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History
of the
4080th Strategic Wing (SAC)
Special Operations
10 - 31 October 1962
(Unclassified Title)

This appendix is classified ~~SECRET~~ it contains
information on specifics of 4080th Strategic Wing
reconnaissance operations.

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APPENDIX - B

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Additional high altitude weather reconnaissance flights were flown on 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, and 31 October 1962 with 100 per cent success on all sorties. In addition, the 408th CI 5 flew six other radiation measurement flights for the Air Force Technical Application Center (AFTRAC). These radiation measurement flights were flown on 15, 16, 20, 26, and 27 October 1962 with 100 per cent success on all sorties. (S)(u)

A total of 19 sorties for 127.15 hours were flown by the detachment at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii during the month of October 1962. This flying time included one deployment sortie, one recovery flight, nine meteorologic weather reconnaissance flights and eight AFTRAC radiation measure sorties. (S)(u)

There were no major problem areas at Operating Location Nine during the month of October with no air or ground aborts and only one 10 minute late take-off due to a Auto Pilot system problem. (S)(u)

PROJECT "STAR WIND II": A requirement was levied upon the 408th Strategic Wing in October 1962 by higher headquarters for the accomplishment of upper air particulate sampling to determine the amount of atomic debris in the lower stratosphere and to determine the rates of stratospheric residence of atomic debris. This sampling was to be accomplished from Hickam Air Force Base, Alaska (CI 5); Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas (CI 10); Royal Australian Air Force Station, Laverton, Australia (CI 11); and Andersen Air Force Base, Guam (CI 12). (S)(u)

10. Told.

11. Told.

12. Told.

13. Operation Code 23-0, 1 October 1962, D. 200000 20.

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Operating Location Three at Royal Australian Air Force Station Laverton, was required to expose four filters of the nose sampler at equal segments of the north profile from Laverton and to expose four filters of the F-2 hatch sampler on the return profile. Operating Location 11 at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam was to accomplish similar sampling except that the profiles would be flown south of Andersen Air Force Base instead of north as for CL 11. (U)

In addition to these sampling requirements each CL was required to expose the dust probe when available. This dust probe sampling was to be accomplished at either 60,000 feet or at maximum altitude in conjunction with normal missions. (U)

This sampling requirement is just one of the several mission requirements for the CLs mentioned. Therefore, the discussion of the accomplishment of the "STAR DUST" sampling will be included in the discussion of each operating location activity. For example: The accomplishment of "STAR DUST" sampling at Nielson Air Force Base will be included in "Operating Location Five Activities" section while the accomplishment of "STAR DUST" sampling from Operating Location 11 will be discussed under the objective title of [AF (b)(3)SO USC SCC403-3(c)(7)] (U)

OPERATING LOCATION FIVE ACTIVITIES: The primary mission for the 480th Strategic Wing Detachment at Nielson Air Force Base, Alaska

17. 1011.
18. 1011.
19. 1011.

~~SECRET~~AF(b)(1)
Section 1.4(c)

During the month of October 1962 was to fly from one to ten sorties daily carrying special [AF(b)(1) Sec 1.4(c)] vector missions. These sorties, [AF(b)(1) Sec 1.4(c)] were to be flown [AF(b)(1) Sec 1.4(c)] to intercept and monitor the debris resulting from the Soviet Union's nuclear weapons detonations at Novaya Zemlya. There were no set sampling times for these sorties with the routes and take-offs being planned [AF(b)(1) Sec 1.4(c)] at ¹⁹Wichon Air Force Base, Alaska. ~~(S)~~ (u)

AF(b)(1)
Section 1.4(c)

The mission requirements on project "STAR WYF II" as mentioned previously were cancelled by higher headquarters in August 1962. In "STAR WYF" sampling was required by (L 5 while there was a requirement for the [AF(b)(1) Sec 1.4(c)] vector missions. ²⁰ ~~(S)~~ (u)

AF(b)(1)
Section 1.4(c)

During the period from 1 October to 27 October 1962 the 4080th Strategic Wing detachment at Wichon Air Force Base, Alaska flew a total of 44 [AF(b)(1) Sec 1.4(c)] vector missions. Of these 44 sorties flown all except two were 100 per cent successful. One of the unsuccessful sorties was because Air Rescue Support aircraft air aborted thus causing the U-2 aircraft pilot to air abort while the second unsuccessful sortie was due to higher headquarters recalling the pilot after take-off. On six of these special vector missions, radioactive debris was encountered by the U-2 aircraft pilots. ²¹ ~~(S)~~ (u)

AF(b)(1)
Section 1.4(c)

19. History, 4080th SW, 1-30 September 1962, pp 24 - 27.

20. Ibid.

21. Ltr, HQ 4080th SW to 4080th SW (TRM), subj: "Historical Report for Period 1-31 October 1962." 1 November 1962. Document 21.

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During the month of October 1962 the detachment at Hickam Air Force Base also flew three test hours and two ferry missions with a total flying time for the month of 32:20 hours. Of this flying time mentioned, 30:15 hours was flown accomplishing the mission requirements while the remaining time was for the test and ferry sorties. (S) (U)

On 27 October 1962 SAC headquarters stated that "All air sampling flights will be cancelled until further notice." This message was to apply to Operating Location Five at Hickam Air Force Base, Alaska and to Operating Location Seven at Royal Air Force Station, Upper Heyford, England. This is why the detachment at Hickam Air Force Base did not fly any sorties during the period from 28 October to 31 October 1962 and why the sortie on 27 October was recalled. (S) (U)

OPERATING LOCATION TEN ACTIVITIES: The primary mission for the detachment at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, designated as Operating Location Ten, was to fly daily sampling missions between Laughlin Air Force Base and Hickam Air Force Base. These "shuttle" runs were to be flown from Laughlin to Reno, Nevada to Klamath Falls, Oregon and along the coast to Fairbanks, Alaska. In addition, OL 10 was to accomplish [AF(b)(1) Sec 1.4(c)] missions in conjunction with these sorties. In order to accomplish this [AF(b)(1) Sec 1.4(c)] mission requirement the U-2 aircraft pilot was to fill two P-3 platform spheres

AF(b)(1)
Section 1.4(c)

22. 1516.

23. 185, SAC to Third AD with Info Acftoth AF, ZITEC 10-695, 28 October 1962. Document 22.

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