

The Supercruiser

The Western Museum of Flight Newsletter

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Lecture Series Continues

The Western Museum of Flight Lecture Series continued through June with monthly guest speakers covering a wide range of topics. On April 19th Speaker Grant Begley presented "Crossing the Line of Death": a compelling first-hand account of engagements between U.S. Sixth Fleet and Libyan aircraft during the showdown between the US Reagan Administration and Libyan dictator Mohamar Khadaffi in the Gulf of Sidra. Grant Begley was an F-14 Tomcat pilot on some of those missions. Mr. Begley is now Director of Mission Systems Integration for Raytheon Systems Company.



Director Macha with Grant Begley, who presented "Crossing the Line of Death".

On May 24th "Edmund Doak, VTOL Pioneer" was the subject covered by Ray Ulyate and Don Spaulding.

While Vertical Takeoff and Landing (VTOL) technology is now a proven concept embodied in the USMC V-22 Osprey, the early days of VTOL experimen-

tation required bold and imaginative engineers and scientists. One of those experimenters was Edmond Doak, founder of Doak Aircraft, whose work yielded many breakthroughs in this vital area of aviation technology.

With a degree in Aeronautical Engineering from California Polytechnic University, Mr. Ulyate joined the Doak team in the summer of 1957. Mr. Ulyate recounted

his experiences supervising Doak Aircraft test activities at Edwards Air Force Base. Don Spaulding, a Doak Aircraft historian, provided a biography of Edmond Doak and a historical perspective of his works. The talks were highlighted with rare photos and video footage.

"Global Hawk: from Concept to Combat" was presented on June 24th by Bob Ettinger. Global Hawk is a large, autonomous, high altitude, long endurance, unmanned reconnaissance aircraft currently flying missions over Iraq and Afghanistan. Attendees were provided a unique



"Edmund Doak, VTOL Pioneer" was the subject of talks by Don Spaulding and Ray Ulyate

opportunity to gain insight into this important on-going program. U.S. Air Force Col. Robert C. Ettinger flew combat missions over North Vietnam, was test pilot on numerous systems, directed test organizations and ultimately served as Vice Commander of the Air Force Flight Test Center, at Edwards Air Force Base. He is currently Global Hawk flight test manager at Northrop-Grumman.



"Global Hawk: from Concept to Combat" was presented¹ by Col. Robert C. Ettinger.

These lectures have been recorded by Betty and Jarel Wheaton of the PV Seniors organization. Their award-winning work is aired on local cable channel RVPTV and others across the South Bay and can be seen on the PV Seniors website: pvseniors.org/videos.

Stay tuned in for announcements of future lecture events.

Tanker Rally

Northrop-Grumman Corporation celebrated its recent contract award for the U.S. Air Force's new air refueling tanker. Attendees included local and state government officials; Director Macha represented the Museum, as guest of the Torrance City Council.

Work at NGC has since been put on hold, as the Government Accounting



Tanker rally

Office has ruled that flaws in the Air Force's procurement process calls for rebids of the controversial contract.

Ninety-Nines Visit

On June 18th the Museum hosted a meeting of a local chapter of the Ninety-Nines. The Ninety-Nines is an international organization of licensed women pilots from 35 countries. There are currently over 5,500 members throughout the world.

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