

1 OCT 1955 - 31 JAN 1956

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HISTORY

M0559



LOCKBOURNE
AIR FORCE BASE
COLUMBUS, OHIO

MICROFILMED

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1895

IRIS Number
 00449049 (PARTIAL)

Completed by 3-2-56

Incl 7

2-28-56

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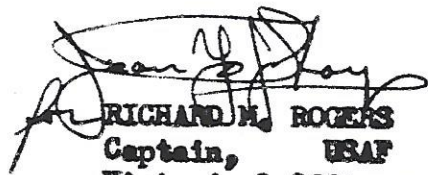
(UNCLASSIFIED)

**HISTORY OF THE
26TH STRATEGIC RECONNAISSANCE WING, (M)
801ST AIR DIVISION
LOCKBOURNE AIR FORCE BASE
COLUMBUS 17, OHIO**

--- FOR ---

1 OCTOBER 1955 THROUGH 31 JANUARY 1956


**W. J. MENG
Colonel, USAF
Commander**

 CAPT
**RICHARD M. ROGERS
Captain, USAF
Historical Officer**

**EIGHTH AIR FORCE
STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND**

**This History was prepared by Richard M. Rogers, Capt, USAF, and
S/Sgt Leslie A. Bell, USAF.**

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FOREWORD

"THE MISSION OF THE 26TH STRATEGIC RECONNAISSANCE WING, MEDIUM, IS TO EXECUTE LONG RANGE STRATEGIC RECONNAISSANCE OPERATIONS ALONE OR JOINTLY WITH FORCES FROM PERMANENT FIXED BASES OR OVERSEAS BASES TO FULFILL REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLETE RECONNAISSANCE REPORTS AND TARGET MATERIALS"

The period covered in these writings is from 1 October 1955 through 31 January 1956. Authority for consolidating the monthly writings for this four month period was granted by Headquarters Eighth Air Force Message OI 163, dated 18 May 1956; subject: Authority to Combine Histories of 801st Air Division and 26th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing.

CHAPTER III
OPERATIONS AND TRAINING

During the month of October 1955 there were a total of 1567:50 hours flown, utilizing 221 sorties. Of this total, 432 hours were flown on higher headquarters ordered missions.¹

The 26th S. R. Wing had the responsibility of flying eight (8) special missions as directed by 8th Air Force Headquarters and Strategic Air Command Headquarters. Of these 8 missions, 3 were major operations that comprized 128 flying hours. These three major missions were as follows:

(1) 8AF OPord 135-55 (Grainfield). This mission was flown in support of the Air Research and Development Command in conjunction with the Lincoln Laboratories in testing airborne electronic detection equipment. Although this mission was flown by individual aircraft and was prolonged over a months period, the final results were considered successful by all concerned.²

(2) OPord 144-55 (Big Blast). This operation was a six (6) ship formation of RB-47E and one single RB-47E in an air refueling demonstration over Eglin Air Force Base, Florida on 11 October, 1955. This exercise was in conjunction with the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference. Weather was

1. 26th SRWg Operations and Traing History for the month of October 1955.
2. Ibid.

excellent and the operation came off without a "hitch." The accuracy with which it was flown is shown in the fact that the target was hit within five (5) seconds of target time.³

(3) OPord 8AF 148-55 (Open Skies). This project had the most significance of any one project flown during the month of October 1955. It was flown in direct support of the President of the United States' idea, offered to the USSR, of permitting each countries' airplanes freedom of the air lanes to photograph each others country. One item of interest in this project was to photograph, from the air at ten thousand (10,000) feet a man reading a newspaper in a park in Columbus, Ohio. Once again the 26th S. R. Wing completed a very successful mission in a minimum length of time.⁴

The other special projects consisted of the regular APQ-56 projects, such as, photographing SAC air bases, a continuation of the indoctrination to the RB-47 to the 8th Air Force Staff Personnel, and a special mission to fly General Sweeny, Commander 8th AF, to and England and return.⁵

The wing was blessed with an unusual amount of good weather during the month of October 1955, with the result that only four (4) sorties were lost because of weather conditions.⁶

With the combined efforts of maintenance, and weather and operations, the 26th S. R. Wing completed almost 50% of the quarterly SAC Regulation 50-8 Training requirements in addition to the above described special

3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.

HEADQUARTERS
26TH STRATEGIC RECONNAISSANCE WING (H)
LOCKBOURNE AIR FORCE BASE
Columbus 17, Ohio
6 October 1955

ANNEX A

TO

OPERATIONS ORDER 144-55

AIR OPERATIONS

ANNEX A
26SRW OPORD 144-55
6 Oct 55

HEADQUARTERS
26TH STRATEGIC RECONNAISSANCE WING (M)
LOCKBOURNE AIR FORCE BASE
Columbus 17, Ohio
6 October 1955

ANNEX A TO OPERATIONS ORDER 114-55

1. Route and Timing

A. Route

- (1) Lockbourne- York VOR- City of Lexington Ky- 37-00N 87-00W-
Birmingham VOR-Montgomery VOR-Crestview Range-⁶²Elgin #9-
⁶²Elgin #2-Crestview Range-Montgomery VOR-Birmingham VOR-
37-00N 87-00W-City of Lexington, Ky-York VOR-Columbus
VOR-Lockbourne AFB.

B. Timing

- (1) H hour is 1500 EST, 11 October 1955.
- (2) 26SRW Formation target time is H + 58 min.
- (3) Take off time first acft ¹³⁰⁰~~1325~~ Est following at one minute intervals thereafter.
- (4) Acft will start climb speed schedule at 380K airspeed until 32000 feet or 1000 O/T and fly the prescribed route. The lead acft will maintain 400K true to Montgomery VOR then make an 8 minute orbit to the left ($\frac{1}{2}$ needle width turn) to enable the formation to complete the assembly.

ANNEX A
26SRW OPORD 114-55
6 Oct 55

- (5) Formation will proceed to Crestview Range. Letdown instructions will be given by Eglin Approach Control. Formation leader will handle all air/ground communications for the entire formation until break up after fly-over.
- (6) Upon receipt of letdown instructions formation will let down and proceed to the orbit point (Eglin #9 at 3000MSL) orbiting to the left ($\frac{1}{2}$ needle width turn).
- (7) The formation will proceed to the IP (South end of N/S runway at Eglin#2) thence to the Target (500 ft in front of stands at Eglin Range #52) at 800 ft MSL at 255K indicated.
- (8) The escape route is to continue on a course of 090° true for two minutes then make a left turn to Crestview range.
- (9) Formation will proceed to Montgomery VOR and break up at the discretion of the formation leader.
- (10) Aircraft will obtain individual clearances at Montgomery VOR and proceed on their assigned mission.
- (11) Spare acft will be released from formation at the orbit point (Eglin #9) and will remain south of Eglin #9 until contacting Eglin Approach control for individual clearance.
- (12) All Eglin Danger areas have been cleared for this mission.

ANNEX A
26SRW OPORD 144-55
6 Oct 55

2. Communications

a. Leader will make all position reports to ATC from T/O until formation breakup.

b. Interplane frequency will be 252.6 mgs. Voice communications will be held to a minimum.

c. Cabinet Control

| | | |
|-------|-------|-----|
| | Pri | Sec |
| 383.0 | 259.0 | |

 is the control at Egin. Upon instructions from the formation leader all aircraft will switch to

| | |
|-------|------------|
| Pri | Sec |
| 383.0 | 257.0 mgs. |

d. The leader will contact Cabinet Control and report when formation is two minutes out from target and when 30 secs out from target.

e. Upon instructions from formation leader, all aircraft will switch back to 252.6 until break-up at Montgomery.

f. Acft will make normal position reports after Montgomery.

HEADQUARTERS
26TH STRATEGIC RECONNAISSANCE WING (1)
LOCKBOURNE AIR FORCE BASE
CO WING 17, OHIO
7 October 1955

APPENDIX I

TO

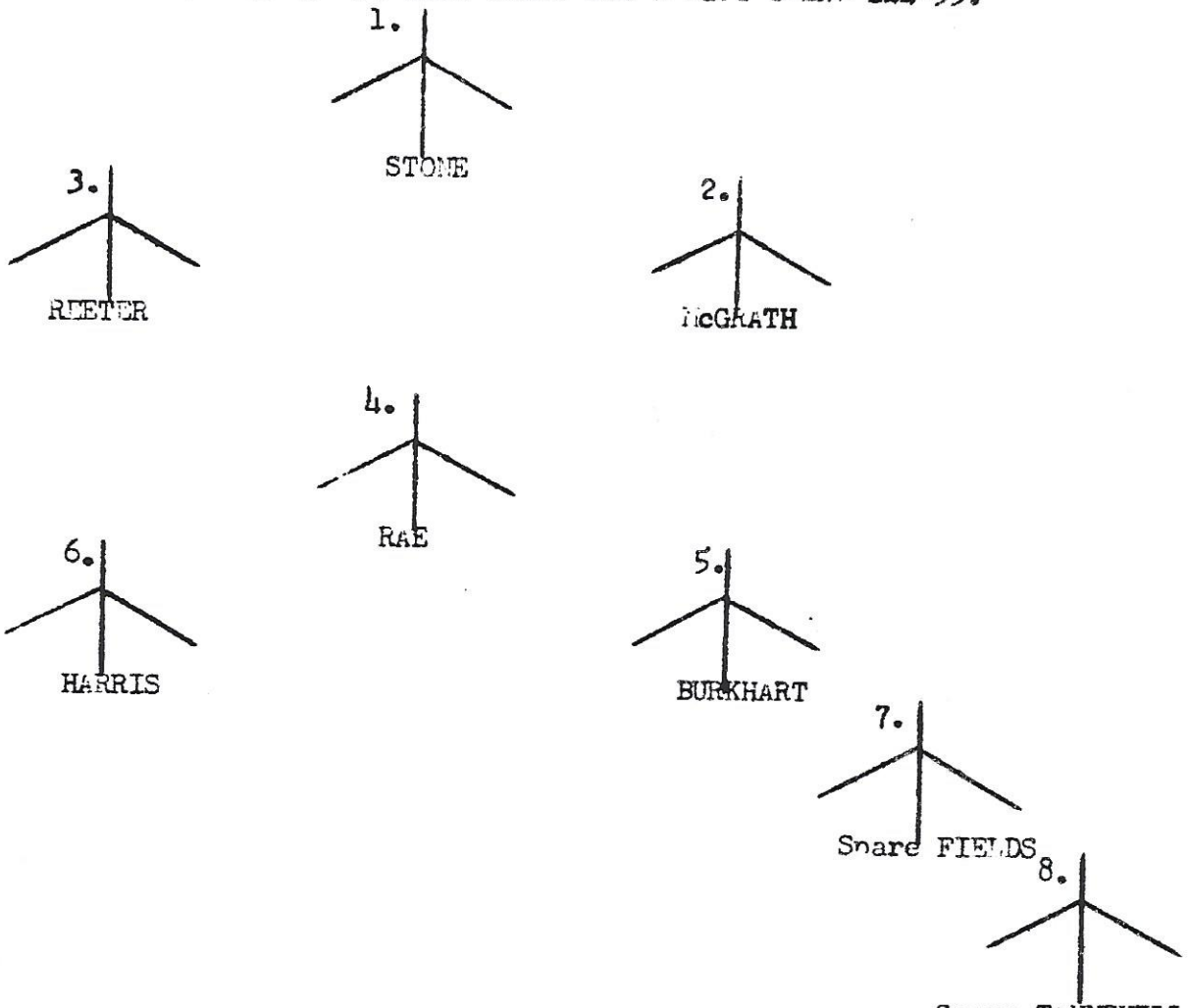
ANNEX "A"

TO

OPERATIONS PLAN 144-55

App I
ANNEX "A"
26SRW OPlan 144-55

APPENDIX I TO ANNEX "A" TO 26TH STRAT RECON WING OPLAN 144-55.



| AC | ACFT | JOLLY | STA TIME | STARTING | Spare FIELDS TAXI | Spare TANNEHILL T/OFF |
|-----------|------|-------|----------|----------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| STONE | | | 1100E | 1230E | 1245E | 1300E |
| McGRATH | | | 1100E | 1231E | 1246E | 1301E |
| REETER | | | 1100E | 1232E | 1247E | 1302E |
| RAE | | | 1100E | 1233E | 1248E | 1303E |
| BURKHART | | | 1100E | 1234E | 1249E | 1304E |
| HARRIS | | | 1100E | 1235E | 1250E | 1305E |
| FIELDS | | | 1100E | 1236E | 1251E | 1306E |
| TANNEHILL | | | 1100E | 1237E | 1252E | 1307E |
| | | | | | | |