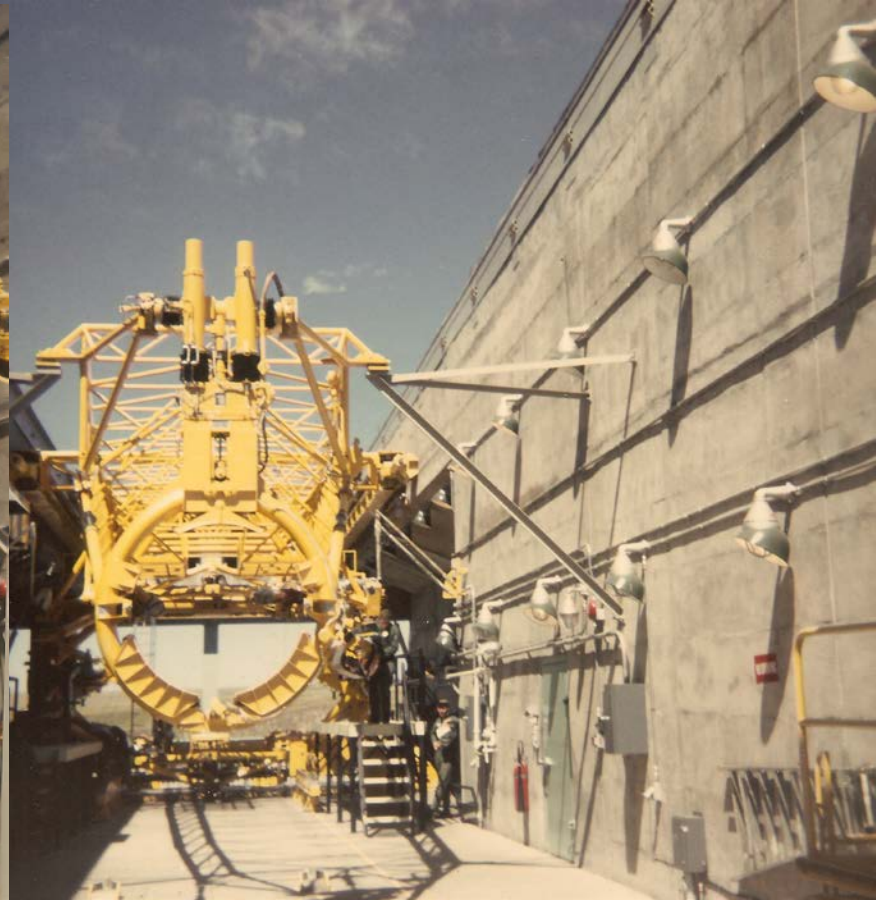
Photo: National Air and Space Museum Atlas 46D 15 Mar 1963 WTR 576 B-1 03718



Atlas 52F 24 Mar 1963 WTR 576-E 01746



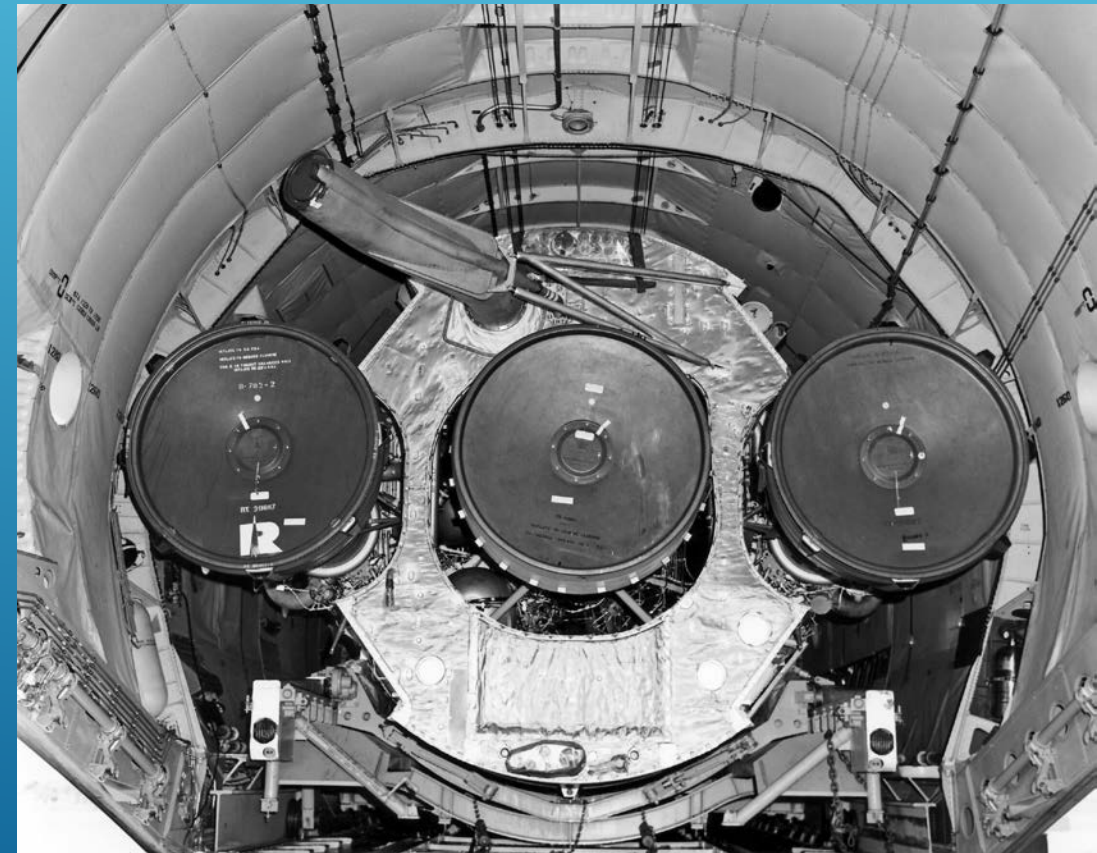
MARCH 4, 1961 * 565C ACCEPTED BY STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND (SAC)
JULY 1, 1964 * 565C RELIEVED OF EMERGENCY WAR ORDERS
JULY 27, 1964 * 565C LAST MISSILES REMOVED

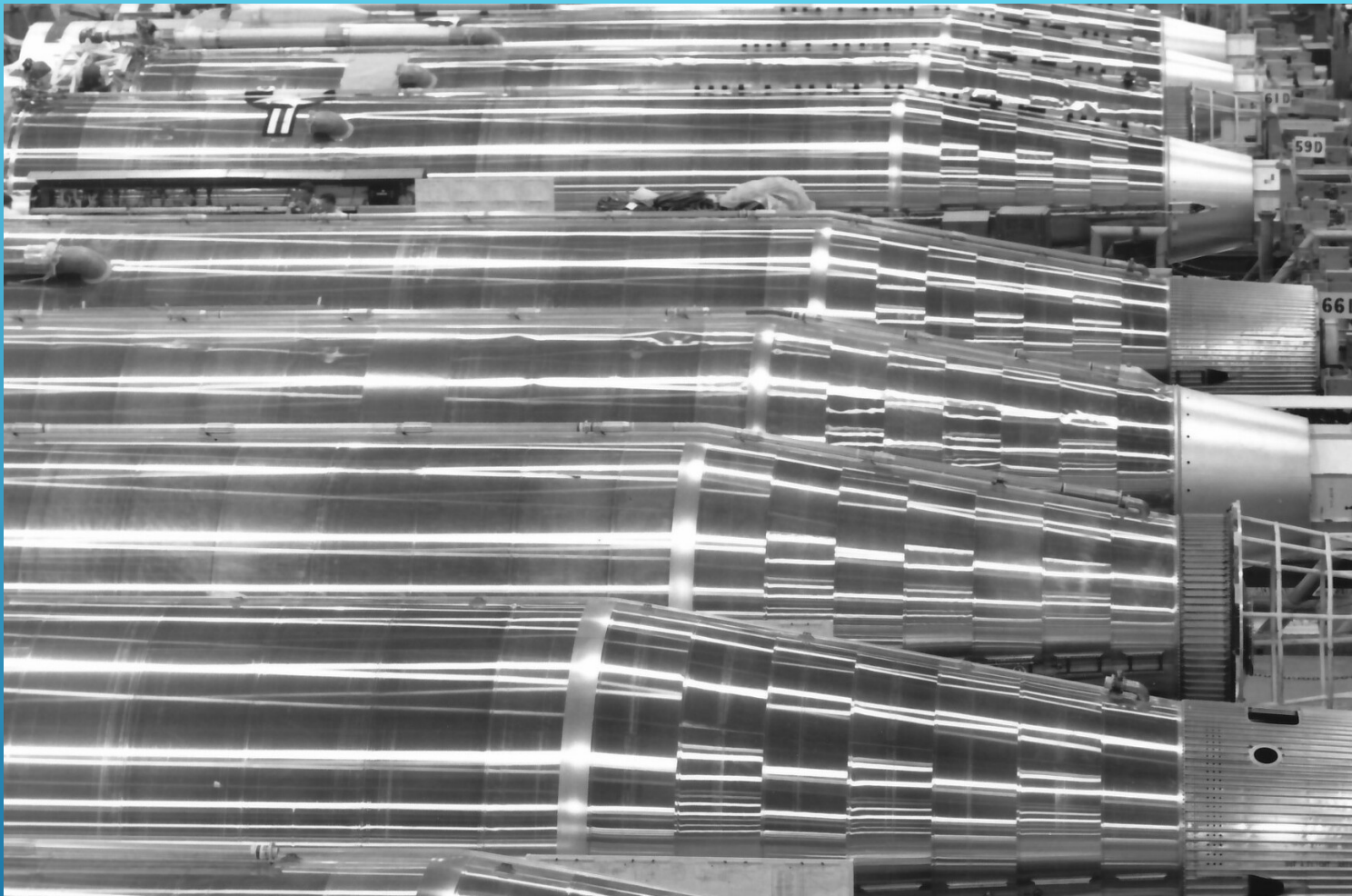


LAST MISSILE ATLAS 59D (58-2230) REMOVED FROM LAUNCH & SERVICE BUILDING C-2

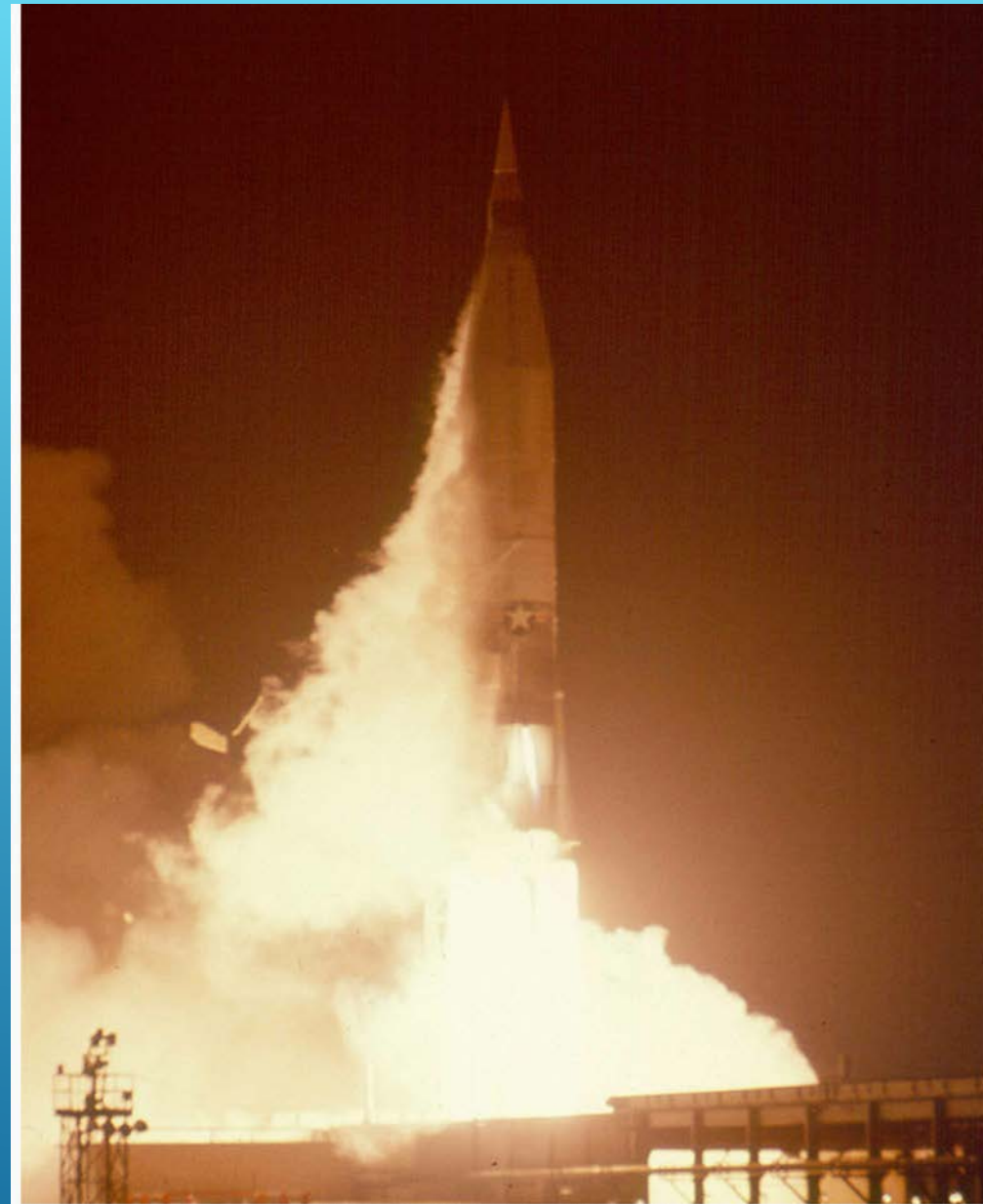


Atlas ICBMs airlifted by
C-133B Cargomaster





ATLAS 59D (58-2230) GD/A FACTORY SAN DIEGO CA



Atlas 59D 01 Jul 1965 WTR ABRES B-1

00678

ATLAS 59D VANDENBERG AFB, CA



Decommissioned Atlas ICBMs in storage at San Bernardino Air Material Area (SBAMA) Norton AFB, CA



Decommissioned Atlas ICBMs at San Bernardino Air Material Area (SBAMA) Norton AFB, CA

FE Warren's
1st Atlas 34D
arrived
25-Sep-58
launched
5-Oct-65
"Operation
Seething City"
the Earth orbit
of OV1-2



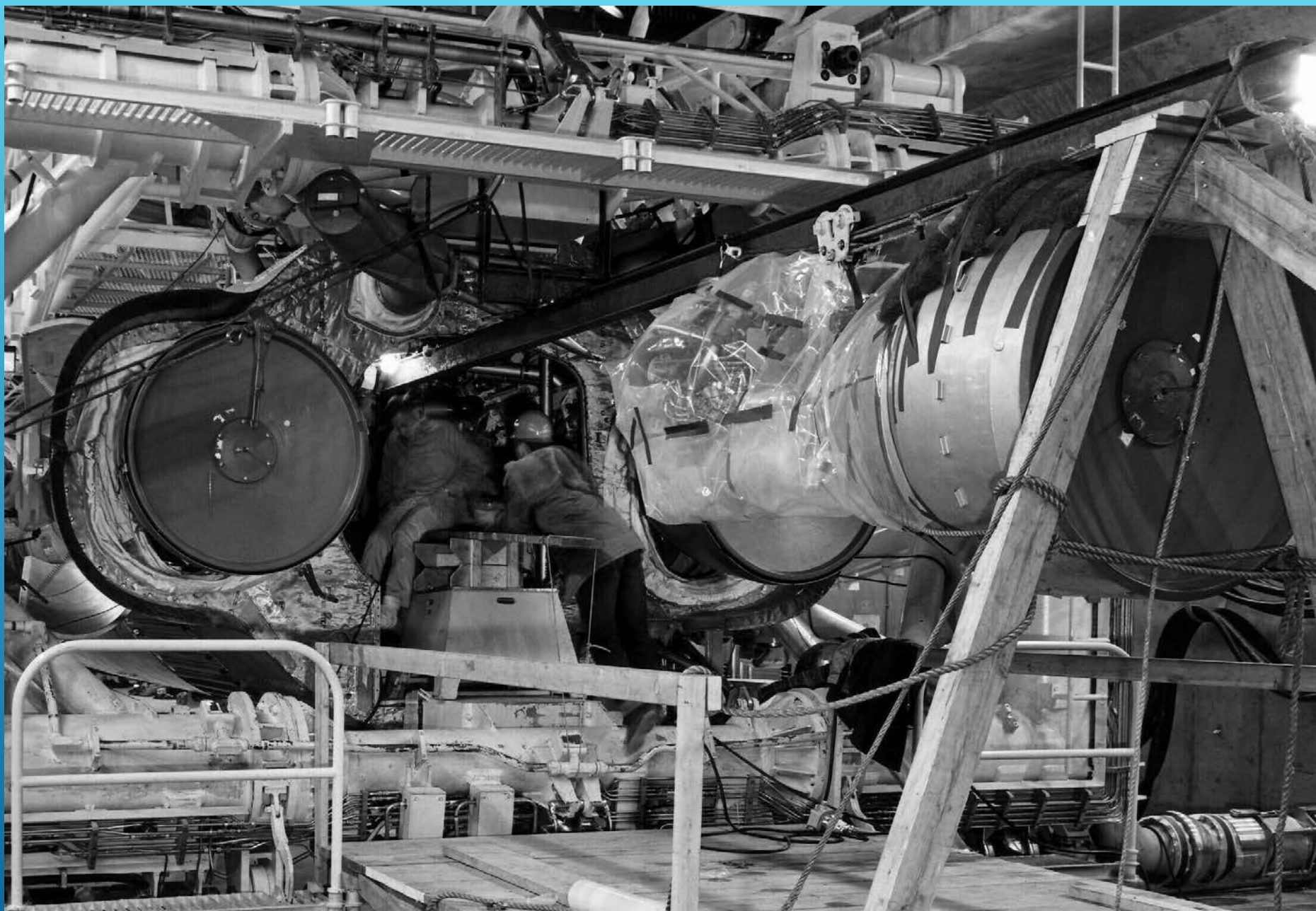
FE Warren's
Atlas 53E
arrived
5-Jul-61
launched
29-Nov-91
500th Atlas
launched



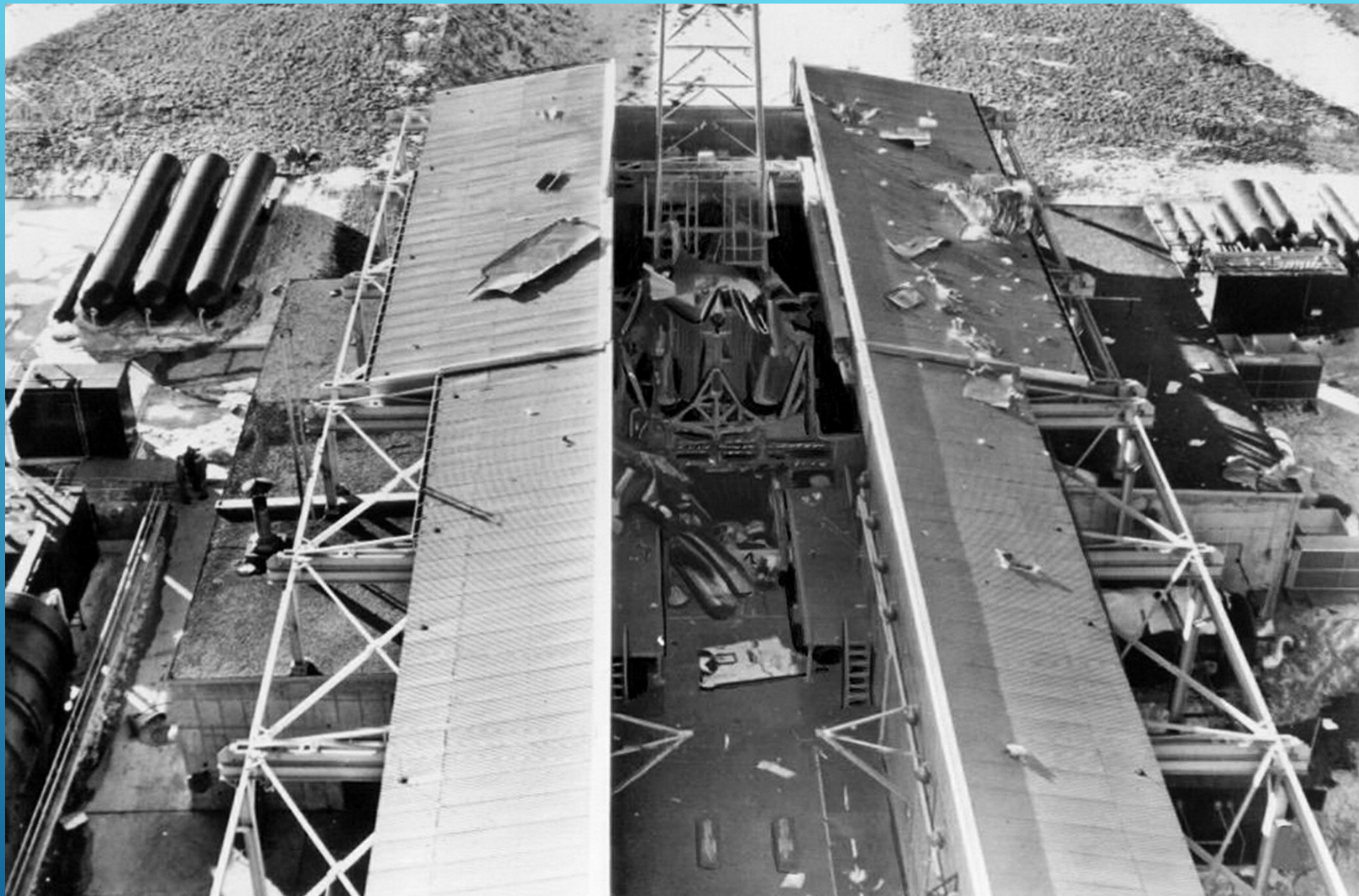
FE Warren's last Atlas 34E that arrived 12-Apr-61 was launched from Vandenberg, AFB 9-Aug-93



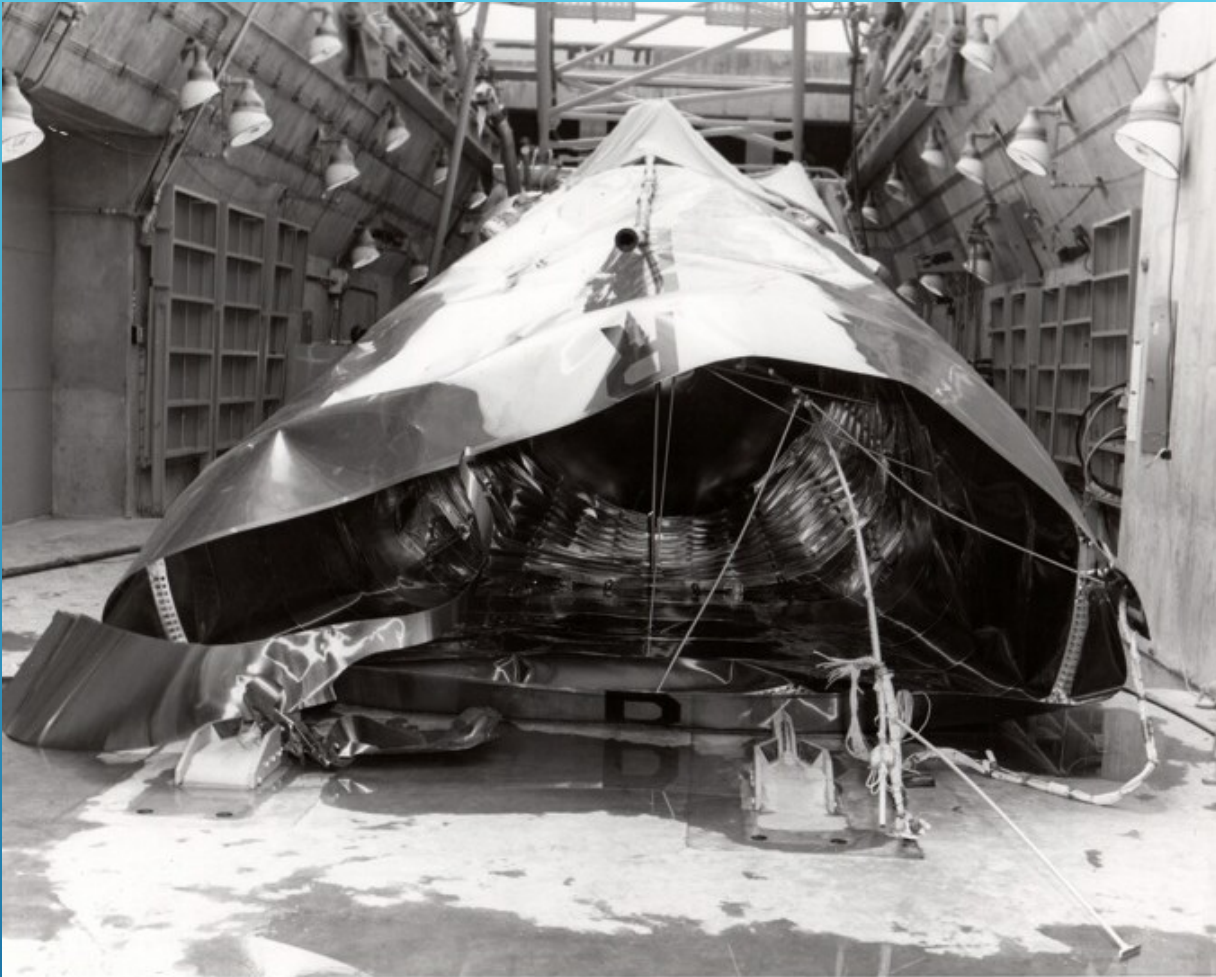
Atlas 69D (58-7064) * 549th SMS LSB A-2 * Mead , NE
3000 PSI Helium line in Booster section ruptured causing LO2 Tank depressurization.



Atlas 94D (58-7089) * 549th SMS LSB-C-3 *Council Bluff, ID
Sustainer engine removed in LSB to repair reversal of intermediate bulkhead.



Atlas 78D (58-7073) * 549th SMS LSB A-1 * Mead, NE
Lag in pressure sensing at the PCU resulting in over pressurization of the missile fuel tank.



Atlas 47E (60-5505) * 566th SMS Site-7 * Nunn, CO
Missile dropped during troubleshooting of erection system.



FE Warren AFB, WY
July 1964



FE Warren AFB, WY
July 2014