

# NOAA BACKGROUNDER



## Lake Seawolf (LA27)



### A WORD ABOUT NOAA . . .

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) conducts research and gathers data about the global oceans, atmosphere, space and sun, and applies this knowledge to science and service that touch the lives of all Americans.

NOAA warns of dangerous weather, charts our seas and skies, guides our use and protection of ocean and coastal resources, and conducts research to improve our understanding and stewardship of the environment which sustains us all.

A Commerce Department agency, NOAA provides these services through five major organizations: the National Weather Service, the National Ocean Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service, and Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research; and numerous special program units. In addition, NOAA research and operational activities are supported by the Nation's seventh uniformed service, the NOAA Corps, a commissioned officer corps of men and women who operate NOAA ships and aircraft, and serve in scientific and administrative posts.

For further information: NOAA Office of Public Affairs, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW, Room 6013, Washington, D.C. 20230. Phone: (202) 482-6090

The Lake Seawolf (LA27), powered by a single Lycoming TIO-540 turbo-charged engine, is a cost effective, four-place, amphibious platform for near shore low-level surveys with a proven record of dependability and versatility. The aircraft operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Aircraft Operations Center (AOC) is located on the West Coast, Santa Barbara, Calif., in support of National Marine Sanctuary research and enforcement efforts. In the past, the aircraft has been utilized for low-level biological surveys (i.e. red drum, sea turtles and manatees); as well as on site terrain observations and pilot training.

The following modifications and installations have been accomplished to support NOAA missions:

- ✈ GPS/Loran-C navigation system with scientific data drop
- ✈ Radar Altimeter
- ✈ Bubble windows on each side of the aircraft
- ✈ Under-wing hard-points for camera pod attachment
- ✈ Dual VHF radios
- ✈ Additional external fuel tanks (increases endurance to 14 hours )
- ✈ Modified ventilation system with individual air ducts for rear seat passengers

The aircraft has been utilized by the National Marine Sanctuaries, Monterey Bay and Channel Island National Marine Sanctuaries on the West Coast, and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary on the East Coast. The aircraft is directly involved in the protection and patrolling of these valuable national resources. The aircraft monitors several thousand square miles of protected areas for such violations as illegal oil, gas and mineral exploration; discharging or depositing of materials; moving or removing historical resources; taking any marine mammal, sea turtle, or seabird, and dredging, or otherwise altering the seabed or reefs. The aircraft also participate in vessel counts and provide rapid response to vessel grounding sites where hazardous material spills could be involved.



Additional information about the National Marine Sanctuaries can be found at the website [www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov](http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov).

### AIRCRAFT CHARACTERISTICS

Crew	1 Pilot/3 Observers
Cruise Speed:	135 Knots
Take off Weight:	3,700 lbs
Service Ceiling:	19,000 Feet
Range:	1,500 nm
Endurance:	10 hours (14 hours with external tanks)
Engine:	270 horsepower, TIO-540-AAIAD Lycoming
Propeller:	Hartzell HCE3YR-1RLF
Instrumentation:	GPS/LORAN Radar Altimeter Hardpoints for Camera Pods



For further information, please contact Lori Bast, NOAA Aircraft Operations Center Public Affairs, at (813) 828-3310, ext. 3072, or visit our website at <http://www.aoc.noaa.gov>.

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