

AVIATION WALL OF HONOR



Arthur J. Koski Aeronautical Engineer Rockwell International

Arthur J. Koski, son of Harvey and Viona Koski of Negaunee, was born on February 10, 1932. After starting school at the Eagle Mills country school, he subsequently entered the Negaunee Public School system and graduated from the high school in June of 1950.

After attending one semester at Northern, he transferred to the Michigan College of Mining and Technology, now called Michigan Technologic University. He majored in Mechanical Engineering with an Automotive Option and received his Bachelor of Science degree in June of 1955. During his summers, weekends, and Easter and Christmas vacations, Arthur worked for the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company as an underground miner to help put himself through school.

In August of 1955, Arthur was interviewed and then given an offer from North American Aviation Corporation of Los Angeles, California. This was later renamed North American Rockwell and then Rockwell International. He was hired to work on the F-100-D Super Sabre as a Contract Specification Writer. His title was shortly changed to Contract Specification Engineer.

His major responsibility during his career was to work on proposals and bids for

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contracts with the Air Force and coming up with specifications for specialized aeronautical equipment. This required extensive comparisons among companies, the government and the military.

He worked on the F-100 Super Sabre jet fighters and the B-70 bombers with actual altitude capacity of 90,000 feet (higher than the U-2 Spy plane by 20,000 feet). He also worked on the B-1A and B-1B Swing Wing bombers for eight years. President Carter canceled the four B-1A prototype program thinking the B-2 Stealth bomber a better airplane. However, President Reagan felt we needed the B-1A flight test program and eventually put the B-1B into production with 100 airplanes.

Arthur later worked on the big C-134 Gun ships that presently are seeing duty in Afghanistan and Iraq. These ships fire 2,000 rounds of one-inch shells per minute and have several gun ports.

He also was put on loan to other military suppliers and aircraft manufacturers including Convair, Rocketdyne and others. With them, he worked on many projects including Tomahawk missiles and rocket engines.

In July of 1993, after 38 years, he retired from Rockwell International. Shortly after, his old group was transferred to the China Lake testing facility. He is now enjoying retirement in Santa Barbara, California. He returns to the Upper Peninsula several times a year to spend time with his old friends and especially in November at his deer hunting camp.

TJ Mudge, Oct. 2005