

# TALOS FLIGHT TEST FACILITIES

From February to December 1945, flight tests to support propulsion and aerodynamic studies for the development of Talos were conducted at Island Beach, N.J. Activities were then transferred to Fort Miles, Del., pending the opening of the Bureau of Ordnance's east coast range at Camp Davis, N.C. Camp Davis was deactivated in 1948 because of lack of funds, and all flight testing in support of Talos was shifted to the Naval Ordnance Test Station (NOTS), China Lake, Calif. Testing of steering test vehicles was undertaken at NOTS as early as August 1945.

Most early flight tests in support of the development of the guidance system were conducted at

NOTS. Large (18-inch diameter) ramjet test vehicles were also tested there during the period from 1946 to 1950. When test requirements exceeded the available range at NOTS, the testing was shifted to White Sands Proving Ground, now White Sands Missile Range (WSMR). As time passed and the missile guidance system was in the final stages of development, shipboard prototype equipments were assembled at WSMR into a weapon control complex that was commissioned USS *Desert Ship*. That facility made it possible to test missile system improvements and the compatibility of the missile with the prototype shipboard equipment. *Desert Ship* supported development of the Talos Weapon Control System until about 1965.



A First Tactical Talos leaves its launcher at USS *Desert Ship*, White Sands Missile Range, N.M. (This is one of hundreds of fine technical photographs taken by the late Clyde T. Holliday during his long and distinguished career at APL.)