



AHS International
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter



AHS PRESENTS

“Recollections of NFAC Engineers”

The **40- by 80- Foot Wind Tunnel** became operational the summer of 1944. It was intended to be used primarily for reducing the drag of small aircraft such as military fighters and to improve their landing performance. As the years went by tunnel use shifted to improving wing lift at landing conditions, research on rotorcraft, propellers, ducted fans, and V/STOL aircraft.

Testing emphasis shifted over the years. There was rotorcraft and V/STOL research as well as powered lift and space related research; such as, lifting bodies and gliding parachutes. There was an increasing interest in VTOL and many configurations were proposed and studied. Tunnel shortcomings became evident. Aircraft were becoming larger. The 200 kt airspeed limited research on high-speed rotorcraft, and the size limitation caused large wall effects at low speeds, especially for powered lift and V/STOL aircraft.

And so began the journey that led to 80- by 120-Foot Wind Tunnel and the National Full-Scale Aerodynamics Complex.

Relive the days of yore from folks who lived in the time of yore (or something like that). December 11 is all about the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the National Full-Scale Aerodynamics Complex. It will be a fitting conclusion to a memorable day.

Presenters: A veritable cornucopia of former NFAC engineers, managers, and the folks who did the real work – technicians, mechanics, and software programmers. Ken Mort, NACA 1957 hire, will start us off. Mike Falarski, will bring it to an end, with Kip Edenborough sharing some final thoughts on the day. A very special way to end a special day.

Where: Building 3 Ballroom

When: December 11th, 2012

Time: Happy Hour 4:30pm - Presentation 5:00pm

