

Mothballed Manufacturing



Photo courtesy Lockheed Martin via Jeffrey P. Meador

When World War II ended abruptly fifty years ago, excess industrial capacity and expanded inventories were transformed from assets to headaches almost overnight. Boeing Plant 6 at Marietta, Ga., where B-29s were assembled during the war, sat idle, a graveyard for machine tools until it was resurrected in 1951 to refurbish Superfortresses for their

return to duty in the Korean War. The B-29s had been in desert storage at Pyote AFB, Tex. Today the plant is used by Lockheed Martin for production of the C-130 Hercules and P-3 Orion. It is slated to be the F-22 plant.