COLLECTION INFORMATION

Creator: Snyder, Richard G. (1928- )
Title: Richard G. Snyder Papers
Extent: 528.25 linear feet
Collection Number: MS-012

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION


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ABSTRACT

Richard G. Snyder is an internationally known research scientist with expertise in human impact tolerances and trauma mechanisms, biomechanics, forensic anthropology and anthropometry, crash protection, and transportation safety. The Snyder Papers consist of materials created and collected by Snyder in the course of his work as a research scientist over 50 years, including: technical and scientific publications and reports; Snyder's publications and research files; correspondence; reference files; films; and books and other printed materials.
BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY

Richard G. (Jerry) Snyder is an internationally known research scientist with expertise in human impact tolerances and trauma mechanisms, biomechanics, forensic anthropology and anthropometry, crash protection, and transportation safety.

Snyder was born 14 February 1928 in Northampton, Massachusetts. After attending Amherst High School in Amherst, Massachusetts, he received a scholarship to Amherst College, and he was a pre-med student at Amherst (1946-1948) prior to joining the United States Air Force in 1949. He served as a USAF pilot in the Korean War, undertaking one hundred combat missions.

Following his military service, Snyder attended University of Arizona, earning a B.A. in anthropology (1956), MA in physical anthropology (1957), and Ph.D. in physical anthropology and zoology (1959). He is also certified (D.ABFA) in forensic anthropology by the American Board of Forensic Anthropology.

Snyder was a research engineer in the Applied Research Laboratory, College of Engineering, University of Arizona, from 1958 to 1960. He also was on the staff of the Arizona Transportation and Traffic Institute (1959-60) and was an associate professor of systems engineering (1960) at University of Arizona. Snyder also served as a consultant for the U.S. Army Electronics Proving Ground in Fort Huachuca, Arizona, during this time.

From 1960 to 1966, Snyder worked for the Federal Aviation Administration's Civil Aeromedical Research Institute in Oklahoma City. He served as Chief of Physical Anthropology (1960-1966) and was a research pilot (1962-1966). He also served as Acting Chief, Protection and Survival Laboratories during several periods during 1963-1966.

From 1966 to 1968, Snyder worked in the Office of Automotive Safety Research for Ford Motor company, as manager of the Biomechanics Department (1966-1968) and as a principal research scientist (1968).

Snyder joined the faculty at University of Michigan in 1968. He was a research scientist in the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI; formerly the Highway Safety Research Institute) from 1968 to 1985. Concurrent with this position, he was an associate professor (1968-1973) and professor (1973-1985) of anthropology for the university. Snyder also served as Director, NASA Center of Excellence in Man Vehicle Systems in 1984-1985.

Snyder served as a consultant for numerous agencies and organizations throughout his career. He also served on the faculties of Michigan State University, University of Chicago, and University of Oklahoma at various times (concurrent appointments with the positions detailed above). Following his retirement from University of Michigan, he continued to serve as a consultant through his company BioDynamics International.

Snyder's research has been internationally recognized by numerous awards and honors. In 2004, University of Michigan established a named professorship, Richard G. Snyder Distinguished University Professor of Industrial and Operations Engineering. He has been named a fellow of numerous societies including American Anthropological Association (1959), Royal

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Richard G. Snyder Papers consist of materials created and collected by Snyder in the course of his work as a research scientist over 50 years, including: technical and scientific publications and reports; Snyder's publications and research files; correspondence; reference files; films; and books and other printed materials.

Included are Snyder's own publications, investigation case files, and research files, as well as an extensive library of technical publications and reports collected by Snyder in the course of his career. Topics in research and reference files include crash survivability, crashworthiness (including occupant protection), restraint systems, impact, emergency egress and escape, human factors, free fall, and crash tests. Also included are files relating to accident investigations and legal cases in which Snyder was involved. In addition to aviation, some files relate to automotive or railroad studies which are applicable to aviation (e.g., impact and restraint systems). Film topics include crash tests (including Snyder's research), restraint, impact survival, human factors, and crash resistant fuel systems.
PRELIMINARY INVENTORY

Processing of the collection is ongoing. Folder-level inventories are being created and may be available for specific subjects (even if not currently linked from the list below), please contact the Archives for additional information about the contents of specific subjects.

Note: drawer numbers refer to original file cabinet drawers. The contents of these file cabinets have been rehoused into archives boxes. A single file cabinet drawer may comprise a single box or up to three archives boxes.

Richard G. Snyder Publications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates/Contents</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1954-1967</td>
<td>drawer 105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967-1968</td>
<td>drawer 106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1969</td>
<td>drawer 107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>drawer 108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>drawer 113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>drawer 114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972-1974</td>
<td>drawer 115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974-1975</td>
<td>drawer 116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>drawer 121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>drawer 122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>drawer 123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>drawer 124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977-1978</td>
<td>drawer 129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>drawer 130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980-1981</td>
<td>drawer 131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981-1983</td>
<td>drawer 132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983-2001</td>
<td>drawer 139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal reports</td>
<td>drawer 140</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Topical Files

Acceleration and impact
drawer 16

Accident investigation
drawers 8, 13

Accident investigation courses/schools
drawer 14

Accident reconstruction
drawer 14

Aerial/agricultural application
drawer 14

Aft facing seats (see also "Seats")
drawer 88

Aircraft, miscellaneous reports
drawer 74

Aircraft accident investigation
drawer 13

Air ambulance
drawer 81

Air racing
drawer 81

Aircraft crash design guides
drawers 22-23

Aircraft crash tests
drawers 8, 15

Aircraft lighting
drawer 49

Aircraft seats (see also "Seats")
drawers 79, 85-86, 88

Alcohol
drawers 81, 137

Automotive
drawer 97

General
drawer 13

Accidents
drawer 13

Patents
drawer 76

Rollovers
drawer 97

Aviation, miscellaneous files
drawers 8, 13-14, 156, 165

Aviation accidents
drawer 66

General
drawer 66

Australia, 1960-1972
drawer 66

Canada, 1966-1984
drawer 67

France
drawer 67

Japan
drawer 67
New Zealand
United Kingdom
United States
Early aviation accidents
Forms
Aviation bibliographies
Aviation history
Aviation human factors
Aviation legal/product liability
Aviation regulations
  CAR
  FAR
Balloons
Beech aircraft
Bicycle helmets
Bicycles
Bird strikes
Cervical injury
CO & O₂
Collision injuries
Collisions
Crash cases
Crashworthiness
  General crashworthiness
  Aircraft crashworthiness
    Helicopter crashworthiness
  Railroad crashworthiness
  Seats
Decompressing
Ditching
Door latches

drawers 67-68
drawer 67
drawers 57-60, 65, 67
drawer 43
drawer 14
drawers 16, 21
drawer 43
drawer 44
drawer 50
drawers 5-7
drawers 6-7
drawer 49
drawer 89
drawers 1-2
drawer 81
drawer 83
drawers 98, 102-103
drawer 81
drawer 14
drawer 68
drawers 49, 155
drawer 41
drawers 16-20, 24-32, 37-39, 163-164
drawers 4, 145-148, 153, 157-168
drawer 155
drawer 12
drawer 81
drawers 33-34, 81
drawer 81
Drugs
drawer 81

Dust
drawer 83

Early crash references
drawer 89

Ejection
drawers 35-36, 41

Ejection and spinal injury
drawer 34

Emergency egress/emergency evacuation
drawers 34-36, 42

Escape
drawers 36, 41

Experimental safety vehicles
drawer 81

Experts (resumés)
drawer 21

Fatigue
drawer 81

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
Advisory circulars, 1963-1976
drawer 51

Crash tests (NASA/FAA tests)
drawers 8, 15

Notices of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)
drawer 5

Service Difficulty Reports
drawer 5

Standards
drawer 6

Fire
drawer 41

Fire protection
drawers 42-43

Flailing
drawer 81

Flotation devices
drawer 81

Free falls
drawers 149-152

General
drawer 150

Elevators
drawer 151

German War Department (World War II)
drawer 151

Golden Gate Bridge
drawer 151

Suicide
drawers 150-151

Future transport technology concepts
drawer 43

Fuel tanks
drawer 41

General aviation aircraft shipments
drawer 14

Head injury and protection; helmets
drawers 1-2

Human factors
drawer 44

Hypoxia
drawer 81

Impact
General
Child impact
drawers 1-2, 16, 73, 97
Impact and human deceleration, tolerance and protection
drawers 109-112, 117-120, 125-128, 133-136, 141-144
Impact injury
General
drawer 92
Facial impact
drawer 101
Female impact
drawer 101
Laryngeal Impact
drawer 101
Pregnant impact studies
drawer 101
Severity scales
drawer 101
Side impact
drawer 101
Railroad (impact design)
drawer 104
Incapacitation
drawer 49
Inflight explosions/failures
drawer 49
Injury codes
drawer 14
Lighter than air injuries
drawer 49
Lockerbie/Pan Am 103 case
drawer 90
Manpowered aircraft
drawer 68
Manuals
drawer 68
Math modeling
drawer 73
Midair collisions
drawer 68
Military standards and specifications
drawers 5-6
Motorcycle helmets
drawers 1-2
NASA/FAA crash tests
drawers 8, 15
National Transportation Safety Board
Air carrier reports
drawer 57
Briefs, general aviation, 1971-1978
drawers 57-58
Hazardous materials special studies, 1979-1982
drawer 57
Highway
drawer 67
Marine
drawer 67
Preliminary reports
drawer 57
Reports, 1971-1989
Safety recommendations
Special reports
Special studies
Noise and voice communication
Ozone
Pan Am 103 Lockerbie case
Panel displays
Passenger briefing cards
Pathology
Pedestrian trauma
Product liability
Propeller strike
Protection and survival
Railroad
  General
  Accidents
  Cab design
  Crashworthiness
  Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)
  Impact design
  Legal cases
  Restraint
  Seats
Restraint
  General
  Airbags (airbag restraint)
  Aircraft restraint
  Automotive restraint
  Child restraint
  Experimental restraint
Railroad restraint
drawer 138

Restraint injuries
drawers 71, 88, 154

Shoulder harness design
drawers 99-100

Rollover and rollover protective structures (ROPS) draw 137

Society of Automotive Engineers, Aerospace Recommended Practices (ARP)
drawer 7

Seats

General

Railroad
drawers 12-13, 23, 41, 79, 85-86, 88

drawers 138, 155

Smoke hoods
drawer 82

Spacecraft
drawer 41

Spinal injuries
drawer 102

Stall-spin accidents
drawer 83

Standards
drawers 5-7, 12

Steering wheel injury
drawer 83

Supersonic transport (SST); Concorde
drawer 83

Survival
drawer 33

Test films (summaries)
drawer 21

Toxicology
drawers 74-75, 81

Truck studies
drawer 83

Tumbling
drawer 83

Turbulence
drawers 83-84

Ultra lights
drawer 84

University of Michigan general aviation investigation studies, 1966-1971
drawer 59

University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI) drawer 95

Vertigo
drawer 84

Vibration
drawer 84

Whiplash cervical injury
drawer 103