

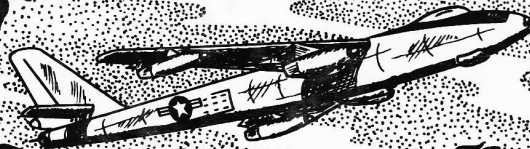
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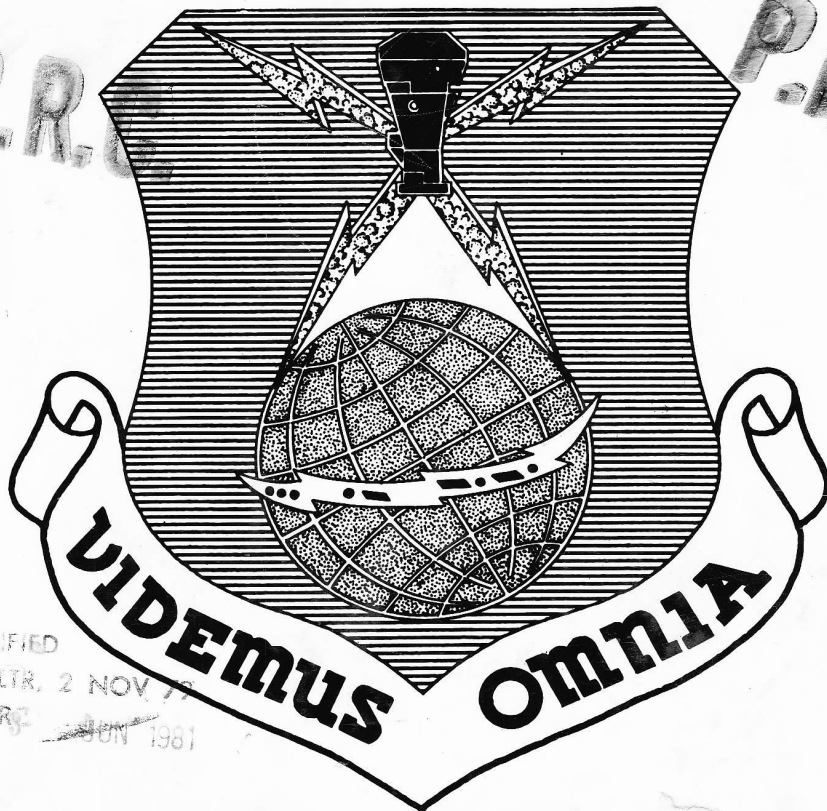
Monthly History

55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing Medium Jet FORBES AIR FORCE BASE TOPEKA, KANSAS



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STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND

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Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433
64-55-11
Oct-Dec 1956

3-4933-891

CHRONOLOGY

- 9, 10, 11 October - A unit simulated combat mission was carried out by the 55th Wing under 8th Air Force Operations Order 109-56, "Party Line".
- 21 October - A practice alert was called to determine if any difficulties were encountered in the carrying out of the 40 Plan.
- 31 October - The 55th Air Refueling Squadron deployed under 8th Air Force Operations Order 88-56, "Sand Box", to Ernest Harmon AB for a period of 60-days TDY.
- 15 November - A SAC-wide alert was called that lasted until 9 December. Middle East crisis was one reason for the alert conditions.
- 22 December - All Wing flying operations ceased except for weather sorties and scheduled detachment deployment in accordance with Christmas procedures. All personnel were given leaves in proportion to alert conditions.
- 27 December - The 55th Air Refueling Squadron returned from TDY at Ernest Harmon AB.
- 31 December - As of this date, 2014 officers and airmen were assigned to the 55th SRW.

In this operation the Wing was to exercise the "S" band radars of the Western Air Defense Forces, to evaluate the capability of the "Phase 5" equipped RB-47 aircraft to accomplish an assigned mission under specified conditions, and to conduct ECM activities against the NIKE acquisition radars. Air refueling was furnished by the 55th Air Refueling Squadron.²

On 31 October 1956, 8th Air Force Operations Order 88-56, "Sand Box", was carried out by the 55th Air Refueling Squadron. This operation was a 60-day TDY deployment to Ernest Harmon Air Base, Newfoundland.

Eighteen KC-97 aircraft were deployed by the Refueling Squadron along with crews and support personnel. Immediately upon arrival, the squadron off-loaded cargo and personnel and readied the aircraft for support of strike mission.

Eighth Air Force issued the Execution Order for deployment of aircraft.³

A SAC-wide alert was called at 0045 hours on 15 November 1956, and lasted until 9 December 1956. This alert made necessary many alterations in the Monthly Wing Operation Plan.⁴ Crisis in the Middle East was one reason for the three-week alert.

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2. Operations Order 109-56, Hq 55th SRW, 15 Oct 56, pp. 2-3, Exh 12.
 3. Operations Order 88-56, Hq 55th SRW, 20 Oct 56, pp. 2-4, Exh 1.
 4. Report, Director of Operations, Hq 55th SRW, November 1956, p. 1, Exh 3.