The Descriptive Finding Guide for the General Dynamics Newsletter Collection
SDASM .SC .10184

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The Descriptive Finding Guide for
the General Dynamics Newsletter
Collection SDASM .SC .10184

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**Biographical / Historical**

General Dynamics' relationship with Convair began after World War II. In 1952, General Dynamics became a parent company to manage operations of Canadair and Electric Boat. From the profits of Canadair, General Dynamics was able to purchase Consolidated Vultee Aircraft (Convair) from the Atlas Corporation in 1954. The Convair division was responsible for manufacturing a variety of civilian and military aircraft, including the 440 passenger liner, the F-102 and F-106 fighters, Atlas and Centaur missiles, and the B-24, B-36, and B-58 bombers. Convair’s development of commercial jetliners came to a halt due to competition from Douglas and Boeing, as well as TWA’s postponement of introducing Convair’s 680 and 880 models into the jetliner market. Thus, General Dynamics had to write off the entire passenger program as a loss. However, General Dynamics was able to recover with the help of the Material Services Corporation and began production of surface...
ships. Then in the 1960s, the U.S. Defense Department contracted General Dynamics and Grumman to the F-111 project. Convair was tasked with developing the F-111 at the Fort Worth facility. However, the project was mismanaged and the aircraft’s role was misinterpreted, and was replaced by Grumman’s superior F-14 Tomcat. Convair was split into different divisions, one of the most successful being the Space Systems Division, which was sold to Martin-Marietta in 1985.

Today, General Dynamics focuses on shipbuilding, armored vehicles, and corporate jets. All remnants of Convair have been dismantled.

Scope and Contents
This is a 5 box collection with all boxes measuring at 18 ¼ x 13 ½ x 4 inches. It is a one series collection of General Dynamics newsletters, ranging from 1961 to 1993. The General Dynamics (GD) News newsletter begins as a continuation of the Convair variety newsletter. However, in an effort to centralize all publications for all facilities, General Dynamics News and the Convair edition were merged together into one newsletter – General Dynamics World – on May 26, 1971. While there are multiple editions of both GD News and GD World, the collection has been organized by date, then by edition. There is a General Dynamics Newsletter Inventory that lists all of the current issues and editions that this collection contains.

Related Materials
Convair Newsletter Collection GD/Convair Collection

Conditions Governing Access
The collection is open to research by appointment.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
General Dynamics Corporation. Convair Division
General Dynamics Astronautics Division
Astronautics
Atlas (missile) – History
General Dynamics Corporation. Convair Division
Convair San Diego
Box 2 of 5 GDN 1964-1968

Box 3 of 5 GDN 1969 - May 1971 GDW June 1971 - 1985

Box 4 of 5 GDW 1986 - 1988

Box 5 of 5 GDW 1989 - 1993