



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Jeff Karpiak Photograph Collection

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2021

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Jeff Karpiak Photograph Collection
Date:	Circa 1944-1954
Identifier:	NASM.1989.0082
Extent:	0.15 Cubic feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection consists of 63 black-and-white photographs and eight 35 mm color slides (transparencies) documenting the training of an unidentified United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) pilot in the late World War II period, followed by his service with the United States Air Force (USAF) Alaskan Air Command in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Aircraft featured include the North American P-51H Mustang and the Lockheed F-94 Starfire.
Digital Content:	Image(s): NASM 90-648, Lockheed F-94 Starfires, Jeff Karpiak Photograph Collection, NASM.1989.0082

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Jeff Karpiak, gift, 1989, NASM.1989.0082

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Melissa A. N. Keiser, 2021.

Preferred Citation

Jeff Karpiak Photograph Collection, Acc. NASM.1989.0082, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

Material is subject to Smithsonian Terms of Use. Should you wish to use NASM material in any medium, please submit an Application for Permission to Reproduce NASM Material, available at [Permissions Requests](#) .

Biographical / Historical

Throughout World War II, military air bases in Alaska provided a vital link in the route ferrying aircraft, troops, and materials from the continental United States to the Pacific Theatre of operations. At the end of World War II, as one of the northernmost military air posts in the country, Ladd Army Air Field, located outside the

town of Fairbanks, Alaska, was strategically positioned to play an important role in the Cold War, being mere minutes away by jet from the Siberian coast of the Soviet Union. Renamed Ladd Air Force Base in 1947 when the United States Air Force was formed as a separate service, the field became the Northern Sector headquarters for the newly formed Alaskan Air Command, whose mission included air defense of Alaska, regional support for Strategic Air Command (SAC) and North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) operations, strategic reconnaissance, and arctic research.

Scope and Contents

The photographs in this collection fall roughly into three groups; many of the images include an unidentified man who is assumed to be a relative of the donor. The first group consists of 8 x 10 inch black and white print photographs of U.S. Army Air Forces (USAAF) pilot training aircraft and activities at various unidentified locations in the continental United States. Aircraft pictured include a Porterfield Model 50 Collegiate biplane (possibly part of the Civilian Pilot Training Program), Fairchild PT-19 Cornell, Boeing PT-27 Kaydet, Vultee BT-13, North American AT-6 Texan, and Cessna AT-8 Bobcat. The second group of 8 x 10 inch black and white print photographs depicts a U.S. Air Force (USAF) North American P-51H (F-51H) Mustang unit at Ladd Air Force Base—and possibly at Mile 26 Satellite Field (later known as Eielson Air Force Base); this is believed to be the 65th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron, who were based in the Fairbanks, Alaska, area and flying P-51s circa 1946-1947. Additional aircraft seen in this group include a Boeing PT-27 Kaydet primary trainer fitted with an enclosed cockpit for cold climate training, Douglas C-47 and C-54 cargo aircraft, Boeing B-29 Superfortresses, and a group of three Sikorsky R-5 helicopters. The third group of eight 35mm color slides (transparencies) depict Lockheed F-94 Starfire fighter jets (and one view of a North American F-82 Twin Mustang); these are believed to be aircraft assigned to either the 65th or 449th Fighter-Interceptor Squadrons, and are seen in low-level flight near Ladd Air Force Base circa 1952-1953. Both squadrons were assigned to the USAF's Alaskan Air Command.

Arrangement

In 1990, the black-and-white print photographs in this collection were reproduced in negative number order on the second side (Side B) of National Air and Space Museum Archival Videodisc 7, a LaserDisc CAV format 12-inch (30 cm) optical disc published by the Smithsonian Institution. Print numbers applied during videodisc production are used as item-level image numbers (print numbers NASM 7B03406 to NASM 7B03476, videodisc frame capture numbers VD-7B03406 to VD-7B03476) and the black-and-white prints are stored in videodisc number order. Color copies of the 35 mm slides were produced by the Smithsonian Office of Printing and Photographic Services (OPPS) and are stored in negative number order.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Aeronautics, Military
- Cold War -- 1950-1970
- Korean War, 1950-1953
- Lockheed F-94 Starfire Family
- North American P-51 Mustang Family
- World War, 1939-1945

Container Listing

Black and White Photographs [NASM 00129025 to NASM 00130094]

Notes: This series contains the 8 x 10 inch black and white copy photographs which make up the print photograph portion of the collection. Item records with attached digital images will be added as materials are scanned and catalogued.

[Color Transparencies \[SI 90-642 to SI 90-649\]](#)

Notes: This series contains the eight 35 mm copy color slides (transparencies) which comprise the color photography portion of the collection.

Videodisc Frame Captures [VD-2A29025 to VD-2A30094]

Notes: In 1990, the materials in this collection were photographed for reproduction on *NASM Archival Videodisc 7*. The "videodisc frame capture" images reproduced in this section are small 100 ppi RGB JPEG image files, 624 x 480 pixels each, created 2001-2003 by NASM Archives as still video frame captures of the NTSC video format output from an original copy of the videodisc. Each videodisc frame capture displays a black-edged white number in the upper left quadrant; the first two digits (00) are the videodisc chapter (not used on NASM videodiscs), the second set of five digits are the videodisc frame number. These numbers are an artifact produced by the videodisc player and do not appear on the original archival materials.

[KARPIAK, JEFF \(1989-0082\) \[Jeff Karpiak Photograph Collection, NASM.1989.0082\]](#)