



Smithsonian
National Air and Space Museum

United States Navy YEZ-2A
Airship Program Collection

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National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Arrangement.....	2
Names and Subjects	2

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	United States Navy YEZ-2A Airship Program Collection
Identifier:	NASM.2018.0048
Date:	1980-1999
Extent:	10.67 Cubic feet (12 containers)
Language:	English This collection is in English.
Summary:	This collection consists of material relating to the United States Navy YEZ-2A Airship Program.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Ron Hochstetter, Gift, 2018, NASM.2018.0048

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by [Archivist's name], YEAR.

Preferred Citation

United States Navy YEZ-2A Airship Program Collection, NASM.2018.0048, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

In February 1985, the US Navy issued a proposal request for a radar-carrying Battle Surveillance Airship System (BSAS), and in 1987 awarded the \$168.9 million contract to Westinghouse Electric and Airship Industries (AI). The contract was for an airship that could be used as an airborne platform to detect the threat of sea-skimming missiles. The Westinghouse/Airship Industries Sentinel 5000 (redesignated

YEZ-2A by the US Navy) was a prototype design that would have been the largest blimp ever constructed. With a crew of 10-15 accommodated in a triple-decked, partly pressurized gondola, the ship was to have been powered by two CRM Diesel engines with a supplementary General electric T700 turboprop. It would have had a 2-3 day endurance without fuel, with up to 30 days through refueling and replenishment from surface ships. Equipped with powerful radar, and nearly invisible to enemy radar due to its nonmetal substances, it was to be a formidable sentry for the Navy. AI contemplated a civil version of the 5000, which would accommodate between 140/300 passengers for luxury shuttle services and conventional scheduled flights. However the project was dependent on the success of the military program. The airship prototype did not fly until June 1991, at which time AI had collapsed and Westinghouse had taken full control of the program. Additional funding was canceled in 1995 and the development of the YEZ-2A program was discontinued.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of 10 cubic feet of manuals, reports, and drawings relating to the YEZ-2A Airship Program.

Arrangement

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Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Airships
- YEZ-2A Airship

Types of Materials:

- Technical drawings -- 20th century
- Technical manuals -- Electrical equipment
- Technical reports

Names:

- United States. Navy