

# Gyrodyne Helicopter Historical Foundation

## 2105 Thomas Jefferson Drive, Reno, Nevada 89509

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Saturday, August 26, 2023

Capt. Newt McKissick, USN  
Office of Commanding Officer  
NAVBASE CORONADO  
Commander, Navy Region Southwest  
750 Pacific Highway  
San Diego, CA 92132

Capt. Bill Personias, USN (ret), Phone – (858) 449-1726  
Capt. Bill Personias, USN (ret), email: billpersonius@gmail.com

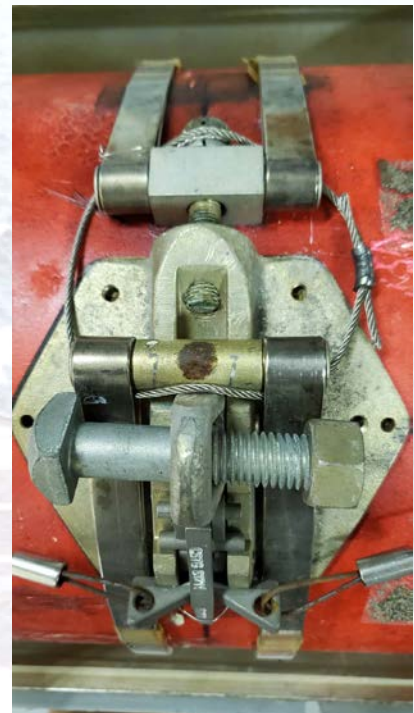
Subject: Loan Agreement No. One: MK-46 MOD 1, PRACTICE WARSHOT TORPEDO, For Training, Serial Number 29, NSN 1355-00-106-6137. The warhead and motor are inert. Shape is Full Weapon weight (508 lbs.) with MK-78 Suspension bands under Tension, but safety banded together. Shape is housed in a MK535 MOD 0 Shipping Container: S/N 9178.

Dear Capt. McKissick,

In his email letter to me of August 10, 2023, Capt. Bill Personias, USN (ret), asked if I might have a spare MK-46 Torpedo Shape that could be used to outfit the CDR Lassen Memorial Medal of Honor Aircraft with that is to be mounted outside the main gate at NAVBASE Coronado.

In my capacity as Program Manager for the QH-50 DASH weapon system, I continue to manage the various weapons and weapon shapes we have used in the past 50 years for all 4 services as well as many of the helicopters themselves. I notified Capt. Personius that we indeed had a nice MK-46 MOD 1 Exercise Torpedo (see photo page 2) in a container that also had its MK-78 suspension bands. I did inform Capt. Personius that while the torpedo shape is INERT, the suspension bands ARE NOT and would require a safety cable be installed to prevent accidental band-release that could result in injury. Those safety bands were installed on 25-Aug-2023, as seen at right, and Capt. Personias was provided with photographs of that work. Capt. Personius assured me that your Wing Maintenance Officer had the experience to handle this torpedo safely and thus I have agreed to indefinitely loan this shape to your activity for the Lassen Display Aircraft. We loan such items to keep them away from Navy demil codes that apply to obsolete former weapon systems; as the MK-46 will remain the property of the Gyrodyne Foundation, Navy demil codes do not apply to our private property.

Other than the Suspension Bands mentioned above, the entire Torpedo is INERT. Therefore, we certify that this Torpedo and its internals are **INERT**. Please keep this document as this is the only INERT CERTIFICATION you will receive.



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The Gyrodyne Foundation has agreed to supply the Office of Commanding Officer, NAVBASE CORONADO with the inert MK-46 MOD 1 Practice Warshot Torpedo on a loan basis whose conditions are based on the following stipulations:

FOR LOAN:

1. One  
qty, MK-46  
MOD 1  
Practice  
Warshot  
Torpedo, Serial  
number 29,  
(which comes  
in its own



MK535 MOD 0 shipping container). Per the photo above. **CONDITION:** Weapon Shape is INERT with no working internal guidance systems. The Exterior is representative of a 50-year-old Air-drop weapon shape as used on our QH-50E DASH Drone and the shape requires a careful re-paint for display purposes. Its current color is strictly for recovery purposes, at sea.

Accordingly, by agreeing to this document by your signature on page **four**, you agree to the following conditions regarding the LOANED equipment:

1. It is understood that the torpedo shape herein listed, will receive a re-paint resembling a MK-46 Warshot Torpedo. Such restoration efforts will be at your activities' expense. If your area EOD/UXO teams may require a labeled inert certification on the weapon shape. Such placarding will also be at your expense. The Gyrodyne Helicopter Historical Foundation hereby allows for such modifications to be made to its property given that the MK-78 Suspension Bands are not damaged during this work.

**NOTE: PLEASE** Leave the safety bolts in the lugs of the suspension bands; those big bolts are used as an added safety measure should the bands inadvertently attempt to deploy (open).

2. All damage to the torpedo shape provided at any point in this loan from the delivery date (shown on the last page of this document) until either returned to or reacquired by the Foundation, will be reported to the Foundation **as soon as possible**.
3. The loaned MK-46 MOD 1, PRACTICE WARSHOT TORPEDO may not be lent, sold, bartered, or transferred in any way to any third party. It is further understood that, under penalty of Federal Law, it is illegal to export the MK-46 MOD 1, PRACTICE WARSHOT TORPEDO from the United States.
4. The PRACTICE WARSHOT TORPEDO being provided is still in use by several International Armed Forces. Accordingly, any disassembly of the MK-46 MOD 1 for parts or other purposes is hereby **PROHIBITED**. Please contact us immediately if a situation occurs.



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5. The MK-46 MOD 1 is specifically assigned to the CDR Lassen Memorial Medal of Honor Seahawk Display Aircraft.  
If the Torpedo comes off display and is no longer required, please plan to have it returned to the Gyrodyne Foundation for storage.
6. The Term of this loan for the loaned MK-46 MOD 1 Torpedo is ten years unless either party decides to end it prior to that time. If, on the 10-year anniversary of the execution of this document, the MK-46 MOD 1 Torpedo still resides on the CDR Lassen Memorial Medal of Honor Seahawk Display Aircraft, this loan agreement, by this section, will revert to a Ownership Transfer from the Gyrodyne Foundation to the Office of Commanding Officer, NAVBASE CORONADO; the Office of Commanding Officer will own the Torpedo and can do with it what they wish to do within the confines of any DoD – Federal, State and local applicable laws.
7. The MK-46 MOD 1 Torpedo exterior shape is not classified and can be photographed by your visitors at their discretion.
8. The Office of Commanding Officer, NAVBASE CORONADO acknowledges that Capt. Bill Personias, USN (ret) is attempting to arrange transportation of the MK-46 Torpedo from Reno NV to San Diego CA.
9. The Gyrodyne Helicopter Historical Foundation disclaims any and all responsibility and liability in the use of the loaned equipment by the Office of Commanding Officer, NAVBASE CORONADO for any and all uses of the loaned MK-46 MOD 1 Torpedo and its accessories. The use of the loaned MK-46 MOD 1 Torpedo is at the sole risk of the Office of Commanding Officer, NAVBASE CORONADO. We suggest that the empty container be retained and if anything, provided to your local torpedo shop for their use once the Torpedo is attached to the Seahawk display aircraft.
10. The Gyrodyne Foundation reserves the right to inspect the condition and location of the MK-46 MOD 1 Torpedo during normal operating hours of the Lassen Memorial Medal of Honor Seahawk Display and without notice. Be aware that Explosive Ordnance Disposal Personnel inspect memorials constantly and without notice; failure to maintain a safe and secure environment for the MK-46 MOD 1 Torpedo could result in immediate forfeiture of the shape and lead to its destruction like the F-14 Tomcat fighters whose parts ended up going to Iran.



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11. The Gyrodyne Foundation has had specific experience with the hanging of weapons on its aircraft, from height, in display settings. It is therefore strongly suggested that additional stainless-steel cables be used to secure the MK-46 MOD 1 Torpedo to the Seahawk Helicopter in the event that the MK-78 Suspension Bands, fail, at some point. The Torpedo bands are not designed for long term installation and the torque on the bands will loosen over time. We have seen it happen. Additional cabling can be done easily and is cheap insurance. Since this is a military setting, asking the Coronado Torpedo shop to do an occasional inspection would be wise.

The Office of Commanding Officer, NAVBASE CORONADO hereby acknowledges receipt of the MK-46 MOD 1 Torpedo, herein listed on the date below. Further, the undersigned assumes full responsibility for the torpedo subject to the conditions and warnings stated herein until their return.

The Loaned Equipment was received at The Office of Commanding Officer, NAVBASE CORONADO on this date:

I have read and accept the above loan conditions

\_\_\_\_\_  
The Office of Commanding Officer,  
NAVBASE CORONADO

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Approved and released by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Foundation Representative Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Prepared by: Peter P. Papadakos

\_\_\_\_\_  
Foundation Representative

26-Aug-2023

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Loan returned and accepted by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Foundation Representative Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

