

A BRIEF HISTORY OF GRUMMAN AIRCRAFT ENGINEERING CORPORATION

Grumman has come a long way since it opened shop in a rented garage in 1930. Its six founders and fifteen employees, within a year, fulfilled their first government contract: delivery of two amphibious aircraft pontoons. Today with more than 25,000 employees in 35 Long Island plants and 25 field locations, the Corporation is involved in research, development and production programs that encompass aircraft, spacecraft, support equipment, land vehicles, surface vessels, and submersibles.

The story of Grumman military aircraft begins in 1933 with the development of the FF-1 (a Navy biplane fighter) and proceeds to the Navy *Intruders*, the Army *Mohawks* and the current Navy F-14 *Tomcat*.

The Corporation produced the *Denison* hydrofoil boat for the U. S. Maritime Administration, the *Dolphin* hydrofoil for commercial service and the *PG(H) Flagstaff*, a military hydrofoil. For undersea research, a Grumman research submersible, the *Ben Franklin*, was designed and built for the historic Gulf Stream Drift Mission.

In commercial aviation, Grumman is producing the *Ag-Cat* for crop dusting and spraying, as well as the fan-jet *Gulfstream II* corporate transport, the follow-on to the *Gulfstream I*, of which 200 were produced.

With the award of a contract from the Department of Transportation, Grumman moved ahead in a new field of passenger conveyance, the *Tracked Air Cushion Vehicle* (TACRV). Wind tunnel testing has been conducted and testing is being scheduled at the Federal High Speed Ground Transportation Test Center in Pueblo, Colorado for the Grumman TACRV.

But this takes us ahead of the Grumman story.

Early in its existence, the Corporation developed a reputation for excellence in design and manufacture of aircraft; qualities that came to the forefront during the Second World War. Not only did Grumman build and deliver more than 17,000 combat planes during that period, but it won five Navy "E" production awards, received a Presidential Medal of Merit, and established an unequalled military production record (more than 600 *Hellcats* in just one month from a single plant). Grumman *Hellcats*, *Wildcats* and *Avengers* accounted for about two-thirds of the enemy aircraft destroyed in the Pacific Theater.

Grumman also has an admirable record in the commercial field. Beginning in 1936 with the appearance of the amphibious *Goose* and through the present-day success of the *Gulfstream II* - a twin-jet corporate transport - Grumman's commercial craft have established worldwide reputation for service and durability.

The coming of the space age produced the greatest period of expansion at Grumman since World War II. It also established Grumman and its geographic location on Long Island, as one of the prime technological sources for support of the United States in space.

In 1960, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) awarded Grumman its first major aerospace contract, the development of the Orbiting Astronomical Observatory (OAO) series of spacecraft.

The most far reaching aerospace contract, however, was awarded in 1962, when NASA selected Grumman to develop the *Apollo Lunar Module* (LM). Grumman is presently under contract to NASA to study the *High Energy Astronomy Observatory* (HEAO) and the *Space Shuttle*.

In 1969, a structural reorganization of the Corporation was accomplished, insuring Grumman continued growth within the aerospace industry as well as into many other diverse industries. For forty years the company had been known as Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation. The words "Aircraft Engineering" were dropped from the title. A parent organization was formed - Grumman Corporation - which now directs the operations of the many subsidiaries: Grumman Aerospace Corporation, Grumman Allied Industries, Inc., Grumman Data Systems Corporation, Grumman Ecosystems Corporation, Grumman International, Inc., and Montauk Aero Corporation.

Each of these subsidiaries with its individual marketing targets and leadership teams are now managerially and operationally developing their own business objectives.