

Operations Director Explains Necessity for Sonic Booms

Every time Rogue valley residents hear a sonic boom they can take assurance in the fact that it represents a necessary part of the defense effort of the United States Air Force.

Each "boom" is a F-101 Voodoo fighter interceptor breaking the sound barrier on its way from Kingsley Air Force base, Klamath Falls, to the Pacific ocean on an air defense mission.

Col. Wilson Edwards, director of operations for the 408th Fighter Group, stationed at Kingsley, explained this, and the role of the group in the defense of the U.S., at Monday's Medford Chamber of Commerce roundtable luncheon.

Approximately 50 persons, including Secretary of State Howell Apppling Jr., attended the luncheon to hear Colonel Edwards.

Introduced by Balk
Apppling was in Medford to hold an organization meeting of his local campaign workers. He was introduced at the luncheon by Robert Balk, chairman of his Jackson county campaign committee.

The 408th Fighter Group comes under the direction of the Air Defense Command which is the U. S. element of a joint U. S.-Canadian defense command called NORAD. Kingsley field is located in the 25th Air Defense division with its headquarters at McChord Air Force base near Seattle.

The 25th division covers Oregon, Washington, Idaho and parts of California and Nevada. There are eight such divisions in the U.S.

Purpose of 408th
It is the purpose of the 408th to detect, identify, intercept and destroy unidentified aircraft, in that order, Colonel Edwards said.

The 408th, as are all other air defense units, is coordinated with an extensive radar detection network which completely encircles the U.S. and Canada.

This detection net includes the BMEW line (ballistic missile early warning system located in the Arctic), the DEW line (distant early warning system in Canada), the Pine Tree line and the Mid-Columbia line.

Also included in the detection net are Navy radar picketships off the coast, a 24-hour airborne radar patrol, which operates 500 miles off the coast, and other radar centers located at various points throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Explains Procedure
Colonel Edwards explained the procedure which is followed when an unidentified aircraft is detected.

When such an aircraft penetrates the radar net, NORAD headquarters in Colorado Springs is automatically notified. Headquarters in turn notifies division headquarters which then notifies the appropriate air base or air bases. The fighter interceptors are then off to meet the potential enemy.

F-101's at Kingsley are on 5 to 15 minute alerts. Because of this, according to Colonel Edwards, it takes just two minutes for the plane to reach an altitude of 40,000 feet from the time the brakes are released. He added that in 2 to 5 minutes the plane will cross Medford and in a maximum of 15 minutes it will reach the coast. Maximum speed of the F-101's is about 900 miles per hour.

The sonic boom which people hear is actually a sound wave which strikes the ground when planes have gone through the sound barrier. Colonel Edwards explained that whether a sonic wave ever reaches the ground or not is dependent on altitude, weather and humidity.

Partly Patty Shell
New York — (UPI) — Make party patty shells the easy way, with bread rounds. Cut 32 bread rounds 2 1/2 inches in diameter. Arrange 8 on baking sheet. Cut centers from remaining rounds with 1 1/4-inch round cookie cutter. Stack 3 rings on each solid round. Brush sides with 1 beaten egg white. Bake in a 375-degree oven 15 minutes, or until brown and crisp. Serve with this filling: Mix 6 tablespoons of mayonnaise with 3/4 cup of grated cheddar cheese and 1 tablespoon of chopped chives. Top each with 1 small sweet gherkin and a 1 1/4-inch slice of drained Vienna sausage from a 4-ounce can.

Shoulder-Shading
An interceptor will stick with a suspicious craft until it is properly identified, Edwards said. If it is not satisfactorily identified the interceptor will force it to land. If it refuses to land then it will be shot down.

He noted that the decision to shoot a plane down is up to NORAD headquarters, and not to the pilot.

Each of the F-101's is equipped with GAR air-to-air missiles. These missiles are of the same family as the Sidewinder which proved so effective against Communist Chinese planes near Formosa, he pointed out.

A City In Itself
Kingsley field is a city in itself, he said. The base has 1,200 military personnel. It is equipped with its own hospital, fire department, police force and has an annual payroll of about \$5 million.

The entire base represents a government investment of \$65 million, he said, including the F-101's which cost a little more than \$1 1/2 million apiece. There are 21 of these planes at Kingsley, he added. He noted too that Kingsley is only a "real small" air base.

He pointed out that the Air Defense Command is no longer under manually operated radar control. On the 15th of this month, he said, radar control was switched from manual to SAGE (Semi-Automatic Ground Environment), which computes radar data by machines. This is much faster than manual computation, he noted.

SAGE Headquarters
SAGE headquarters for Kingsley is at Portland. There is a SAGE installation at Keno, Ore.

Although the importance of manned aircraft may be diminishing because of technological advances, the man is still important from an identification standpoint, which is one of the 408th's major functions. Only a man can adequately identify, he said.

For every weapon the U.S. can devise, it is felt that the enemy can devise a similar one, Edwards said. For this reason, he noted, when the U.S. is devising a weapon it also tries to devise a weapon which will counteract it.

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Harriman Urges Calm Attitude Toward Russia

New York — (UPI) — Former New York Gov. Averell Harriman declared Tuesday the United States should remain calm and look to the future in its relationships with the Soviet Union.

"A 'get tough' attitude on our part can only strengthen the Stalinists in the Kremlin," he said, adding it would "drive Moscow closer to Peking and terrify our friends and allies around the world."

Harriman, former Ambassador to Russia, spoke at an advance hearing by a five-member panel which is accepting suggestions for the 1960 Democratic National Platform Committee assembling in Los Angeles, July 11.

A strong civil rights plank was presented to the platform committee panel by Harriman, in behalf of State Chairman Michael H. Prendergast. It was a policy statement of the New York state Democratic committee.

The Prendergast statement charged that the Republican administration had failed to enforce constitutional guarantees of civil rights and civil liberties.

Discussing foreign relations, Harriman told the panel that Premier Nikita Khrushchev's proposed visit to Cuba "will add to the provocation" in the foreign situation. He said that in the past seven years there has been "a tragic decline" in American prestige throughout the world.

'Blunders' Cited
Harriman cited alleged "blunders" beginning with the "unleashing of Chiang" and the "fumbling of the U2 incident."

He also rapped the economic policies of the present administration and insisted it "cares" about big business interests. He said it has failed to take action to improve the education of the nation's youth, to provide medical care for old people, and to provide adequate housing.

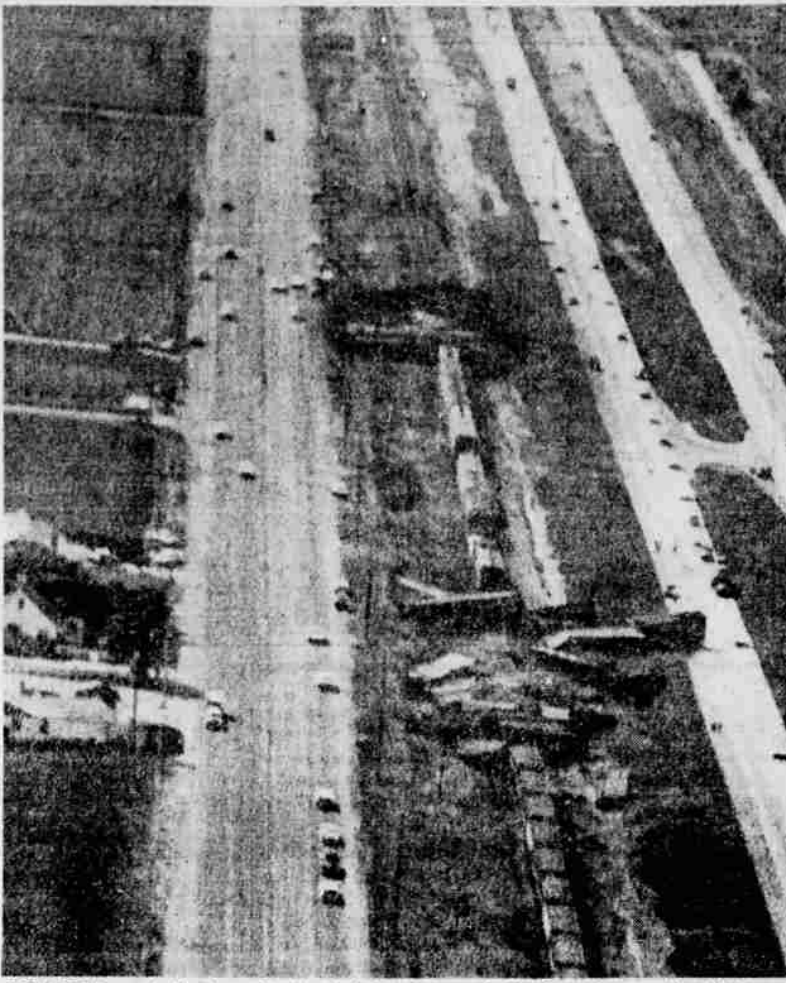
4-H Club News
The Edgewood Equestrians 4-H Horse club have invited all 4-H members to their horse pre-fair. The pre-fair will be held at 1 p.m., June 26, at the fairgrounds.

Mrs. Paul B. Adams will be judge. Classes to be held are judging contest, colt class; two years and under, halter showmanship, English equitation, western horsemanship, trail class and Texas barrel.

All events, except English Equitation and colt class, are to be divided into three age groups. Ribbons will be given. No entry fee will be charged. Susan Wright, Reporter

Medford, Minn.—(UPI)—Kids here have just as much fun as other children on their school playground, but mothers have noticed fewer skinned knees lately. The reason is a new playground cover at six of the city's elementary schools. Bark mulch, a by-product of Medford's forest industries, has been piled to goose-down-mattress thickness of four inches and effectively cushions the kids' rough-and-tumble play.

Portland — (UPI) — A park and recreation conference, sponsored by the Democratic party of Oregon, will be held in Bend July 30.



DERAILED — A Southern Pacific freight train was derailed near Salinas, Calif., Friday, June 10. No one was injured, but the rail line lay scattered 39 freight cars off the track and suffered extensive damage. (UPI Telephoto)

Grange News

Members of Phoenix Grange were informed at the regular meeting June 14, that the "Buckaroo Breakfast" held the preceding Sunday was well attended.

The men were entirely responsible for the affair. The ladies were not to advise and were threatened with fines if they entered the kitchen.

Melvin Lattie was chairman of the breakfast and also a cook. Other cooks were Sol Cox, Charles Johnson and Lloyd Lacy. Serving were Claude Hutton, Ralph Swingle, Raymond Cyr, Frank Clark and Merle Simmonds.

Dishwashers were Warren Loffer, Fred Meadows, Lloyd Whiteside and Ronald Baker. Frank Perl handled the publicity and Charles Hockersmith the ticket sales.

There were no agriculture or legislative reports or Vaughn Quackenbush reported a new process of mapping several orchards and studying the trees.

Serving at the meeting were Mrs. Ernest Madden and Dr. and Mrs. Robert F. Wilcox.

Several members attended the State Grange at Roseburg. Next visitation meeting will be at Upper Applegate Grange, Friday, June 24.

Eugene—(UPI)—The McKenzie Pass highway between here and Bend was officially opened to traffic Monday after being closed since Jan. 8.

Call Ken Neal—SP 3-4739 for Quality Used Logging & Dirt Moving Equipment Crater Lake Machinery Co.

Salem—(UPI)—An Oregon dairy industry advisory committee will meet here Wednesday to discuss changes in the state Grade A milk audit law.

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