A MESSAGE
FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

GENTLEMEN:

You have been priviledged to be sent to the Muroc Flight Test Base. This Base has made history and will continue to do so. Now before you are assigned to the section where you will work on this Base, let me tell you a little about it.

First, have you noticed the unusual climate? am sure you have. As you came onto this field yo undoubtedly noticed the absence of lush vegetatior This, as it happens, is one of the reasons why ou Base is situated in this part of the country. Yo may now ask for a little further explanation, so he: it is:

This Base is the Muroc Flight Test Base and its mission is exactly what its name implies. It was at this base that the now famous Bell Airocomet, the P-59, was first assembled and flown. It was at this base that all the bugs were shaken from this ship, and it was here that the Lockheed Shooting Star made her debut, flying faster than the speed of sound and even at this time is being tested for greater speeds. Here also you may see Northrop's Flying Wing which well may prove to be your private flying ship of the future.

And now, if you look outside you can see the great expanse of dry lake bed, flattern' a pancake, which is mainly responsible for our base being located here. A plane taking off on a test flight can taxi 6 miles, if necessary, in one direction and the pilot does not have to worry if his engine quits. If an engine decides to stop in the air, there are 36 square miles in which to land.

This base has had an enviable reputation. It started as an experiment which General Arnold needed

00143072

or developing Jet Propulsion aircraft and since 942, when the base consisted of one officer and 25 en, it has grown to its present size and importance. The Muroc Flight Test Base while conceived as a war baby is destined to be the home of advancing aviation for the future.

Every man sent to this base has a job to do which will aid us in developing new devices to strike the enemy and strike him hard. Each man is expected to do his job eagerly and well. Your officers are understanding men who know their jobs and will give you all possible assistance. The personnel officer will see that you are placed in the job at which you have had the most experience and done the best work in the past and which will be of most value to our base so far as this is practicable. The work you do here is of far greater value to yourself than you may now realize and you will be respected and looked up to for the part you play. When you leave here the reputation of the base will follow you.

Now one word of caution. We are isolated in the Mojave Desert to keep prying eyes and dangerous ears from learning of the work we do. You may see some strange flying contraptions and hear things not meant for anyone but yourself. Keep our secrets secret. Do not help the enemy by disclosing the information we try so hard to guard. If you *have* to talk see the Chaplain, he knows all about us anyway.

This is not a sissy base. Most of the men are overseas veterans and many have seen actual combat. Do not underestimate any man.

You will be expected to observe the normal military courtesies, meet formations on time and do as good a job as the men who have preceeded you. The Flight Test Base will continue to work for the coming Age of Flight in War and in Peace and we want you to help us.

CLARENCE A. SHOOP
Colonel, Air Corps
Commanding

All is not work on the base, there is some play. It is recognized that competitive athletics and extra-curricular activity builds healthy minds and bodies. Therefore, we include the following guide to base facilities.

I. THEATRE- Movies are available three times a week; Sunday, Tuesday, and Friday evenings.

Approximately once a week, usually Wednesday, there is a U.S.O. show. Bldg. T-73.

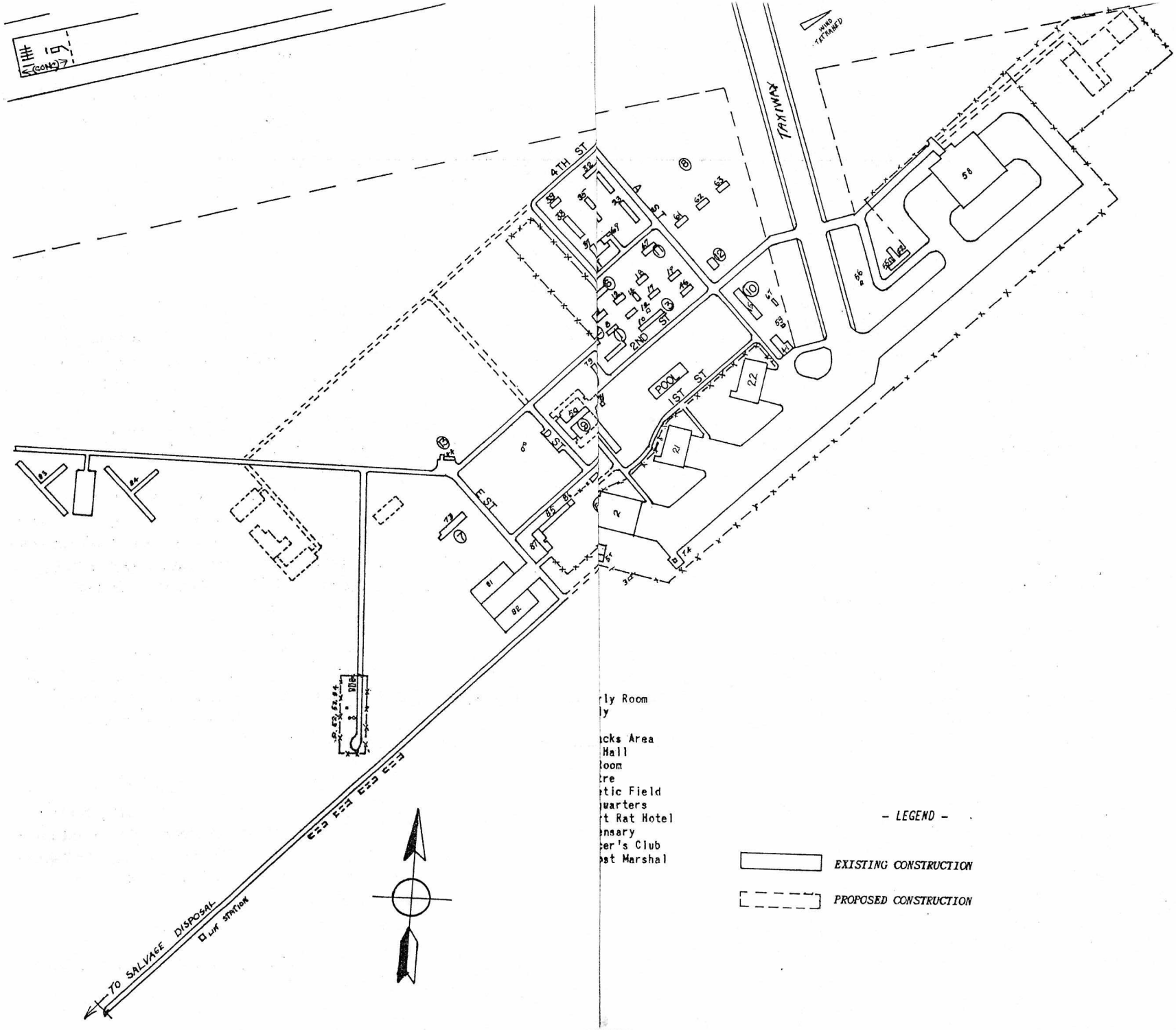
II. For those of an athletic nature there is a fine baseball diamond, volley ball courts, archery, and a swimming pool all located within a few steps of the barracks area. Special Service (Call 79) will gladly supply athletic equipment.

III. The library is run by the squadron and is open 5 days a week; Monday through Friday, from 1930 until 2130. There are 1500 books at your disposal both fiction and nonfiction and approximately 300 technical books. Bldg. T-13.

IV. Day Room is available until 2230 every day for playing billiards or ping pong. There are also tables and paper for those who wish to write letters and magazines for relaxation. T-13.

V. NEWSPAPER- The "Murocket" is published weekly distributed on Saturday noon in the mess hall. It is published by public relations office; comments and material are always welcome. Phone # 11. Bldg. T-18.

VI. A Post Exchange is centrally located on the field and boasts a good variety of sales items. The P.X. is open every day during


4TH ST
A ST
2ND ST
1ST ST
POOL
D ST
E ST
TAXIWAY
WIND TETRAHED
TO SALVAGE DISPOSAL
LIFE STATION
ly Room
ly
cks Area
Hall
oom
re
tic Field
uarters
t Rat Hotel
ensary
er's Club
st Marshal
- LEGEND -
EXISTING CONSTRUCTION
PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION

the week and on Sundays the hours are 1000 to 1200 and 1700 to 2130. Beer is available after 1700. The opening time during the week is posted on the P.X. doors.

VII. Legal office is available to men needing advise or aid in any matters pertaining to law. Phone # 11. Bldg. T-18.

VIII. Laundry is handled by a G.I. laundry and dry cleaning by the P.X. The cleaners is open every day *except* Wednesday and Sunday. The opening time is posted in the P.X.

IX. The Barber Shop is probably the coolest spot on the field during the hottest months and is located in the P.X. building.

X. Religious Services:

Thursday at 1715 - Catholic Services in Chapel
" " 1900 - Protestant Services in Chapel
Sunday at 0900 - Protestant Services in Chapel

Your religious life is something which will qualify you for victory over enemies even more determined than the Japanese. While you are on duty at this base take advantage of the opportunity given to worship God with your fellowmen. Get acquainted with the base chaplain. His office is in the rear of the Theatre Building. Read his column each week in the *Murocket*.

The Chaplain.

XI. Telephones- A telephone is located in the day room and outside calls are permitted after 1700 hours.

XII. Special Service Office is in the Theatre building. Correspondence courses for school credit from U.S. Armed Forces Institute are available. The Special Service boys are always willing to discuss your plans and suggestions. Occasionally Special Service will sponsor a fishing trip or other activity of interest.

XIII. Transportation- On Saturday evening a G.I. bus runs into Hollywood for those who wish to spend Sunday in Los Angeles. It leaves from Hollywood and Vine for the Flight Test Base. It is necessary to make reservations for a seat at the Orderly Room on Friday morning. For any activity at Muroc AAB which you may care to attend, a bus is provided. The complete bus schedule is posted on the bulletin board at the orderly room.

XIV. Housing- Men whose wives work on this base or the Muroc AAB may apply for space in the housing project at Muroc.

XV. Commissary- There is a commissary at the Muroc Army Air Base available to personnel of MFTB.

XVI. Guards- The Military Police on this post are charged with the responsibility of safeguarding all project activities. It is for your benefit that you are asked to identify yourself any time you pass a guard post. Do not question their authority and obey their commands. More than one man has been shot at already, especially at night. They are doing a job and by complying with their requests you are doing yours.