

Navy A-6 Intruder arrives in Albany on journey to Aerosciences Museum

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ALBANY — The Port of Albany received some unusual cargo Thursday afternoon when a tugboat pulled in toting a Navy attack bomber bound for a Glenville museum.

The Navy A-6 Intruder, used extensively in the Vietnam War, will soon join several other decommissioned warplanes on display at the Empire State Aerosciences Museum.

"This is one of the more famous of the recent aircraft," said Al Hulstrunk, a museum volunteer who was part of a caravan that followed the bomber. "It wasn't fast, but it was rugged and it could carry a lot of bombs and rockets."

This week, the museum's mission

was bringing the bomber up from the Naval Air Station in Norfolk, Va., where it had been in storage. The journey began Monday with some help from two military ships that gave the bomber and some museum volunteers a ride from Virginia. Others followed by car.

In case the trip got rough, the military wanted someone from the museum on board to give the approval to jettison the bomber, Hulstrunk said.

The Coast Guard crew of the USS Penobscot Bay volunteered to use its ice-cutting tugboat to carry the Intruder up the Hudson River, from the Navy Weapons Station in Earl, N.J.

A naval supply ship had already carried the boat to New Jersey from Virginia.

Now the dilemma for ESAM officials is whether to maneuver the In-

truder to its new home by land or sea.

"There's two ways: one is by helicopter, and the other way is by barge up the Mohawk River," said Sid Brown, a museum spokesman. For now, the plane will remain at the Port of Albany.

If it is moved by air, the museum would probably have to call on assistance from the Army, possibly borrowing the use of a helicopter at Bradley International Airport outside Hartford, Conn.

Otherwise, it could send the plane down the Mohawk River and use a crane to bring it up to Route 50, where it could then be transported by truck to the museum, Brown said. The museum usually takes apart planes and transports them in pieces, or has them flown in, Brown said.



MARC SCHULTZ *Gazette Photographer*

Intruder ahoy

Al Hulstrunk of the Empire State Aerosciences Museum in Glenville holds a tether line as a Navy A-6 Intruder is lifted off a barge at the Port of

Albany on Thursday. The plane, used in Vietnam, will be on display at the museum. Story, Page B3.