

Target Dept. Develops System For Destruction of Drone Aircraft

BY DAVID L. KIMSEY
New concepts in the development and testing of weapons are seen almost daily at NOTS with little or no surprise to anyone, for after all, that is the prime purpose of the Station.

It is somewhat surprising however, to see a destructive device developed for the safety of the workers and residents in the area, yet this is exactly what has happened at the Target Department of NAF, headed by Cdr. F. W. Bustard.

System Demonstrated
Over 50 people were on hand last week to witness a demonstration of the new Target Destruct Package on G Range. The correct name for the new invention is Flight Termination System. It literally destroys a target drone when such action is deemed necessary.

At first glance, this may seem a bit harsh. As you go deeper into it however, it becomes quite apparent that this is probably one of the greatest safety measures ever adapted to a target drone.

In the past, the only method of terminating a flight, should the target go out of control,

was to shoot it down with fighter aircraft. The dangers in this method are quite obvious. One could never be certain of just where the drone would come down, and the damage to property on the ground from rockets and cannon shells often ran high. At its best, there was still a large margin of chance in this method.

An outstanding example of the problems presented in shooting down a drone happened in 1958. An F6F Hellcat target drone was flying a routine mission over G Range and was hit by a Sidewinder missile. The impact of the Sidewinder knocked out the radio control device on the drone and it headed North.

Target Escaped
The F2H Banshee chase planes closed in quickly to shoot it down, but the drone proved to be a more elusive target than was expected as it dodged in and out of the cloud banks. After several failing attempts to destroy the drone, the chase planes ran low on fuel and had to return. The FAA was notified and the entire State of California was alerted. Many hours later NOTS received a telephone

call. The plane was found — but it was in a field just outside of Spokane, Washington. Fortunately no one was hurt and no damage was done. It is not hard to see the possibilities however.

That isn't the only instance either. For this reason, the Flight Termination System has progressed to what we have today.
The actual design of the new device is quite simple, at least as far as the operation is concerned. An explosive charge, equal to about 20 pounds of TNT, is placed under the right wing. Should it be necessary to terminate the operation while the target is still airborne, the charge is detonated by either ground control or by a control chase plane. As a further safety factor, the system may be armed and un-armed repeatedly while the mission is in operation.

Credit for the new invention goes to Harry L. Myers, Head of Target Department, Instrumentation and Evaluation Division; Lloyd J. Holt, Target Department Mechanical Branch Supervisor; and Gordon F. Zurn, Target Department Engineer who hold the patent on the system.



THIS IS THE END — This picture will give you a pretty fair idea of just how effective the new Flight Termination System is. Here you see a target drone in actual flight just after the Termination System was detonated.



MANY WERE IMPRESSED—Over 50 viewers were impressed and somewhat startled recently when NAF's Target Department demonstrated its newest invention by blowing up a target drone. The device is designed to terminate a target flight should

it go out of control. Cdr. F. W. Bustard, standing, explains the procedure prior to the actual demonstration. The charge that is used is equal to about 20 pounds of TNT, and is placed under the right wing.
—Photo by PH-1 David Hobbs

Getting Set For Bazaar



ANNUAL CHURCH BAZAAR — The Protestant Women of the Chapel will hold their annual Fall Bazaar in the All Faith Chapel Friday, October 28 from 5 to 10 p.m. There will be a wide variety of things to choose from such as handiwork, baked goods, white elephants, etc. Also there will be all kinds of good things to eat. The proceeds, \$1.00 per person, will go to support many mission projects. The four ladies getting ready for the Bazaar are (l to r) Francis Wiese, Sharon Baird, Eleanor French and Helka Peake.

Gallery Owner Will Speak To Art Leaguers

The Desert Art League will hold its regular monthly program meeting on Monday, October 24 at 8 p.m. in Room C of the Community Center.
The featured speaker will be Margot Schiffman, owner of the Schiffman Art Gallery in Hesperia. She will bring along works and photographic slides of some of the artists she represents including Nag Arnoldi, a Swiss artist; ceramic work by Marie Nicholson, a French artist; Robert E. Wood, prize-winning watercolorist; and slides of the latest of Salvador Dali's works which are currently on display in New York.
Mrs. Schiffman first became interested in art when she was doing public relations work in Mexico and lived amidst such great artists as Diego Rivera, Clemente Orozco and David

Sailors Vie for Annual Title

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IWW Council of the Navy League of the United States, and Kenneth Smith, Mayor of Ridgecrest, will join in honoring the selectee.

NOTS' "Bluejacket of the Year" for 1966 and his wife, if married, will drive a new car, provided by Hertz in Ridgecrest and Hucek's Travel Center, to a week's vacation in Las Vegas at two of its leading hotels. He'll also receive gifts of appreciation from member merchants of the Ridgecrest Chamber of Commerce.

At the end of his week in Las Vegas, the Bluejacket will fly to the Grand Canyon on a Bonanza Air Lines plane for a weekend.

Leading guests at next Friday's banquet will include Capt. John I. Hardy, ComNOTS and the members of the NOTS Command, Ridgecrest Mayor Kenneth C. Smith, and Ralph

'Meet Candidates' Event Scheduled

The Indian Wells Valley voters will have an opportunity to see and hear candidates for assemblyman and U.S. Congressman at a meeting Tuesday night, Oct. 25, at 8 p.m. at the China Lake Community Center.

The four candidates scheduled to participate in the program next Tuesday are:
Dr. Jack T. Casey, Democratic incumbent, and Kent Stacey, Republican from Bakersfield, who are vying for election to the State Assembly from the 28th District; and Congressman Harlan Hagen, Democratic incumbent, and Bob Mathias, Republican, and former Olympic Games decathlon champion, who are opponents for the 18th Congressional District seat.
Walter Stiern, Democratic incumbent, and Joe Scott, Republican from Bakersfield, who are opponents for State Senator from the 18th Congressional District both have commitments elsewhere on that date. If their schedules permit, they will appear at "Meet the Candidates" night here.
Leroy Jackson, Kern County Supervisor, will act as moderator. Each candidate will have 15 minutes to make a statement and will be allowed five minutes for rebuttal later. Questions from the floor will be entertained.
This "Meet the Candidates" meeting is being sponsored jointly by the American Association of University Women and the American Society for Public Administration.

Siqueiros. Later in her travels she saw the work of Nag Arnoldi, and Mrs. Schiffman first introduced the work of this Swiss artist in the United States.
Currently the Schiffman Gallery is having a display of the works of Robert E. Wood of Green Valley Lake, California, who has taken many watercol-

Bird and Rabbit Hunting Permitted On North Range For Three Weekends

Caution Urged While Hunting On The Station

Hunters will again be granted the privilege, for the fourth year in a row, of hunting chukar, quail, cottontail and jack-rabbit in the northern range area of NOTS during the weekends of October 29-30, November 5-6 and November 12-13. These weekends were chosen in order to offer the hunter the best possibility of filling his bag limit. According to the Department of Fish and Game,

the number of birds are at an all time high and barring any unexpected inclement weather, this year's hunt should be most successful.

Use Darwin Gate
Again this year, only the Darwin Gate will afford hunters access to the Station. The Darwin Gate is located on Highway 190 which runs in an easterly direction from U.S. Highway 395 approximately one-half mile south of Lone Pine.

Hunters may enter the area and register at Darwin Gate starting at 6:30 a.m. on Saturdays, but must leave the Station by no later than 5 p.m. on Sundays, according to Security Officer Lt. Samuel Mc-

Mullen. He further adds that Station employees are also to use only this gate.

Overnight Camping
Hunters who wish to camp overnight on Saturdays may do so, but only in two locations — in the vicinity of Bercham Springs and Junction Ranch as indicated on the map below.

The only weapons that will be allowed on the range will be shotguns, and only four-wheeled vehicles (no motorcycles, scooters, or Toteoats) will be permitted. Hunters are also reminded to bring extra gasoline and water. At least enough for two full days.

Security regulations require hunters to stay within the

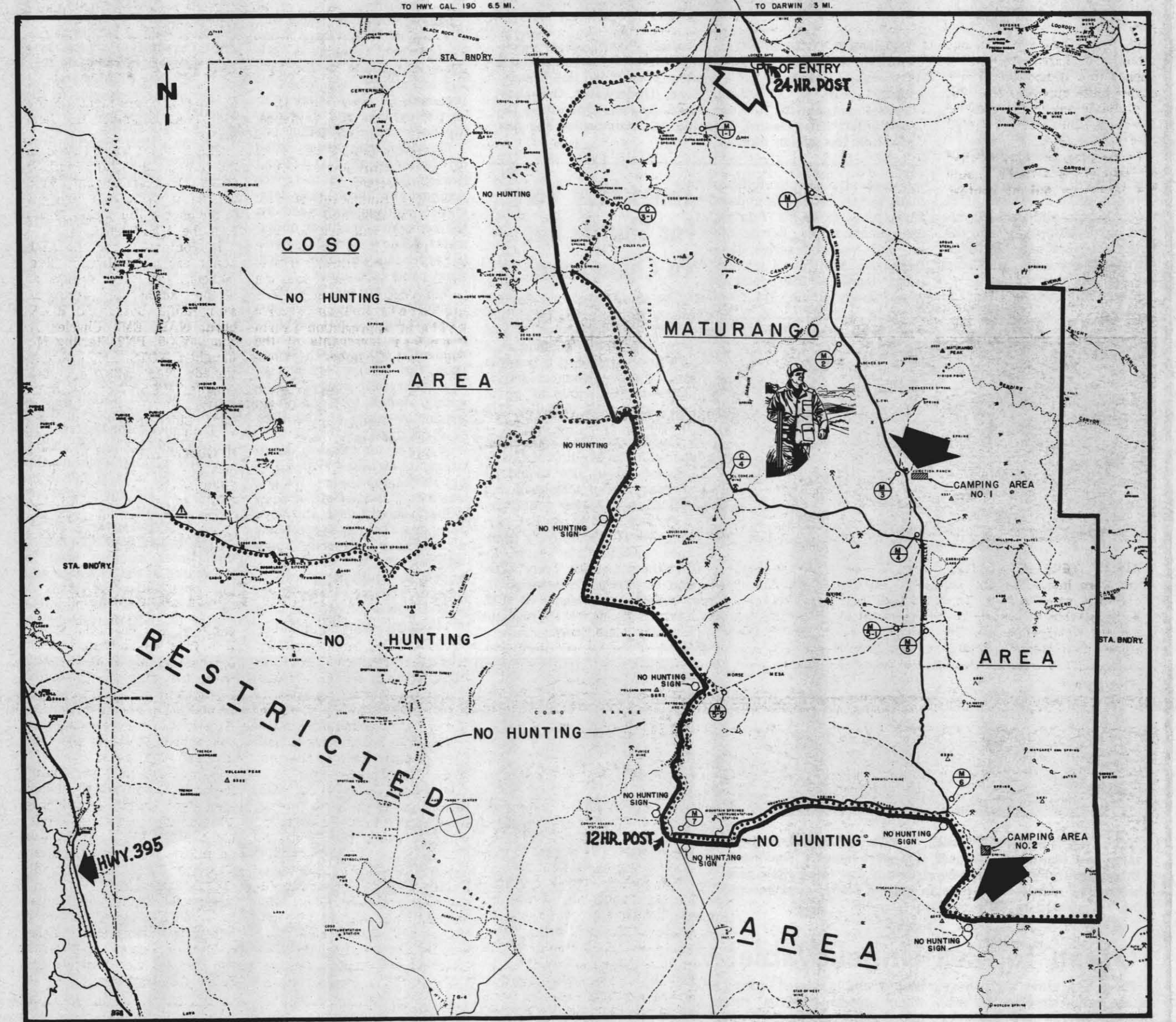
range confines as indicated on the map, and not to touch or attempt to move any metal containers, duds, projectiles, tubes or other suspicious objects. Keep clear of all buildings and structures as well.

No Medical Aid
The Security Officer also reports that no medical corpsmen will be available at Junction Ranch this year, but that radio contact will be maintained by the Range Patrol with China Lake, and that a helicopter is available for emergencies.

In case of an accident or injury, notify any of the Gate Guards or Range Patrol throughout the area.

Captain John I. Hardy, ComNOTS, says that there were no reported accidents or mishaps during the previous three hunting seasons. He urges all hunters to observe the precautionary rules.

All hunting on the Station range is through cooperative arrangements of the Station and the State Fish and Game Department.



OPEN ARROW points to Darwin Gate, the only entry to the hunting area. Darwin Gate is located on Highway 190 which runs

in an easterly direction from U.S. Highway 395 about one-half mile south of Lone Pine. Black arrows indicate camping areas. Hunt-

ers may stay in camps Saturday nights. Hunters are reminded to stay within the range confines as indicated on the map.

Make Your Hunting Trip Safe-Obeey The Rules

