

TRAJECTORIES

Official Newsletter of the Cape Canaveral Space Force Museum

Quote of the Month:

"Use can change the stamp of nature."
Hamlet by William Shakespeare

75 Years of Launch!



Bumper 8 launched from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station (then known as the Joint Long Range Proving Grounds) on 24 July 1950. We celebrate a significant anniversary of that launch this year. It also marks 75 years of launch activity from Florida's Space Coast!

The Bumper program fell under the U.S. Army's Project Hermes. Each "sounding rocket" consisted of a modified V-2 first stage with a WAC Corporal second stage. Bumper 8 followed by Bumper 7 were the first launches from Cape Canaveral.

Seventy-five years and over 8,000 launches later, Cape Canaveral has evolved into the World's Premier Gateway to Space. This year's anniversary offers an exciting opportunity to celebrate this lengthy history of accomplishments in space and missile operations.

We have teamed up with Space Force Association (SFA) Florida Chapter to develop a series of outreach programming and special events to commemorate Bumper 8 and everything that has followed. There will be monthly programs planned as part of the Museum's on-

going CAPE Series (Creative Activities Promoting Education) hosted at the Sands Space History Center. Other exciting special events are currently in the planning phases. Stay tuned for updates!

DID YOU KNOW?



Maj Gen John Bruce Medaris has been described as the "godfather of America's space programs." Medaris headed the U.S. Army's early missile and rocket programs, which made him Dr. Wernher von Braun's boss during some of the earliest launches from Cape Canaveral. Those were the days of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency's (ABMA) Redstone and Jupiter programs. The ABMA racked up many space "firsts" through his leadership. Medaris helped lay the foundation for future military and NASA space programs.

Message from the Director

James W. Draper



I open this issue of Trajectories by paraphrasing a line from Hamlet to Gertrude on the power of habit, “use can change the stamp of nature.” Placed within context of the play, it’s a nature vs nurture discussion on self-improvement. However, I would like to apply it to our built world. In the museum world, that involves artifacts, archives, specimens, art, and structures.

Ponder this—the blockhouse at LC-26 functioned as a launch control center for about six years, during which time it helped set many space and missile milestones. It sat at the epicenter of the origins of America’s space program. Since then, it’s served as the core of a museum operation for 60 years! Millions of people have traversed its corridors to draw perspective and inspiration from the exhibits within.

The blockhouse has essentially functioned as a museum ten times as long as its original designed function. Here, I see use changing the stamp of its nature. This permanent transition from launch to preservation/outreach has created a unique dichotomy of use that challenges our mission. I constantly struggle with short and long term planning for that space. Do we try and replicate its original look for an authentic immersion into 1958 or do we continue to adapt the space for engaging exhibits? Or, do we blend both approaches? What helps us best fulfill our institutional mission?

What remains constant over time is the authenticity of structures like the LC-26 blockhouse. It’s the only place in the world where visitors can stand where the United States entered the Space Age! That will remain constant. That will continue to engage and inspire generations to come. That authenticity should

continue to guide our actions moving forward.

I can think of another interesting example of how use can change the stamp of nature—the rockets and missiles on display in Hangar C. Contractors built them all as expendable vehicles to either “rain warheads on their foreheads” or deliver payloads into outer space. They were never built for permanence, yet we expend a lot of time and resources to extend their existence far into the future.

Similar to the blockhouse, the intended use of these vehicles spanned maybe a few years for deployment, testing, training, or launch. As of today, most have been around for 60 years as artifacts serving a research, educational, and outreach use. However, unlike the blockhouse, these are more fragile. The stout construction of the blockhouse lends itself to a permanence that the vehicles could never match. So, these rockets and missiles will require much more attention over time to fulfill their mission of this second use.

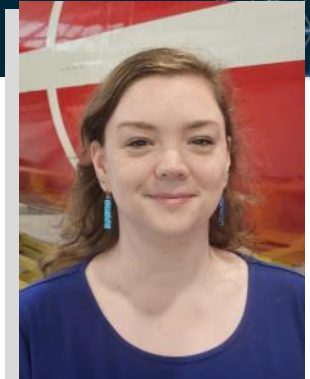
They do offer that level of authenticity we seek to inspire visitors to learn more. The rockets and missiles offer a presence like nothing else—a tangible, visceral connection to a Cold War past where annihilation hovered like the sword of Damocles.

As you stroll through the corridors of our museum facilities, or anywhere else, look around you and discern how use has changed the stamp of nature of things around us. It’s a fun exercise.


James W. Draper, Museum Director

The Curator's Corner

with Sabra Gossett



Happy New Year! I am so excited to start the year off working with CCSFM! I have learned so much already and I am continuing to learn – I am like a sponge, absorbing everything I can!

Did you know?!: In 1961, a group of women endured the same tests given to the Mercury 7? Twenty-five women were chosen to participate in an independent from NASA study with the Lovelace Clinic in Albuquerque, New Mexico – run by the same doctor who assessed the Mercury 7. Thirteen women completed and passed the tests, some even surpassing the results of the men. They were nicknamed the Mercury 13. After acing their tests, three of the women continued to a second round of tests. It was only as they asked for a third and final round with help from the U.S. Navy, that NASA intervened and canceled the testing.

To find out what happened to these women, check out our new temporary exhibit at Sands Space History Center, going up in February!

The Jupiter missile has also been on my mind lately. It was the product of collaboration between the U.S. Army and Navy, and later given to the U.S. Air Force. It was a squat, modified Redstone that later led to the Juno II. Three of our monkeynauts flew aboard Jupiters: Gordo, Miss Able, and Miss Baker. The Jupiter missile was even part of the Cuban Missile Crisis!

We are planning to create a Jupiter display in the blockhouse in this year, so keep your eyes out for something new!

And, finally, this year marks the 75th anniversary of Bumper 8's launch, beginning a quarter of a century of rocketry and space exploration from the Cape. I have been working with local governments to have July 24, 2025, declared "Space Coast Day," in recognition of Bumper 8's impact on the local area. The city of Palm Bay has already sent us their proclamation and I am waiting to receive various others.

In closing, I would like to say thank you to all of you for welcoming me into your crazy family! If I have not had the chance to meet you yet, please feel free to stop by LC-26 and introduce yourself. Otherwise, I look forward to seeing you around the many sites of the museum!

- Sabra

Museum Updates and News

Space Force Turns Five

Be sure to visit the Sands Space History Center to see a special exhibit devoted to fifth Birthday of the U.S. Space Force. The exhibit provides unique insight into America's sixth branch of the Armed Forces with information on rank structure, commands, mission, insignia, the Space Force Association, national events, and so much more. Museum Volunteer Roger McCormick curated the special exhibit. *(To the right is a view of the "Space Force at 5" special exhibit now on display at the Sands Space History Center.)*



Veterans Day Parade

Museum Director Jamie Draper participated in the first annual Cape Canaveral Veterans Day Parade on 9 November 2024 by serving as guest speaker. His remarks focused on the uncommon and rich military history of the region. He also emphasized how the Museum supports veterans and active duty servicemembers. It's one of several recent examples of the Museum engaging with local communities. *(To the left Mr. Draper poses with community leaders for the City of Cape Canaveral, including Mayor Wes Morrison.)*

Distinguished Visitors

The Museum was honored to host many distinguished visitors in recent months, including two prominent women pioneers in aerospace. Jamie Draper greeted JoAnn Morgan, NASA's first female engineer at Kennedy Space Center, at the LC-26 Blockhouse. A few weeks later, Sabra Gossett spent time with Poppy Northcutt. She was the first woman in Mission Control and worked on Apollo 8-13. *(To the right is Poppy Northcutt, Sabra Gossett, and Rupert the Space Armadillo taking in a Falcon9 launch—the first launch Poppy has viewed since Apollo 13!)*



Museum Updates and News



New Marketing Materials

We are working on improvements to marketing and branding for the different sites that compose the Cape Canaveral Space Force Museum. New feather banners for the Sands Space History Center and Hangar C have been deployed for recent national events. Museum staff and Foundation members are planning improvements to the History Center. You will notice more standardization among the social media accounts soon. All these efforts seek to expand our audience and enhance visitor experiences. *(To the left is a view of new feather banners in place outside the History Center.)*

SFA Spacepower Conference

On 11 December 2024, Museum staff ventured to Orlando for Day #2 of the second annual Space Force Association (SFA) Spacepower Conference. They spread the word about the Museum and Rupert the Space Armadillo to the crowds of Space Force military and civilian Guardians, along with industry partners, from around the country. Sessions and exhibitors proved very informative on the future of Space Force. *(To the right is a view of Jamie Draper, Sabra Gossett, and Rupert the Space Armadillo at the entrance to the SFA Spacepower Conference.)*



Military Ceremonies

The Sands Space History Center and Hangar C continue to host scores of military reenlistment, promotion, retirement, and change of command ceremonies. It shows how our active servicemembers embrace the rich history of the Cape. One recent highlight was CMSgt Caleb M. Lloyd's reenlistment ceremony just prior to the annual Space Force Guardian Arena. He's the Command Senior Enlisted Leader of Space Operations Command (SpOC). *(To the left is CMSgt Lloyd taking a selfie with Lt Gen David Miller and other attendees in Hangar C.)*

Guardian Arena

The second annual Space Force Guardian Arena descended upon Florida's Space Coast 8-9 December 2024. Over 100 Guardians, Airmen, and international partners participated this year. Day #1 included registration and opening activities at Kennedy Space Center. Day #2 kicked off at Hangar C where the 35 teams competed in a grueling series of knowledge, problem-solving, and physical strength challenges. The challenge stations stretched all the way from Hangar C to historic Launch Complex 9-10, the Navaho stand. Rupert the Space Armadillo made it to each station to observe all the activity and cheer on our Guardians! Winners were announced at the SFA Spacepower Conference in Orlando the following day.



Guardian Arena continued



2024 Holiday Party

This year's Volunteer Appreciation Holiday Dinner took place on 11 December at the Tides Club outside Patrick Space Force Base. The U.S. Space Force Historical Foundation sponsored this annual event. Sharon Rodriguez did another amazing job coordinating it. Colonel Chris Bulson, Vice Commander of SLD-45, joined us for the festivities. Twenty-four museum volunteers received longevity awards that added up to 345 years of service! The Museum is blessed to have such an amazing network of support.



2024 Holiday Party continued



T-Minus 10-Miler

The third annual Space Force T-Minus 10-Miler commenced on 14 December 2024. The Atlas ICBM was this year's featured rocket. The Sands Space History Center hosted a pasta dinner the night before sponsored by STARCOM with volunteer help from Women in Defense and SFA Florida Chapter. Maj Gen Timothy A. Sejba provided opening remarks. The run took place the following morning along the usual route. Over 2,000 runners, volunteers, and spectators passed through Hangar C and the Lighthouse near the finish line. Maj Gen Stephen Purdy returned to present awards in Hangar C following the race. Rupert the Space Armadillo made hundreds of new friends throughout the two days of events.



T-Minus 10-Miler continued



Our Museum Family



CAPE CANAVERAL
SPACE FORCE
MUSEUM

Museum Staff:

James Draper, Museum Director
Sabra Gossett, Museum Curator

Museum Volunteer Association:

Randy Wehrung, Chairperson
Bill Jelen, Secretary



UNITED STATES
SPACE FORCE
HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

Executive Committee Members:

Raymond Sands, Chairman
Steven Lepper, Major General, USAF (ret.)
Vice Chairman
Rob Quigg, Treasurer
Roger McCormick, Secretary

Board Members:

Robert VanVonderen
Stephen Houser
Therrin Protze
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