

In article <SHAFER.93Apr6094402@rigel.dfrf.nasa.gov> shafer@rigel.dfrf.nasa.gov (Mary Shafer) writes:

>Dryden flew the first digital fly by wire aircraft in the 70s. No

>mechanical or analog backup, to show you how confident we were.

Confident, or merely crazed? That desert sun :-)

>successful we were. (Mind you, the Avro Arrow and the X-15 were both

>fly-by-wire aircraft much earlier, but analog.)

Gee, I thought the X-15 was Cable controlled. Didn't one of them have a total electrical failure in flight? Was there mechanical backup systems?

|The NASA habit of acquiring second-hand military aircraft and using

|them for testbeds can make things kind of confusing. On the other

|hand, all those second-hand Navy planes give our test pilots a chance

|to fold the wings--something most pilots at Edwards Air Force Base

|can't do.

What do you mean? Overstress the wings, and they fail at teh joints?

You'll have to enlighten us in the hinterlands.

pat