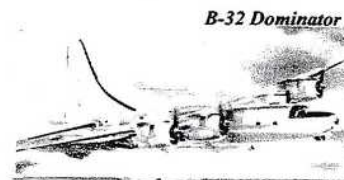


THE WARBIRDS OF AIR FORCE PLANT #4 - FT. WORTH, TEXAS



B-24 Liberator



B-32 Dominator

Established in 1942 to provide needed B-24 bombers to the Allied Forces in WWII. Ft. Worth's "Bomber plant" produced 3,150 aircraft before the war ended in 1945. Operating initially as Consolidated Aircraft, the plant soon became Consolidated Vultee, and then operated several years as Convair before being sold to General Dynamics. After losing one of the biggest possible new aircraft contracts with the failed A-12 Navy fighter in January 1991, the plant was sold again and is now known as Lockheed - Ft. Worth Division where it has been producing F22 and F35 fighters for the U.S. Air Force and several other allied nations.



B-36 Peacemaker



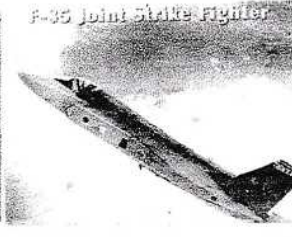
B-58 Hustler



F-111 Aardvark



F-16 Fighting Falcon



F-35 Joint Strike Fighter

The purpose of this display exhibit is to illustrate the growth of military aviation technology at Air Force Plant #4 in Ft. Worth, Texas through its history. On April 19, 2022 it will have been 80 years since the first B-24 Liberator Bomber made its initial Texas appearance as it rolled out of the plant.

Through stamps, cancellations, meter cancels and a variety of ephemera from patches and labels to news clippings and post cards this is the story of the people, the plant and its products.

Viewers will find that a lot of personal research has been done throughout this exhibit as it is the only one which covers all facets of this story and meant that the exhibitor had to search independent of checklists and catalogs to locate the materials contained herein. Some of those items will have a small red dot, like this ● adjacent to the upper right hand corners of items which are particularly difficult to find.

This exhibit is a salute to the people who envisioned these planes, the people who designed them, the people who built them and to the people who flew in them to protect our country and to those friendly nations who procured them.

EXHIBIT PLAN

The aircraft and their variants all fall within the parameters of the basic aircraft.

I Title & Exhibit Plan- Frame 1 - Pages 1 & 2

II The Creation of Air Force Plant #4 1939-1941 - Frame 1 - Pages 3 & 4

III The B-24 Liberator Bomber 1941-1945 - Frame 1-Page 3 & 4 to Frame 2 page 2

IV The B-32 Dominator Bomber 1945 - Frame 2 - Pages 3 & 4.

V The B-36 Peacemaker 1946-1952 - Frame 2 - Pages 5 & 6

VI The YB-60 Jet Bomber Prototype - Frame 2 Page 7

VII The B-58 Hustler 1955-1964 Frame 2 Pages 8 to 12

VIII The TB-58 Trainer 1960 Frame 2 Page 13

IX The RB57F (Recon.) & WB57F Canberra (NASA Weather) 1962-1999 Pgs. 14 & 15

X The F-111 Aardvark Fighter 1964-1996 Frame 2 Page 16

XI The FB-111 Aardvark Fighter Bomber & F-111B Navy Version - Frame 3 Pages 1 & 2

XII The F-111C (Australian) Fighter Frame 3 Pages 3 & 4

XIII The F111A and FB111A Aircraft in Viet Nam 1968-1973 Frame 3 Page 5

XIV The F-111E and the EF-111 Electronic Countermeasures Frame 3 Page 6

XV The F-111 Super Critical Wing tests Frame 3 Pages 7 & 8

XVI The F-111E bomb Libya Frame 3 Pages 9 & 10

XVII The F-111s are retired. Frame 3 Page 11

XVIII The YF-16 Fighting Falcon 1974 to Current. Maiden flight Frame 3 Pages 12 & 13

XIX The YF16 & YF17 Fly off Competition Frame 3 Pages 14 & 15

XX The YF-16 Various Test Flights Frame 3 Page 16 & Frame 4 Pages 1 - 5

XXI The F16 Fighting Falcon Frame 4 Page 6 -16

XXII The F16 Thunderbird Demonstration Team. Frame 5 Pages 1 -7

XXIII F-16s on 9/11 Terrorist Attack Frame 5 Page 9

XXIV Taiwan IDF (Indigenous Defense Fighter) (Bought here; assembled in Taiwan) 1986-1992

Frame 5 Pages 10 -14

XXV The F-16 XL Prototype Frame 5 Page 15 - 16

XXVI The Navy A-12 Avenger Prototype only. Program cancelled. 1989 - 1991 Fr 6 Pg. 1 - 2

XXVII The F16s in Desert Storm Frame 6 page Pg. 3-7

XXVIII General Dynamics sold to Lockheed Frame 6 Pg 8

XXIX F-16s In Bosnia Frame 6 Pg. 9

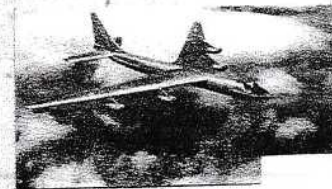
XXX The F-22 Raptor Frame 6 Pgs. 10 - 12

XXXI The F-35 "Lightning II (Joint Strike Fighter) Frames 6 Pgs. 13-16

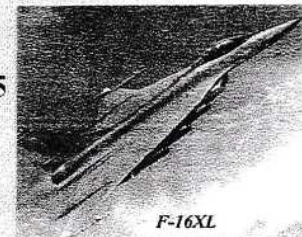
XXXII The F-16V (Viper) Frame 6 Pg. 16



1st stamp to picture a B-24



WRB-57 Sampler



F-16XL

F-16XL



Taiwan Indigenous Defense Fighter



F-22 Raptor

THE WARBIRDS OF AIR FORCE PLANT #4

FT. WORTH, TEXAS

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This exhibit tells the story of the origins of this Texas manufacturing facility and follows up with tales behind the aircraft that flowed through its one-mile long assembly plant to homes with the Army Air Corps and later, the U.S. Air Force. Additionally, there are many people who have had a hand in building and flying these aircraft and many will be named. The first aircraft to roll off the B-24 assembly line did so on April 19, 1942. In 2022 the 80th anniversary of this event, which has instigated this revised exhibit, will be celebrated.

Creating an exhibit about a limited topic has additional difficulties for the exhibitor. First, there are no catalogs which give guidance as to what to look for to include in a exhibit such as this. Second, while there are people who collect stamps picturing aircraft, there are no collectors who know of all the myriad of covers that exist. That requires additional personal searching. Third, who should the exhibitor name in a search for people involved in the creation of the plant; the people who worked on the aircraft; or the people who flew them? This exhibit was originally compiled prior to the existence of personal computers.

The difficulty to obtain factor is far reaching in this case. Take in point the cover on page 3 . It is from the owner of the Ft. Worth Star Telegram, who used his influence to persuade President Roosevelt to build this plant in Ft. Worth, Texas. More difficult, this was a letter he sent to his military son in Scotland around the time that the son was shot down and became a German P.O.W. in Poland. That and the story of how they communicated with each other, secretly, require searching, luck and persistence not all found in searching for a postage stamp which is known to exist.

Locating and communicating with a Rosie the Riveter from 50 years ago also required a search outside of philately, but the result gives life to that aspect of the plant and its products. The people who have flown these craft on both maiden flights and in battle are also a part of the story that needed to be addressed. In all, this exhibit is akin to writing a book and then filling in the illustrations by searching for unknown items that bring the exhibit to life as a story of people and planes.

The exhibit itself contains information about every aircraft for which parts were bought and training was done. In the case of the Taiwan Indigenous Fighter, the design, engineering and procurement were done in Ft. Worth, but the assembly and maiden flight took place in Taiwan. For the A-12 Avenger, all the elements were done in Ft. Worth but the plane was too heavy to be used on an aircraft carrier and those working on the program were laid off with only a full scale model having been built.

Backgrounds of some of the covers again required personal research. Philatelic knowledge is shown in illustrating many philatelic terms: Pret-a-Porter (Locaux); Gutter pair; Se-tenant; Censored Mail, Penalty envelope; Pictorial cancels & meters; Specimen, CTO, Essay; Proof; Personalized stamp and others visually explain these items to the casual viewers.

What caused John F. Kennedy to be chosen by his father to groom for becoming the President of the United States? The answer is found in the section on the B-24 bombers. Would you find it interesting to learn that among the crews of B-24s you can find the names, Sabu, (the boy in Tarzan films), Walter Matthau, Jack Palance, Mr. Wizard, and Gene Autry? These are just a few of the names shown herein. Did you know that the last air to air and air to ground battle occurred between Japanese Fighters and a new bomber that made its first WWII appearance just a few weeks before Japan capitulated? That John Denver's father broke 6 air speed records in one single day and that five of those records had been held by the Russians?

These and other interesting facts are told in this entertaining exhibit which shows how our nation's strength has been enhanced substantially due to the Warbirds of Air Force Plant #4.

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

In order of appearance: B-24 Liberators (& offshoots), B-32 Dominator; B-36 Peacemaker; YB-60; B-58 Hustler; F-111 Aardvark (and offshoots); F-16 Fighting Falcon; F-16XL, Indigenous Defense Fighter (IDF) of Taiwan; A-12 Avenger (which was cancelled), F-22 Raptor, and F-35 Lightning II.