TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FOR AERONAUTICS

1943

INCLUDING TECHNICAL REPORTS
NOS. 752 to 773

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON: 1948

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NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AERONAUTICS
HEADQUARTERS, 1550 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE NW., WASHINGTON, D. C.

Created by act of Congress approved March 3, 1915, for the supervision and direction of the scientific study of the problems of flight (U. S. Code, title 49, sec. 241). Its membership was increased to 15 by act approved March 2, 1929. The members are appointed by the President, and serve as such without compensation.


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TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

AERODYNAMICS

POWER PLANTS FOR AIRCRAFT

AIRCRAFT MATERIALS

AIRCRAFT STRUCTURES

OPERATING PROBLEMS

JET PROPULSION

Coordination of Research Needs of Military and Civil Aviation

Preparation of Research Programs

Allocation of Problems

Prevention of Duplication

LANGLEY MEMORIAL AERONAUTICAL LABORATORY

LANGLYE FIELD, VA.

AMES AERONAUTICAL LABORATORY

MOFFETT FIELD, CALIF.

AIRCRAFT ENGINE RESEARCH LABORATORY

CLEVELAND AIRPORT, CLEVELAND, OHIO

Conduct, under unified control, for all agencies, of scientific research on the fundamental problems of flight

OFFICE OF AERONAUTICAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Collection, classification, compilation, and dissemination of scientific and technical information in aeronautics
TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AERONAUTICS
FOR 1943

WASHINGTON, D. C., October 1, 1948.

The Twenty-ninth Annual Report of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics covers the fiscal year 1943, and includes Technical Reports Nos. 752 to 773. Because of wartime security requirements, the Committee did not currently prepare a formal report of its activities during the fiscal year 1943, and the Technical Reports of that year published in this volume were also currently withheld from general distribution.

A summary of important research activities of the Committee during the war years was presented in the thirty-second annual report of the Committee for the fiscal year 1946, published in 1947.

The National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics was established by act of Congress, approved March 3, 1915 (U. S. C. title 49, sec. 241). Its duty under the law is to "supervise and direct the scientific study of the problems of flight with a view to their practical solution." It is also authorized to "direct and conduct research and experiment in aeronautics" in such laboratories as may be placed under its direction. The Committee has three major research stations—the Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory, at the Army’s Langley Field, Va.; the Ames Aeronautical Laboratory, at the Navy’s Moffett Field, Calif.; and the Aircraft Engine Research Laboratory, at the Cleveland Municipal Airport, Cleveland, Ohio.

During 1943 the Committee’s research effort was directed toward increasing the military effectiveness of America’s aeronautical weapons. Military aircraft designs were based chiefly on research data accumulated prior to World War II. The Committee was in a key position to work with the military services and the aircraft industry in applying effectively the data to new aircraft and engine designs and to improvement of existing designs. Each mile-per-hour of speed gained; each additional mile of range; and each degree of improved maneuverability and handling qualities of aircraft was of great tactical and strategic importance.

Important gains in aircraft performance were made through the use of improved wing and body configurations and through the reduction of drag resulting from the unnecessary projection of various aircraft components outside the basic contour of the craft, from unnecessary roughness of surfaces, from unintentional leakage of air through the airplane structure, and from the use of large quantities of excess air for various cooling functions.

The first research project at the new Aircraft Engine Research Laboratory, at Cleveland, Ohio, was begun in March 1942, 3 months prior to the beginning of the fiscal year 1943. As the facilities at Cleveland came into service, the research program on the reciprocating engine for military use was considerably expanded. Increased power and range were the principal research objectives at that time. Because of the great increase in the quantities of fuel required by the military forces and because of the critical supply of aviation fuel constituents, the research program on fuels and combustion was accelerated on an extensive scale at Cleveland.

Because of the unusual loads imposed on aircraft structures under combat flight conditions, considerable research effort was concentrated on the improvement of structural design to permit safe operation. The completion of a new Structures Research Laboratory at Langley just prior to the fiscal year 1943 permitted the necessary extension of this important research work.

Despite the fact that a considerable portion of the Committee’s effort was in applied wartime research during the year 1943, basic research studies were carried on where it seemed probable that their results would, during World War II, find application for military purposes. Because speed is a most important characteristic of military aircraft, the problems of high-speed flight were attacked vigorously by the Committee. New high-speed wind tunnels were under construction both at the Langley and the Ames laboratories. A 9-inch Supersonic Wind Tunnel was completed in July 1942, with which earlier investigations in the field of supersonic aerodynamics were extended. At the same time the prospects of high-speed flight through the use of the gas-turbine jet-propulsion engine led to the building of two jet-propulsion test cells at the Cleveland laboratory. Experiments were conducted in these facilities on the first turbo-jet engines built in this country.

On April 9, 1943, the President appointed Rear Admiral Ernest M. Pace, U. S. N., a member of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, succeeding Rear Admiral Sydney M. Kraus, U. S. N. This was the only change in membership of the Committee in 1943.
TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

The main Committee is assisted by a number of technical committees and subcommittees which recommend to it research programs in the various specialized fields. These groups are composed of representatives of government agencies and individuals from industry and educational institutions, who are chosen on the basis of their personal knowledge of the special fields and who serve without pay as such. The members of technical committees are selected with a view to providing the main Committee with well-informed expert groups of advisers in each of the respective fields.

The membership of these committees in 1943 follows. The nature and scope of each committee’s activities are evident from its name.

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R. D. Kelly, United Air Lines Transport Corp.
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A. W. Winston, The Dow Chemical Co.
TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AERONAUTICS

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Dr. Hugh L. Dryden, National Bureau of Standards.  
Dr. George W. Lewis, National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (ex officio).  
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Dr. L. W. Chubb, Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Co.  
Prof. A. G. Christie, Johns Hopkins University.  
Dr. A. R. Stevenson, Jr., General Electric Co.  
Prof. E. S. Taylor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

EXPANSION OF FACILITIES

During the fiscal year the following research facilities were  
completed and placed in operation:

AIRCRAFT ENGINE RESEARCH LABORATORY,  
CLEVELAND, OHIO

In November 1942 the Fuels and Lubricants Building was  
completed.

In March 1943 the Administration Building was completed,  
containing central offices, library and auditorium.

LANGLEY MEMORIAL AERONAUTICAL LABORATORY,  
LANGLEY FIELD, VA.

A 9-inch supersonic wind tunnel was completed in July  
1942 providing the laboratory with a facility for general  
supersonic research.  In October 1942 a second hydrodynam-  
ic wind tunnel was completed, providing a significant  
increase in the laboratory’s facilities for hydrodynamic  
research work, including work on the subject of landplanes  
descending at sea.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Appropriations for the fiscal year 1943

Funds in the following amounts were appropriated for  
the Committee for the fiscal year 1943 in the Independent  
Offices Appropriation Act, 1943, approved June 27, 1942;  
the First Deficiency Appropriation Act, 1943, approved  
March 18, 1943; and the Urgent Deficiency Appropriation  
Act, 1943, approved July 12, 1943:

Salaries and expenses ........................................... $13,088,736
Printing and binding ............................................ 25,000
Construction and equipment of laboratory facilities:
Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory .................. 141,000
Ames Aeronautical Laboratory .................................. 3,000,000
Aircraft Engine Research Laboratory ......................... 9,174,000

Total appropriations ........................................... 25,428,736

Obligations incurred during the fiscal year 1943 are listed  
below.  The figures shown are total obligations and include  
the costs of personal services, travel, transportation,  
communication, utility services, contractual services, supplies  
and equipment.

Salaries and expenses:
Headquarters Office, Washington, D. C. ..................... $371,353
Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory ................. 6,002,447
Ames Aeronautical Laboratory ............................... 1,000,000
Aircraft Engine Research Laboratory ......................... 4,550,000
Transfer to the National Bureau of Standards .............. 142,300
Research contracts—educational institutions ............... 305,302
Printing and binding, all activities .......................... 10,993

Construction and equipment of laboratory facilities:
Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory .................. 82,831
Ames Aeronautical Laboratory ............................... 3,160,000
Aircraft Engine Research Laboratory ......................... 3,730,376

Total obligations ........................................... 20,009,009

Unobligated balances:
Salaries and expenses ........................................... 14,000
Printing and binding ........................................... 5,007
Construction and equipment ................................. 5,310,130

Total appropriations ........................................... 25,428,736

1 Includes obligations incurred against prior year appropriations available for obligation  
in fiscal year 1943.
2 Remains available for obligation in future fiscal years.

Appropriations for the fiscal year 1944

Funds in the following amounts were appropriated for the  
Committee for the fiscal year 1944 in the Independent Offices  
 Appropriation Act, 1944, approved June 26, 1943; the First  
Supplemental National Defense Appropriation Act, 1944,  
approved December 23, 1943; and the First Deficiency  
 Appropriation Act, 1944, approved April 1, 1944:

Salaries and expenses ........................................... $19,020,415
Printing and binding ........................................... 15,000

Construction and equipment of laboratory facilities:
Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory .................. 8,804,200
Ames Aeronautical Laboratory ............................... 5,950,000
Aircraft Engine Research Laboratory ......................... 3,935,000

Total appropriations ........................................... 38,392,215