97 Rockets will push a sledge at twice the speed of sound to test out the nose assembly and radar housing of a new American fighter plane.

Nozzles will spray water as the sledge streaks past to test the effect of torrential rain which, at speeds ~~like the~~ OVER 1500-miles-an-hour at which this sledge is ~~being~~ hurled along the five-mile track, can bite out chunks of metal, ~~a danger which must be overcome~~.

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Music: Spirit of Youth (Belwin) PN 368
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HIGH-SPEED RESEARCH...ROCKET SLED SETS RECORD AT 1560 M.P.H.

Rockets, to provide thrust for a record-breaking recoverable-sled run...better than twice the speed of sound! A nose radome from a jet interceptor will be tested..... and here you see the 12 rockets, five for the booster, or pusher sled. Artificial rain is created in the blazing sun of California's Mojave Desert, to study its effect on the radome (which is a housing for a radar antenna) while the sled rockets at 15-hundred and 60 miles per hour. 1560 - m.p.h.

The eye sees nothing but the smoke!

And now in slow motion. As technicians monitor telemetering equipment, the test sled moves from booster to its own 7-rocket power. Streaks of flame shoot from the sled's steel slippers which hold it on the 10-thousand foot track.

A water trough halts the sled -- and Air Force experts will determine the effect of the rain, which at supersonic velocities can erode hard metal.