F-111 "Vark" Memorial Park, Clovis, New Mexico etched in gold lettering are the names of all 115 aircrew killed in F-111 accidents worldwide; same stone as the Vietnam memorial in Washington DC ...











CITY OF CLOVIS

F-111 "VARK" MEMORIAL PARK "DEDICATED TO THE F-111 AIRCREWS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN DEFENSE OF OUR NATIONS FREEDOM" F-111D 68=0140 Aircraft 68-0140 was the 56th of 96 F-1.11D Models produced by General Dynamics Corp. Ft. Worth, Texas. It was the 67th "D" Model delivered to the U.S. Air Force on 29 November, 1972. This Aircraft spent its entire operational service life here in New Mexico with the 27th Fighter Wing at Cannon AFB. The F-1.11" "AARDVARK" featured several firsts in a solation history, among them were: Variable Geometry Wings, Ejectable Crew Module, Automatic Terrain Following Radar and Afterburning Turbo-fan Engines. 562 F-111'S Were-Manufactured from 1964 through 1976 seeing service with the U.S. Air Force (F-111A / FB-111A / F111D)/ F-111E / F-111F), U.S. Nävy (F-111B) and the Royal Austrálian Air Force (F-111C)

Aircraft Specifications HEIGHT LENGTH 75 FT 6 1/2 IN

WINGSPAN AT 16 DEGREES EMPTY WEIGHT FUEL INTERNAL ENGINE TYPE MAX ALTITUDE MAX RANGE INTERNAL FUEL

63 FT 0 IN 4,191 GAL TF30-P-9 60,000+ FT 2,500 NM MAXIMUM ORDNANCE PAYLOAD 16,000 lbs

WINGSPAN AT 72 DEGREES MAX TAKEOFF WEIGHT FUEL EXTERNAL MAX THRUST MAX SPEED MAX RANGE EXTERNAL FUEL

17 FT ½ IN 31 FT 11½ IN 2,000 GAL 20,840 LB MACH 2.54 3,100 NM

Dedicated November 16, 1996



Why the odd number?

- The very first F-111 accident
- Pre-production F-111A, Aircraft no: 63-9774
- Crashed and destroyed 19 January 1967 at Edwards AFB
- Killed was the <u>pilot only</u>, MAJ Herbert F. Brightwell
- WSO Donovan I. McCance lived
- The aircraft landed short of runway due to the wings being accidentally swept in the wrong direction. The pilot, MAJ Brightwell was not significantly injured in the crash landing, went around to unfasten the right seater. Tragically, the pilot was standing in a pool of JP4 which subsequently ignited and incinerated him.



LT STEPHEN M. ERSKINE RA CAPT GREGORY S. ANGELL USAF MAJ FERNANDO L. RIBAS-DOMINICCI CAPT PAUL F. LORENCE MARK FALLON RAAF OFF WILLIAM PIKE RAAF CAPT THOMAS F. CHIP'STEM CAPT PHILIP D. 'PHIL' BALDWIN ROBERT A. MEYER JR CAPT FREDERICK A. GERHART GLENN E TROSTER



Shorty & Nige were the last names inscribed; thankfully there were no more F-111 fatal accidents as there was no room left on the Vark wall!!



Note from WGCDR Mike Smith: In 1999 I was posted to the Embassy in Washington DC with Ray Perry as the Air Attaché when we found out about the F-111G crash in Malaysia. Mr. Steve Hyre, aka "Doc Servo" www.f-111.net, took it upon himself to pay for Shorty & Nige's names to be inscribed on the wall at his expense so we thought the least we could do was to pay him back; Embassy ended up funding the refurbishment of the entire wall's etchings and conducting a wreath-laying ceremony with the local Mayor and dignitaries from Canon AFB nearby ...



Note from GPCAPT Mike Smith: I made another brief visit to the Vark Memorial in Jan 2010; on the way back from my tour in the JSF Program Office to pay my respects to some old pig mates, the wall's still in good shape but the gold lettering has faded since 1999 ...