

SIDEWINDER



Creative

Missile

Development

at

China Lake

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Sidewinder Creative Missile Development At China Lake

Cliff Lawson



Sidewinder Creative Missile Development At China Lake:

Sidewinder Ron Westrum,1999 In the mid 1950s a small group of overworked underpaid scientists and engineers on a remote base in the Mojave Desert developed a weapon no one had asked for but everyone in the weapons industry desired This is the story of how that unorthodox team led by visionary Bill McLean overcame U S Navy bureaucracy and other more heavily funded projects to develop the world s best air to air missile Author Ron Westrum examines that special time and place when the old American work ethic and can do spirit were a vital part of U S weapons development to discover how this dedicated team was able to create a simple and inexpensive missile Today many decades after its invention the Sidewinder missile is still considered one of the best that America has to offer In a time of billion dollar weapons development contracts astronomical cost overruns and defense acquisitions scandals this revealing highly readable tale about one of the most successful weapons in history should be of interest to anyone concerned with national security **Sidewinder** Ron

Westrum,2013-08-15 In the mid 1950s a small group of overworked underpaid scientists and engineers on a remote base in the Mojave Desert developed a weapon no one had asked for but everyone in the weapons industry desired This is the story of how that unorthodox team led by visionary Bill McLean overcame U S Navy bureaucracy and other more heavily funded projects to develop the world s best air to air missile Author Ron Westrum examines that special time and place when the old American work ethic and can do spirit were a vital part of U S weapons development to discover how this dedicated team was able to create a simple and inexpensive missile Today many decades after its invention the Sidewinder missile is still considered one of the best that America has to offer In a time of billion dollar weapons development contracts astronomical cost overruns and defense acquisitions scandals this revealing highly readable tale about one of the most successful weapons in history should be of interest to anyone concerned with national security **History of Acquisition in the Department**

of Defense, Volume 1 Elliott V. Converse,2012-06-12 This volume is a history of the acquisition of major weapon systems by the United States armed forces from 1945 to 1960 the decade and a half that spanned the Truman and Eisenhower administrations following World War II These instruments of warfare aircraft armored vehicles artillery guided missiles naval vessels and supporting electronic systems when combined with nuclear warheads gave the postwar American military unprecedented deterrent and striking power 1 They were also enormously expensive The volume is organized chronologically with individual chapters addressing the roles of OSD the Army Navy and Air Force in two distinct periods The first roughly coinciding with President Truman s tenure covers the years from the end of World War II through the end of the Korean War in 1953 The second spans the two terms of the Eisenhower presidency from 1953 through early 1961 The year 1953 marked a natural breakpoint between the two periods The Korean War had ended President Eisenhower and his defense team began implementing the New Look a policy and strategy based on nuclear weapons which they believed would provide security and make it possible to reduce military spending The New Look s stress on nuclear weapons along with the deployment of the

first operational guided missiles and the rapid advances subsequently made in nuclear and missile technology profoundly influenced acquisition in the services throughout the 1950s and the remainder of the century As used in this study the term acquisition encompasses the activities by which the United States obtains weapons and other equipment In surveying the history of acquisition between 1945 and 1960 this study discusses or refers in passing to many of the hundreds of weapon system programs initiated by the services in that period but it is not a weapons encyclopedia Instead it investigates a few major programs in depth in the belief that such detailed examination best reveals the evolution of acquisition policies organizations and processes and the various forces influencing weapons programs *Rearming for the Cold War, 1945-1960* Elliott Vanveltner Converse,2012 Book Description The first publication in a multivolume series on the history of the acquisition of major weapon systems by the Department of Defense author Elliott Converse presents a meticulously researched overview of changes in acquisition policies organizations and processes within the United States military establishment during the decade and a half following World War II Many of the changes that shaped the nature and course of weapons research and development production and contracting through the end of the century were instituted between 1945 and 1960 many of the problems that have repeatedly challenged defense policymakers and acquisition professionals also first surfaced during these years This study is the first to combine the histories of the Office of the Secretary of Defense OSD and the military services into one account The volume is organized chronologically with individual chapters addressing the roles of OSD the Army Navy and Air Force in two distinct periods **Adapting to Flexible Response, 1960-1968** Walter S. Poole,2013 [History of Acquisition in the Dept. of Defense, Vol. II, Adapting to Flexible Response 1960-1968, 2013 ,2014](#)

History of Acquisition in the Department of Defense Elliott Vanveltner Converse,2012 **The Station Comes of Age** Cliff Lawson,2017 **The Station Comes of Age** Cliff Lawson,2017 [Island Tinkerers](#) Honghong Tinn,2025-01-07 How Taiwan rose to global prominence in high tech manufacturing from computer maker to the world s leading chip manufacturer How did Taiwan a former Japanese colony and the last fortress of the defeated Chinese Nationalists ascend to such heights in high tech manufacturing In *Island Tinkerers* Honghong Tinn tells the critical history of how hobbyists and enthusiasts in Taiwan including engineers technologists technocrats computer users and engineers turned entrepreneurs helped transform the country with their hands on engagement with computers Rather than engaging in wholesale imitation of US sources she explains these technologists tinkered with imported computing technology and experimented with manufacturing their own versions resulting in their own brand of successful innovation Defying the stereotype of the West innovates and the East imitates Tinn tells the story of Taiwanese technologists efforts over the past six decades Beginning in the 1960s they grappled with the black boxed computers that were newly available through international technical aid programs Shortly after multinational corporations that outsourced transistor and integrated circuit assembly overseas began employing Taiwanese engineers and factory workers *Island tinkerers* developed strategies to adapt modify assemble and

work with computers in an inventive manner It was through this creative and ingenious tinkering with computers that they were able to gain a better understanding of the technology opening the door to future manufacturing endeavors that now include Acer Foxconn Asus and Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company TSMC

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