



Photo by Fredrick D. Joe

From left, Tom Wills, Walter Kitchens and Bob Stewart work on the model of the plane

## Company windtests model of new airplane at A&M

By Stephen Masters  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Representatives of Vulcan Aircraft Corporation began testing a model of a vertical takeoff and landing craft at Texas A&M's wind tunnel facilities Monday.

If funded beyond the planning stages, the Vulcan Spitfire VSTOL would be capable of vertical and standard takeoffs without the use of a jet turbine, said Woody Scott, designer and manager of the project.

Scott said that because the Vulcan project uses a fan system it is much quieter than the Harrier jet, a VTOL craft used by the U.S. Marine Corps. The Vulcan project has two 4-foot diameter fans used for upward propulsion

on two middle wings and two 3-foot diameter fans for forward propulsion at the rear of the plane, Scott said.

The plane would have three sets of wings in the rear, middle and front, with spans of 25 feet, 13 feet and 9 feet respectively, Scott said. The rear wings will be movable, he said.

Although the plane will likely weigh as much as an average jet helicopter, the Vulcan project will be able to travel further and faster using less fuel than a helicopter, he said. This makes the Vulcan plane a better option for emergency medical services than helicopters, Scott said.

Helicopters also require a great deal of maintenance because of vibration of the craft caused by

stress on the rotors during forward movement, he said. Because of the use of the fan system, Scott said, the Vulcan plane would not suffer from this problem.

The six-passenger craft would be able to travel up to 800 miles depending "on how fast you want to fly," he said. Cruising speeds would be from 300 mph to 350 mph.

Scott estimated the retail cost of around \$1.25 million to \$1.5 million for the six-passenger plane. He said the price could drop below \$1 million for the slower 300 mph cruising speed craft.

Vulcan is using the wind tunnel for two weeks and making minor adjustments as tests are done, Scott said.

## History teacher helps students learn emotions of Vietnam War

WEST COLUMBIA, Texas (AP) — It's been 20 years since John Nevels, a Brazoria 19-year-old, was killed in action in Vietnam four months before he was to come home.

That was before West Columbia Junior High School students were born, but thanks to an idea of history teacher Laurie Kincannon and the cooperation of Nevels' family, the students have come to know the young man who died serving his country. Nevels' family also gave permission for his story to be used in this article.

Kincannon is taking 65 students to Washington, D.C. in June to visit the Vietnam Memorial, the U.S. Capitol, Arlington National Cemetery and the offices of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

When she visited the Vietnam Memorial two years ago, she was stirred by the sheer number of names engraved on "The Wall."

"I didn't know any of them, and I was glad in a way, but knowing that each name represents a person who died really got to me," she says.

So when the school agreed to let Kincannon take a group of students to Washington this year, she began thinking about how to make the trip as meaningful as possible for them. That's when she came up with the project she calls "Vietnam Remembered."

"We are asking to hear from people who lost friends and loved ones in the Vietnam War," Kincannon explains, "so the kids will know a little bit about the people whose names appear on The Wall."

She is asking for letters, copies of photographs or any

other biographical information that might help with the project, which has a deadline of May 1. A weekly newspaper ran a story about the project, and John Nevels' family is among those who have responded so far.

Shortly after the article appeared, Nevels' half-brother, Louis Parker of Brazoria, contacted Kincannon by phone to find out more about Vietnam Remembered.

"He said his mother had read about the project and wanted John included, but even though it had been 20 years since he died she just couldn't write the letter," Kincannon says. "So she had asked Mr. Parker to do it." Parker wrote a two-page letter about Nevels, describing a boy who grew up in Wild Peach and liked riding horses, occasionally participating in rodeos.

"It was from this activity that (John) earned the nickname 'One-Jump John,'" Parker wrote. "The steer came out of the chute, jumped one time, and Johnny fell off."

Nevels attended school in West Columbia and was a member of the Future Farmers of America. He raised turkeys for the Brazoria County Fair, and once caused an uproar at home when he used the window screens off the house to build a pen.

As the Nevels' only son, John was exempt from the draft, but the young man volunteered to serve.

"When Johnny decided to go into the Army, the family tried to talk him out of it," Parker wrote. "But he wanted to serve his country and experience being on his own and growing up."



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