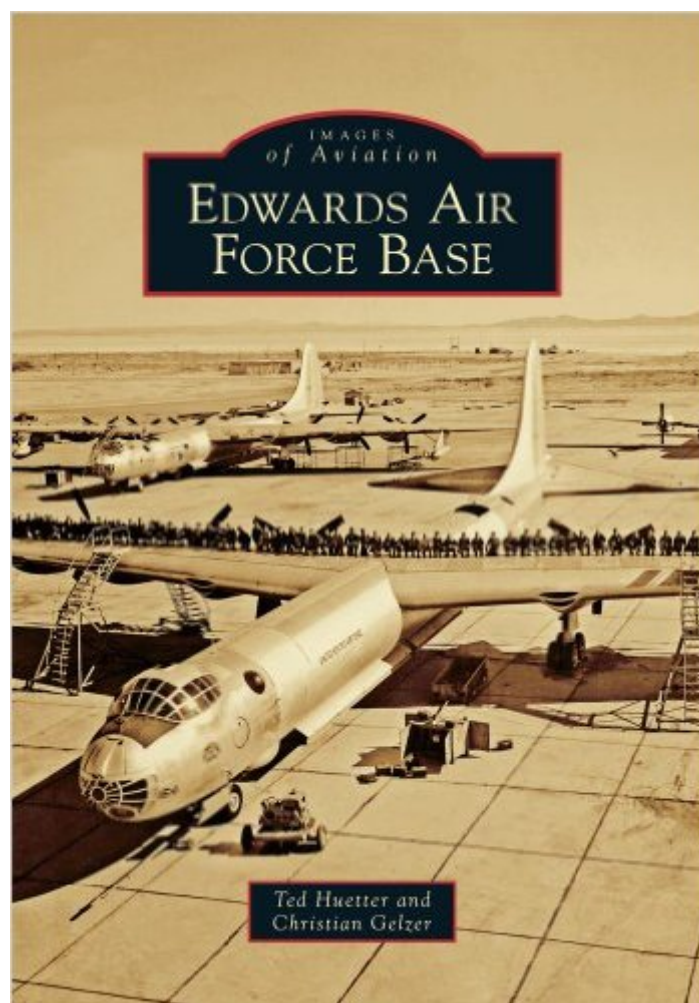


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# Edwards Air Force Base (Images Of Aviation)



## Synopsis

Known for more "first flights" and record flights than any other place, Edwards Air Force Base is legendary. Centered around an ancient dry lakebed in the Mojave Desert 90 miles north of Los Angeles, activity at Edwards has sharpened the cutting edge of aviation and aerospace since the 1940s. The complex is a strategic flight test, research, and development center for the U.S. Air Force, NASA, and civilian contractors. Since the 1950s, almost every U.S. military aircraft has been partially tested here. The skies above Edwards have been the scene of remarkable achievements, including Chuck Yeager's world-famous breaking of the sound barrier in 1947. The base was first established near the small town of Muroc in 1933 and became renowned for its giant runways painted onto the flat, dry lakebed. Speed and altitude records were commonplace at Edwards during the 1950s. Suborbital space flights began there in the 1960s. In the 1970s it was the primary testing site for the space shuttle program. Dramatic aerospace research continues today at Edwards, America's proving ground for the future of high tech aviation.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I'm sure you are familiar with these fine little books with the sepia tone covers. Authors gather together photos from local history sites, public and governmental sources and private collections to put together small history books on places and events that would never otherwise see the light of day in a publication. The military themed books on ships and bases are numerous and very good.

The photos are entertaining and interesting to the casual reader as well as the historically curious. And then enter the modeler! The volume on Edwards Air Force Base and Flight Test Center in California was produced in 2010. It covers the base when it was simply a desert village named for the local Corum family. The military base was named Muroc Army Air Base (Corum spelled backwards!) for WWII utility as a bombing and gunnery range and test site. The book covers how the base became the big complex of today due to its expansive dry lake beds landing areas and remote location, far from unfriendly eyes. There are hundreds of photos of aircraft that have used the facility and became part of the American military legends of mysterious stuff. The Flying Wing, XB-70, X-15, NASA lifting bodies (as seen in the opening crash sequence of the TV SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN each week in the 1970s-filmed at Edwards during a real crash of a test vehicle) and so on. And photos of the pilots, astronauts and scientists whose names have become linked to the legends of supersonic and hypersonic flight. For a modeler, the book is chock full of markings info and history of flight, the only down side being the photos are all reproduced in black and white. But for the price, you get a lot of good imagery and history. These books are all well worth the purchase.

Overall, I loved the details and photos that the author used to record the history of the first half-century of Edwards AFB. The book pretty much ends with the first Space Shuttle tests. I would have liked to see it continue up to current test vehicles. Perhaps a follow-on book will be released in the future. I know that color photographs were taken during the time period that this book covers. Too bad all the photos are black and white. But then, the price of the book would have to be significantly higher. If you like aviation history, this book should be part of your library.

Great snap shot of history, I have bought all of these books of the places that I was stationed during my 30 years in the Marine Corps. I have 2 sons also serving now and I will buy the books of all of the bases that they will serve at.

This is a great book for anyone looking for photos of Edwards Air Force Base, from before WWII through the late 70's. Of course, there are the expected photos of the research planes from the X-1 through X-15 and beyond. But who'd expect to see a 1930's Martin B-12 bomber being refueled by a Richfield tanker truck? In fact, some of my favorite photos are those inside and outside the hangars with planes under maintenance, showing auxiliary trucks, fire equipment, flatbed's loaded with X-planes, control room photos, etc. These kind of photos, focusing on Edwards AFB as well as the planes themselves, are much harder to find in other books, but fill the pages of this volume. If

that's what you are looking for, and are satisfied with black and white photos, then this may be the book for you.

Another nice photo book from Arcadia, a company specializing in often unpublished pictures from company archives. Very pleased. I only wish the format were a little larger.

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