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ABSTRACT	COL E.D. REYNOLDS COMMANDER. MISSION: TO PROVIDE BASE FACILITIES AND WEAPON LOADING IN SUPPORT OF THE 72ND BOMBARDMENT WING SPECIAL WEAPONS EXERCISE. ALSO DISCUSSES OPERATION SWAN DIVE WHICH STARTED 8 FEB 56, OPERATION SQUEEZE PLAY WHICH STARTED 14 FEB 56, OPERATION WAR DANCE WHICH STARTED 14 FEB 56, AND OPERATION DEVIL FISH.				
DNOTES	INCLUDES SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS. SOME PAGES DIFFICULT TO READ.				
ADMIN	NONE	AUTHOR	GROUP/4050/AIR BASE SQUADRON/0026/AIR REFUELING SQUADRON/4050/SUPPLY SQUADRON/4050/ARMAMENT AND ELECTRONICS SQUADRON/4050/FIELD MAINTENANCE SQUADRON/4050/FOOD SERVICE SQUADRON/4050/AIR POLICE SQUADRON/4050/PERIODIC MAINTENANCE SQUADRON/0384/AIR REFUELING	TITLE_AE	ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES OF THE 4050TH AIR REFUELING WING AND 4050TH AIR BASE GROUP HI., 4050TH AIR REFUELING WING, DATED JAN 56 MONTHLY MAINTENANCE ORDER AND DIGEST, DATED FEB 56 OPERATIONS ORDERS (WEAPONS AND AIRCRAFT MOVEMENT, FLOW CHART, AND SPECIAL WEAPONS BASE OPERATING PLANS), DATED 25 JAN 56 WING COMMANDERS RECOMMENDATIONS MAINTENANCE PLAN AND SCHEDULES FOR FEBRUARY FOR SUBORDINATING UNITS, DATED JAN 56
SUBJECT					
QC_DATE		QC_COMMENTS		LAST_UPD_DATE	
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*7/1/56  
RUS-9051*

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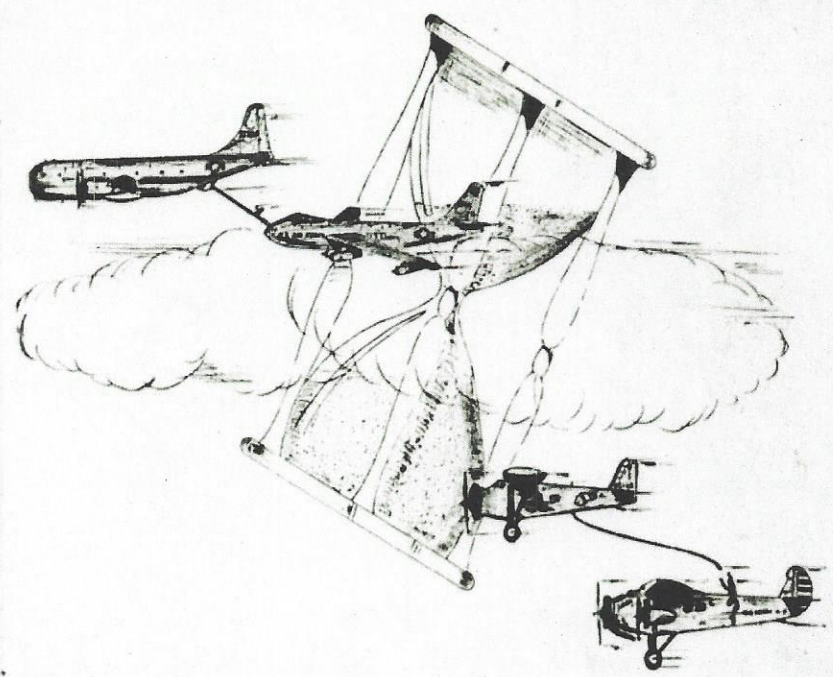
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X-REF 4400-11  
C-11-102

HISTORY OF THE

# 4050<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing

Westover AFB, Massachusetts



FEBRUARY 1956

RST 516317 STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND

~~SECRET~~

*3-3110-04*



A total of 1,597,800 pounds of fuel was off-loaded in Operation SWAN DIVE FOR an average of 50,000 pounds per receiver. The mission was considered successful.

On 14 and 15 February, Eighth Air Force Operations Order 19-66 code named BLUEZE PLAY, was conducted with aircraft, crews and support personnel of the 72nd Bombardment Wing of the Second Air Force. The exercise, the first of its kind for the Wing, tested the capability of the Wing and Group in providing support for thirteen B-36s.

The mission of the Wing and Group was specifically to provide base facilities and weapon loading in support of the Bomber Wing's special weapons exercise.

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First of the aircraft was scheduled to arrive at Westover at 0400z on 15 February with a total of seven and one-half hours of

6. Form 3690, Fuel Off-loaded, Mission Accomplishments, File: NO  
 7. Msg, Zippo, 1-27 Report, SWAN DIVE, Ex bit 4.  
 8. Msg, Zippo 02-031, 1-27 Report on BLUEZE PLAY, Ex bit 5 (the report is classified correct. Restricted Data)

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ground time -- as each of them were scheduled on the ground time.

Although no major problems were encountered during the execution of the operation, there were minor discrepancies. Nine of twelve aircraft arrived with bomb sway braces not adjusted according to technical order specifications. Correction of this discrepancy delayed the loading of weapons from twenty to forty minutes<sup>11</sup> per aircraft on these nine.

The retraction sling on one aircraft could not be fully extended due to the installation of a short cable. The arming control device on this aircraft could not be properly adjusted as the wiring had been permanently fastened to the aircraft frame. The improper assembly of the weapon holster on this same aircraft delayed the aircraft still more. In all, this aircraft was delayed<sup>12</sup> two hours and twenty-five minutes.

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This delayed the operation fifty-five minutes. Another hour delay<sup>13</sup> was encountered when an MA-1A lift failed.

10. Ibid.
11. Msg, ZIRPO 02-031, T-27 report on S. JERZE PLAY, Exhibit 5
12. Ibid.
13. Ibid.



One aircraft of the thirteen scheduled was diverted to an alternate base due to low weather minimums conditions. The aircraft commander was also uncertain of his reserve fuel for a holding over Westover.

Difficulties chargeable to this base were practically nil during Operation SUEZ PLAY. Delays encountered, as listed above, were corrected by technicians at this base, and somewhat hampered the operation. With the types of discrepancies listed, little responsibility can be levied at the wing. The Wing and Group portion of the mission requirements of SUEZ PLAY were considered highly successful.

Operation WAR DANCE, Eighth Air Force Operation Order 211-56, was scheduled for 14, 15, and 16 February in support of the 801st Air Division, Second Air Force. The mission was scheduled in three waves of tankers, one wave per day, and was flown in that manner.

Forty-thousand pounds of fuel was scheduled off-loaded to 73 aircraft in all. Eight receivers, in all, aborted for various reasons. On the first day twenty-three receivers, on the second day, twenty-three more receivers, and on the third day nineteen

14. Ibid.
15. Historian's summarization from facts in T-27 report.
16. Msg, ZIFPC 02-031, T-27 Report on SUEZ PLAY, Exhibit 5.
17. Tanker Pilot's Filmy, Operation WAR DANCE, Exhibit 7.
18. Msg, ZIFPC 02-039, T-27 Report on WAR DANCE, Exhibit 8.
19. Tanker Pilot's Filmy, Operation WAR DANCE, Exhibit 9.