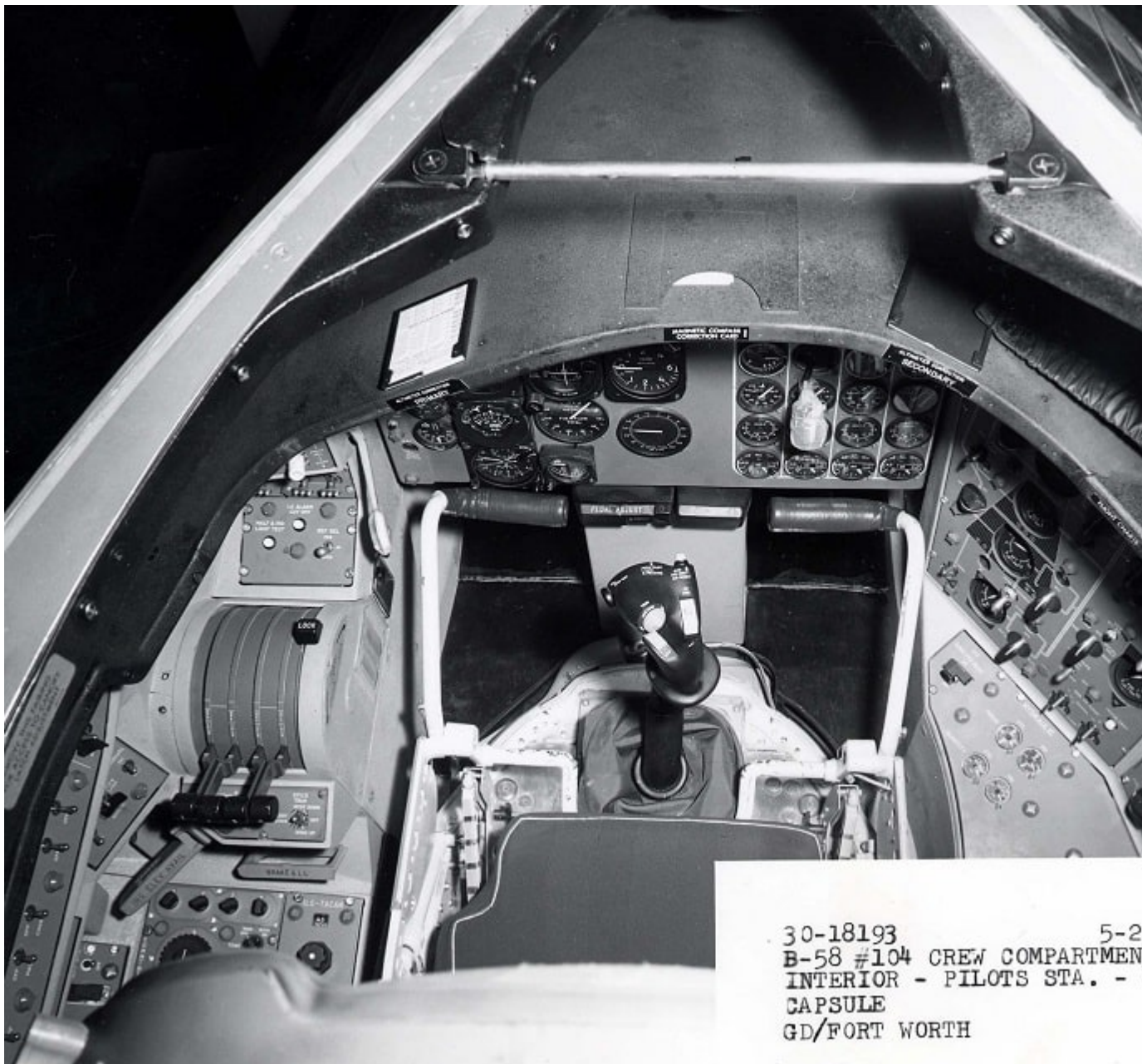


Unleashing Unmatched Speed: The B-58 Hustler Bomber's Hypersonic Design Reigns Supreme(VIDEO)aa

The United States Air Force's Convair B-58 Hustler was the first operational bomber designed for Mach 2 flights, flying at high altitudes and supersonic speeds. Developed in the 1950s for the Air Force's Strategic Air Command (SAC), the B-58 relied on its speed as the primary defense mechanism. The belief was that with an aircraft capable of flying fast and high enough, it would be nearly impossible for the enemy to shoot it down.

B-58 Hustler: A Bomber with a Purpose

For its time, the B-58 Hustler was revolutionary in many ways. It featured a radical delta wing shape, but it also included sophisticated inertial guidance navigation and bombing system, as well as a slender "wasp-waist" fuselage and extensive use of heat-resistant honeycomb sandwich skin panels in the wings and fuselage. However, the thin fuselage limited the ability to carry a bomb internally and instead was fitted with a two-component pod beneath the fuselage. It contained a hydrogen warhead as well as extra fuel and even advanced reconnaissance equipment.



30-18193 5-2
 B-58 #104 CREW COMPARTMENT
 INTERIOR - PILOTS STA. -
 CAPSULE
 GD/FORT WORTH

