

HEADQUARTERS
462D STRATEGIC AEROSPACE WING (SAC)
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
LARSON AIR FORCE BASE, WASHINGTON

Editor
Yakima Herald
Yakima, Washington

23 October 1963

Dear Sir

Enclosed you will find the information brochure, 'Score One', for the twentieth anniversary of the Fifteenth Air Force plus a brief history of the Fifteenth Air Force. This anniversary will be celebrated on November 1, 1963.

I draw your particular attention to the Larson Air Force Base release, the numerous fact sheets, and the biography of Fifteenth Air Force Deputy Commander, Major General D. E. Wilson, a former resident of Ephrata, Washington. These should be of greater use to you.

Letters have been sent to Governor Rosellini and the mayors of your surrounding communities requesting that November 1 be proclaimed Fifteenth Air Force Day. Any manner in which you can use this material to aid us in further commemorating this event will be appreciated.

I suggest that you retain this information for future reference to Larson Air Force Base, Fifteenth Air Force, or the Strategic Air Command.

Cordially



RUSSELL J. GOLDBERGER
2d/Lt., USAF
Information Officer



OFFICE OF INFORMATION
462d Strategic Aerospace Wing (SAC)
Larson Air Force Base, Washington
Area Code 509 769-2325

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LARSON AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. -- The month of November marks another United States Air Force milestone---a period of particular interest to the people of the state of Washington. The month begins with the twentieth anniversary of Fifteenth Air Force, the oldest Air Force in the Strategic Air Command. It was twenty years ago to the day that the top military staff at the Pentagon approved General Hap Arnold's plan for a new command and directed Major General Jimmy Doolittle to set up his headquarters in Tunis. The following day, the fledgling Fifteenth Air Force held its first raid---a devastating B-17 attack directed at the Messerschmidt aircraft plant in Austria. Fifteenth Air Force went on to provide the aerial spearhead for the allied drive into Europe from the Mediterranean.

Following the organization of the Strategic Air Command in March 1946 Fifteenth became the first operational force under the command

destined to be the long-range striking force of American air power. Fifteenth was the first SAC unit to take part in the Korean campaign in June 1950.

Fifteenth Air Force, with its global range and strike capability, has units at seventeen bases located in the western states. Its aircraft include the Boeing B-52 and B-47 and the KC-135 jet tanker; in addition, Fifteenth has a mixed force of missiles to complement the bombers. Among these are the Atlas, Titan I and II and Minuteman intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Larson Air Force Base, an active member of Fifteenth Air Force since January 1, 1960, holds special significance during this anniversary for two reasons: Larson AFB is where the Boeing Aircraft Company maintained its flight test center where such famous aircraft as the B-47 and B-50 were tested and the B-52 and KC-135 modified. The latter two aircraft are now active parts of the Fifteenth Air Force arsenal.

Yet there is another reason. Larson Air Force Base will celebrate its twenty-first anniversary on November 24th of this year. The base, originally Moses Lake Army Air Base, was formed to train pilots and crews at the offset of World War II. The first crews trained were for B-17 Flying Fortresses. World War II missions flown by Fifteenth Air Force most likely utilized Larson trained crews.

Thus November is a month, not only important to Larson Air Force Base, but to the people of Washington. Fifteenth Air Force has made a sizeable impact in this state.

END

Headquarters
FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE
United States Air Force
March Air Force Base, California

LIEUTENANT GENERAL ARCHIE J. OLD JR., COMMANDER FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE

Born at Farmersville, Texas, August 1, 1906, Lt. General Archie J. Old Jr., Commander Fifteenth Air Force, was working his way through the University of Texas when he enlisted in the Texas National Guard as a private, April 16, 1930. A year later, he was appointed an aviation cadet and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Air Reserve, February 26, 1932.

For short periods during the following seven years he served on active duty as a reserve officer and on September 6, 1940, was ordered to extended active duty.

During WW II, he flew 43 combat missions against Germany. He led the historic raid against the ball-bearing plant at Schweinfurt, Germany, on October 10, 1943. As a member of the 45th Bomber Wing, he led the first shuttle bomb run from England to Russia in June 1944. For the latter, he received the Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's second highest award.

His latest well-known achievement was the first non-stop round-the-world flight of three Boeing B-52 Stratofortresses in January 1957. General Old flew the lead aircraft which circled the globe in 45 hours 19 minutes. Total distance flown: 24,325 miles.

In 1951, when a SAC officer was needed to activate and command two important overseas air divisions - the 7th in England and the 5th in French Morocco - General Old got both jobs.

In February 1953, he was assigned to the post of Director of Operations for Strategic Air Command. Two years later, in August 1955, he assumed command of the Fifteenth Air Force.

In addition to his DSC, General Old wears the Legion of Merit, the Silver Star with cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross with four clusters, Air Medal with eight clusters, and the Purple Heart. He has been awarded numerous foreign decorations including the British Distinguished Service Cross and the French Legion of Honor.

General and Mrs. Old have one daughter, Adeline, born May 11, 1937, now Mrs. Richard Allyn Vaill.

MAJOR GENERAL DELMAR EDMOND WILSON

Deputy Commander
Fifteenth Air Force

Delmar E. Wilson is a native of Ephrata, Wash. He was graduated from Washington State University with a BA degree.

He entered the Air Force through the Aviation Cadet Training Program and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant at Kelly Field, Tex., in July of 1937. His first assignment was to the 17th Attack Group at March Field, Calif., flying A-17's. The General remained with the 17th Attack Group until 1941.

After leaving the 17th Attack Group he assumed command of the 85th Bomb Squadron, 47th Bomb Group at Fresno, Calif. From February 1942 to January 1943, General Wilson was assigned to the 305th Bomb Group, first as Group Operations Officer and later as Deputy Commander. After performing initial combat duty with the 305th in England, he became Operations Officer for the First Air Division. He was assigned as Commander of the 305th Bomb Group in June 1943.

In November 1943, General Wilson became Director of Operations for the 8th Air Force. In September 1944 he returned to the states for reassignment to the 21st Bomber Command as Director of Operations and departed for Saipan in October 1944. He participated in some of the initial B-29 strikes against Japan. Later he was assigned as Deputy for Operations for 313th Bomb Wing, 21st Bomber Command and was command liaison officer for Gen. Curtis E. LeMay for the Atom Bomb Project in the South Pacific Area.

After completing more than three years on overseas assignments, General Wilson received his new Zone of Interior Post as Deputy Commander of Hamilton Field, Calif. From Hamilton, he was assigned to the Air University on the Staff of the Air Tactical School and was Deputy Commandant. In 1950 he was assigned to the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. to serve as Chief of the Strategic Air Requirements Division. After finishing his three year assignment at the Pentagon, General Wilson attended the Air War College at Maxwell AFB, Ala. He then became Base Commander of Barksdale AFB, La., for a period of one year.

General Wilson took command of the 384th Bombardment Wing, Little Rock AFB, Ark., in September of 1955. On Feb. 7, 1957, he assumed command of the 36th Air Division at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.

The General commanded the 821st Air Division at Ellsworth AFB, S.D., from April 12, 1960, until Sept. 23, 1962, when he became Deputy Commander of Fifteenth Air Force.

He was promoted to his present rank of Major General on Mar. 7, 1961.

HEADQUARTERS FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE
DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION
MARCH AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA

FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE: SCORE ONE

Twenty years ago - - World War II
Days - - the top military staff at the Pentagon approves General
Hap Arnold's plan for a new command and sends a cablegram to General
Eisenhower in London.

In a schoolhouse at Tunis - - November 1,
1943 - - Major General Jimmy Doolittle sets up his headquarters, plans
the first mission for the next day - - over a hundred B-17 flying
fortresses and B-24 Liberator Bombers will drop 300 tons of bombs
on the Messerschmidt - 109 Plant at Wiener-Neustadt in Austria.
Fifteenth Air Force's life starts and Nazi Germany's ability to wage
war declines.

From Bari, Italy, where 15th Air
Force's headquarters moved a month later, the command emblazoned the
skies for the duration of the European Campaign. The oil refineries
at Ploesti were hit hard: Nazi war engines thirsted and died for
want of fuel.

Major General Nate Twining - - destined
to be Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Cold War - -
turned in the final scores as second and last commander during the
combined bomber offensive: 6,286 enemy aircraft destroyed - -
309,126 tons of explosives dropped on enemy targets in 12 European
countries - - flew 151,029 heavy bomber sorties and 89,397 fighter
sorties - - -

Victory's price: 3,379 aircraft lost - -
2,700 airmen killed.

The atomic age: One of 15th Air Force's first assignments was to supply trained crews for the task force which dropped the atomic bomb on Bikini.

Another war another day. Major General 'Rosie' O'Donnell runs Fifteenth now, in 1948, a big part of the Strategic Air Command, from March Air Force Base. A global capability and combat readiness is built into the streamlined command - - B-29's, air refueling, intensive training.

With the outbreak of communist aggression in Korea in 1950, a major component of the existing far eastern air force came to be a bomber command. 15th Air Force B-29s were its senior partners. Their transfer to the Far East was rapid and they entered the Korean Combat air arena 24 hours after arriving in Japan.

Decisive air strikes on enemy strategic systems in North Korea provided the military pressure required to bring the enemy back to the truce table and armistice terms - the U. N. objectives of the war.

At the close of the Korean War Major General Walter C. Sweeney became commander and the ensuing two years witnessed the conversion from B-29 bombers to B-47 jets.

Lt. General Archie J. Old, Jr., veteran World War II combat commander of the European air battles became 15th Air Force's commander in August 1955. General Old came right from Headquarters SAC, where he had been Director of Operations.

From then - - - The conversion of B-36 and B-47 aircraft to the B-52 stratofortress is virtually complete.

The dispersal of these heavy aircraft squadrons to one per tactical base is likewise virtually complete.

Three B-52 Stratofortresses, led by General Old flew 24,235 miles non-stop around the world in 45 hours, 19 minutes.

A quarter of the globe succumbed to a 15th Air Force KC-135 when General Old, 15th Commander, flew non-stop from Madrid, Spain to Riverside, Calif., covering 6,100 miles in 13 hours and 10 minutes.

A program to provide KC-135 tankers on a one-to-one basis with B-52s is also nearing completion.

The one-third ground alert and 50 per cent ground alert have been successively inaugurated.

Airborne alert indoctrination training flights have been flown for four years.

Under other operation orders, aircraft and crews have rotated to forward area bases for five years to stand alert.

Minimum interval takeoffs for faster aircraft launching have proven to be feasible.

A new headquarters combat operations center is almost completed.

Fully as important, unmanned weapon systems have entered the command's inventory since August 8, 1960. Ten bases now have intercontinental ballistic missiles - Atlas, Titan, and Minuteman - and all are operational. Seven of these ICBM squadrons are integrated with aircraft wings; the remainder have separate missile wings.

The command stands ever ready to increase its readiness posture during times of international tension such as the Lebanon crisis of 1958 and the Cuban Crisis of 1962.

Fifteenth Air Force units are on 20 bases, 14 are SAC owned and six are tenants. General Old - - whose 8th year leadership is the longest for a 15th Air Force commander - - directs the operations of 21 wings, including 18 aircraft and 3 missile wings.

HEADQUARTERS FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE
DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION
MARCH AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA

Headquarters 15th Air Force, March Air Force Base, Calif - - -

The civilian role as partner of the military in the national security effort was summed up by Lt. General Archie J. Old, Jr., Commander of Fifteenth Air Force on the eve of the Command's 20th Birthday.

General Old said in a message to communities near the Strategic Air Command units that 'You, as our neighbors and fellow citizens, have played an important role in bringing SAC to the peak of combat efficiency it has attained. Without your support and understanding the task would have been much more difficult to achieve.'

The full text of the message is as follows: 'November 1st marks the Twentieth Anniversary of Fifteenth Air Force. Throughout the western half of the United States, bases of this command will be celebrating twenty years of service to the American people.'

Fifteenth Air Force came into being on November 1st, 1943 amid the conflict of World War II. During that war bombers of this command took the fight directly to the heartland of the enemy.

Since the close of World War II, Fifteenth Air Force has continued to play a vital role in maintaining peace in the free world. The old B-24's that once formed the backbone of our strike power are long since gone. They have made way for newer and more powerful weapons. Jet bomber-tanker teams are now the leaders in manned strike aircraft.

In most recent years, still another milestone in weaponry has been achieved. As one of the major component forces of SAC, Fifteenth Air Force is the pioneer in intercontinental ballistic missiles. Today the Atlas, Titan and Minuteman - - - teamed with our manned aircraft make this command a potent mixed force of bombers and missiles.

Our dedicated men and women have met and mastered this transition to modern weapons. In doing so they have developed a strong deterrent force which allows for continued expansion of our economy and freedom to pursue the American way of life.

As commander of Fifteenth Air Force I want each of you to know that I am grateful for your support. As a team we have been able to prevent an open global conflict, and with your continued help we intend to keep it that way for another twenty years.

the western half of the United States
be celebrating twenty years of service to the American people
Fifteenth Air Force came into being on November 1st, 1947
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Since the close of World War II, Fifteenth Air Force has
continued to play a vital role in maintaining peace in the free
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power are long since gone. They have made way for newer and more
powerful weapons. Jet bomber-transport teams are now the leaders in
manned strike aircraft.

DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION
HEADQUARTERS FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE
MARCH AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA
Tel: MORENO LD 20 - Ext 21231, 21232

FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE TODAY

Facts for Editors

The growth of Fifteenth Air Force since WWII was brought about by a need for US military strength able to react almost immediately if an attack should be made against us.

Fifteenth Air Force today has a substantial portion of the Free World's deterrent force. In fact, one B-52 bomber carries more lethal power than all the bombs dropped during World War II.

And Fifteenth Air Force has more than B-52 bombers - more than one weapon.

It has intercontinental ballistic missiles - Atlas, Titan and Minuteman. Each of these can be fired within the warning time of our early warning system.

Fifteenth Air Force units, bombers and missiles are dispersed. They are at 20 locations in the United States and Alaska.

To man and support the weapon systems Fifteenth Air Force has more than 27,000 people - 10,000 officers, 61,000 airmen and 6,000 civilians.

Fifteenth Air Force is a big business - a business operated solely to prevent war, but operated in such a way that should an aggressor start a war, the attack could be absorbed and the enemy defeated.

Fifteenth Air Force has assets of almost \$6 billion. Included is equipment valued at more than \$500 million and supplies totaling \$175 million. Its real property adds up to more than \$1 1/2 billion and its aircraft and other weapons to almost \$4 billion.

Fifteenth Air Force has to spend money to stay in business.

And its a lot of money - pay to officers, airmen and civilians alone comes to almost \$300 million a year. Then other items such as subsistence for personnel, medical services, utilities, communications, travel and contracted services add up to approximately \$500 million each year.

There are other dollars spent - for fuels.

Weapons use a lot of fuel today and the fuels are varied.

For example because of the high altitude at which aircraft fly today liquid oxygen is necessary. Almost 6 million gallons were used this past year. Both Atlas and Titan I missiles use large quantities of oxygen or LOX as it is called.

The Minuteman is a solid fuel missile and Titan II uses a special type of fuel.

Helium is also used, about 37 million gallons a year. Nitrogen used in the Atlas and Titan I totals more than 7 1/2 million gallons a year.

Jet bombers, tankers and other planes consumed more than 635 million gallons of kerosene (JP4) last year which cost \$63 million. Other fuels and LOX and nitrogen cost approximately \$3 1/2 million a year.

Much of the liquid oxygen and nitrogen is manufactured in plants operated by Fifteenth Air Force. Each missile base has a plant with a capacity of 5,000 gallons a day for either LOX or nitrogen.

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HEADQUARTERS FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE
MARCH AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA
Tel: MORENO LD 20 - Ext 21231, 21232

FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE FACTS

Fifteenth Air Force, the Strategic Air Command's oldest bomber command, has entered the aerospace age by integrating missiles into its weapons system.

The strategic air power concept developed during World War II, and Fifteenth Air Force, activated on November 1, 1943, teamed up to provide the aerial spearhead for the allied drive into Europe from the Mediterranean.

Fifteenth was inactivated in April 1945 but ten days after the organization of Strategic Air Command in March of 1946 was recalled to become the first operational force under the command destined to be the long-range striking force of American air power. Fifteenth was the first SAC unit to take part in the Korean campaign in June 1950.

Fifteenth Air Force, with its global range and strike capability, has units at seventeen bases located in the western states. Its aircraft include the Boeing eight-jet-engined B-52 Stratofortress long-range bomber, the six-jet B-47 Stratojet medium bomber, the KC-135 four-jet-engined Stratotanker and some KC-97 four-piston-engined air refueling tankers.

-OVER-

Following is a list of operational missile sites controlled by

Fifteenth Air Force:

SM-65 Atlas ICBM (General Dynamics Astronautics)

Fairchild AFB, Spokane, Wash.
Dyess AFB, Abilene, Tex.
Schilling AFB, Salinas, Kan.
Walker AFB, Roswell, N. M.

SM-68 Titan I & II ICBM (Martin Co.)

Beale AFB, Marysville, Calif. (Titan I)
Davis-Monthan AFB, Tucson, Ariz. (Titan II)
Ellsworth AFB, Rapid City, S. D. (Titan I)
Larson AFB, Moses Lake, Wash. (Titan I)
Mt. Home AFB, Mt. Home, Idaho (Titan I)

LCM-30A Minuteman ICBM (Boeing Co.)

Malmstrom AFB, Great Falls, Mont.
Ellsworth AFB, Rapid City, S. D.

GAM-77 Hound Dog ASM (North American Aviation, Inc.) and
Quail Decoy Missile ADM-20A (McDonnell Aircraft Co.)

Beale AFB, Marysville, Calif. (Quail, Hound Dog)
Ellsworth AFB, Rapid City, S. D. (Hound Dog)
Fairchild AFB, Spokane, Wash. (Hound Dog)
Mather AFB, Sacramento, Calif. (Hound Dog)
Travis AFB, Fairchild, Calif. (Quail, Hound Dog)
Walker AFB, Roswell, N. M. (Hound Dog)

HEADQUARTERS FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE
Directorate of Information
March Air Force Base, California

FORMER FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE LEADERS

In a score of years as a combat air arm Fifteenth Air Force has had ten leaders. Lt. Gen. Archie J. Old, Jr., has been the Commander the longest, for eight years.

First Commander of wartime Fifteenth Air Force was LFL GEN. JAMES H. DOOLITTLE: He served from November 1943 to January 1944...Then assumed command of Eighth Air Force in both European and Pacific Theaters from January 1944 to September 1945. Best known for leading first aerial raid on Japanese mainland in 1942 with B-26 aircraft which took off from flight deck of aircraft carrier. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for this exploit. Reverting to inactive Reserve status in 1946, he returned to Shell Oil Company, his main employer since 1930. In March 1951 he was appointed a special assistant to the Chief of Staff of Air Force at Washington, D. C., in a civilian status.

GEN. NATHAN F. TWINING

Second Commander of wartime Fifteenth Air Force, he took over leadership in January 1944. Two months later he also assumed command of Mediterranean Allied Strategic Forces. Following surrender of Germany, he was appointed Commander of 20th Air Force in Pacific; a few days later his command dropped first atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

LT. GEN. ELMER J. ROGERS

Gen. Rogers assumed command of Fifteenth Air Force in late August, 1945 and held that post until 30 March 1946. In 1944 Gen. Rogers assumed command of the 465th Bomb Group at McCook Field, Nebraska, taking it to the Mediterranean Theater in February 1944. The General was named Commanding Officer of the 97th Bomb Group in that theater. In 1956 he became Inspector General, USAF Headquarters. He is retired and lives in Falls Church, Virginia.

MAJ. GEN. CHARLES F. BORN

First Commander of the post-war Fifteenth Air Force, reactivated March 31, 1946, with headquarters at Colorado Springs, Colorado. A West Point graduate, Class of '28, he was named Assistant Chief of Staff, Operations and Training, when Fifteenth Air Force was formed at Tunis, Tunisia, in 1943. He became Deputy Commander of Fifteenth in October 1944, then served at Headquarters AAF after de-activation of Fifteenth at end of war. Gen. Born retired in 1955, now resides in Dallas, Texas.

GEN. LEON W. JOHNSON

Assumed command of Fifteenth Air Force from Gen. Born in April 1947. Graduated from West Point in 1926, was transferred from infantry to Army Air Corps in 1930. He won the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1943 for his actions while leading the fourth element of the mass low-level bombing attack of the Ninth Air Force against the Ploesti oil refineries. Gen. Johnson retired in 1961 and is living in McLean, Virginia.

Is a West Point graduate, Class of '18. He became Chief of Staff of Air Force in 1953 and Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1957, a position he held until his retirement in 1960. Presently resides in Washington, D. C.

BRIG. GEN. JAMES A. MOLLISON

The third Fifteenth Air Force Commander won his wings and was commissioned a second Lieutenant in 1918. Subsequently he was a flying instructor, had duty in Washington, D. C. in the Office of the Chief of Air Corps, was executive officer at Hickam Field, Hawaii, and Chief of Staff of the Seventh Air Force. He headed the Second Air Service Area Command at Fort Worth, Texas. 1942 saw him as Commanding General of the Mobile Air Depot Control Area Commander. In May 1960 he assumed Command of Fifteenth Air Force. Now retired in Wash., D. C.

BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM L. LEE

Was Commander of Fifteenth Air Force during August 1945. Soon after World War II began Gen. Lee was named supervisor of training for B-26 groups in Florida. In early 1943 he was given the task of training B-25 groups. In April, 1945 he assumed command of the 49th Bomb Wing until cessation of hostilities, when he was named Deputy Director of the Air Force Sub-Commission in Rome. Later he went to the Philippines where he was Commander of the 13th Air Force, followed by command of the 3320th Technical Training Wing, Amarillo AFB, Texas. Gen. Lee is retired and lives in Washington, D. C.

GEN. EMMETT O'DONNELL, JR.

Followed Gen. Johnson as Commander of Fifteenth Air Force in 1948. A graduate of West Point in 1928, he served in Asiatic-Pacific Theater during WW II, led the first B-29 attack on Tokyo. In early 1948 he was appointed steering and coordinating member of the military representation on following agencies: Permanent Joint Board on Defense, Canada-United States; Canada-United States Defense Commission. Two months before taking over Fifteenth in August 1948, he was assigned to the Central Control Group at AF Headquarters, retaining his position with other agencies. Prior to retirement in 1963, he was Commander of PACAF (Pacific Air Force). Now resides in Washington, D.C.

GEN. WALTER C. SWEENEY, JR.

Was Director of Plans at SAC Headquarters prior to being named Fifteenth Air Force Commander in 1953. A West Point graduate, Class of '30, he served in Asiatic-Pacific Theater during WW II. Gen. Sweeney is presently Commander of the Tactical Air Command.