

Gary Cooper Passes 60th Anniversary

Hollywood - (UPI) - Cancer-stricken Gary Cooper passed his 60th birthday quietly Sunday. There was no celebration.

A friend said there was no cake, no presents. For more than two weeks the actor's physician, Dr. Rex Kennamer, has not allowed visitors at the Bel Air home where Cooper is under heavy sedation most of the time.

The doctor said Cooper's condition had deteriorated steadily during the past two or three days.

Little-Known Group Probably Would Be First To Take Crack at War Foe

Editor's note: Although it makes few headlines, the Tactical Air Command possibly is America's most versatile air arm—and very likely would supply the men who would hit back first in event of a limited or general war. This is the first of four dispatches telling the story of TAC—an organization that can deliver a single nuclear weapon or thousands of paratroopers on target anywhere in the world. The series is based on material gathered in 16,000 miles of flying to several TAC bases and in an actual TAC exercise.

By RALPH VILLERS
Langley Air Force Base, Va. - (UPI) - Despite our big

bombers and bigger missiles, men from a relatively little-known air command, flying speedy "little" planes, probably would take first crack at an enemy if the balloon ever goes up on a general war.

At the same time, these very fliers and airmen make up America's limited war air arm, the force which would fight, if need be, when use of strategic air elements would be impossible or politically unwise.

And several times these same men of Tactical Air Command (TAC) have played the deterrent role, too, stepping in to cool a global situation.

TAC in Action
Not many people knew it, but it was TAC pilots and ground crews who did just that at the time of the Lebanon-Iraq crisis in 1958, and in Formosa a few months later. More recently there were headlines when American planes were "repositioned" at the beginning of the Laos crisis. That, too, was TAC in action.

TAC, which has its headquarters here at Langley AFB, is the last home of the flying rugged individualist—the front-line tactical fighter pilot—as well as an aggregation

of Air Age virtuosos whose skills range from dropping bombs or paratroopers to removing wounded from a battle area, or even re-supplying Arctic bases.

Although on a par in the command table with Strategic Air Command (SAC), TAC often is overshadowed in the public mind by the imagination-capturing strategic role of SAC with its huge bombers, its nuclear offensive role and its rockets.

But TAC fighter squadrons, constantly on rotation overseas in Spain, Italy and Turkey, and TAC's overseas counterparts—the tactical United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) and Pacific Air Forces (PACAF)—are sitting on the fringe of the Iron and Bamboo Curtains and constantly are on alert and ready for instant reaction if a large or limited war were to start.

As Maj. Gen. Karl Truesdell Jr., commander of TAC's 12th Air Force, put it:

"We'd be the first to hit the enemy because we're physically next to the Iron Curtain. Tactical forces would be paving the way where SAC was going."

To Maintain Peace
Despite its ability to fight and strike back, the officers

who lead Tactical Air Command envision it as a force to maintain peace. This is what Lt. Gen. Jacob E. Smart, vice commander of TAC, said in an interview.

"The strongest deterrent to Soviet aspirations is the offensive striking power of the United States."

"Anything that is done which achieves... pacifying effects without having to use force is contributing toward the maintenance of peace. Each day that passes without our getting involved in a shooting war improves the chances of not getting involved in a shooting war."

Although a U. S.-based air force, aside from the units on rotation overseas, TAC helped keep the peace in the 1958 Mideast and Formosa crises with its CASFs (Composite Air Strike Force) rushed to the areas. A CASF, made up of speedy fighters and supporting aerial tankers, transports and reconnaissance planes, is the big element in TAC's carrying out its prime mission of waging or averting a limited war.

In a general war situation, TAC would augment overseas theater forces and the Air Defense Command, which is charged with defending the North American continent. Just what is TAC, physically?

It is made up of some 30,000 officers and airmen, nearly 1,000 fighter aircraft (capable of delivering bombs as well as bullets), more than 100 reconnaissance planes, some 80 aerial tankers and more than 190 air-lift and troop carrier planes distributed throughout TAC's three air forces and a dozen bases in the United States, as well as the units on rotation overseas.

Veteran Commander
Gen. Frank F. Everest, a flier since 1929, veteran of the Pacific war and expert in both bombers and fighters, is TAC commander.

The three air forces are: the 19th, commanded by Maj. Gen. Maurice A. Preston, with headquarters at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C.; the 12th, commanded by Gen. Truesdell, with headquarters in Waco, Tex., and the 9th, commanded by Maj. Gen. David W. Hutchison, with headquarters at Shaw Air Force Base, S. C.

The 19th Air Force is unique in the USAF—an outfit with only about 80 men and not one combat plane. Its primary job is planning for just about any conceivable operation TAC might be called on to execute—and to provide a command element when TAC units speed from their bases on a mission, real or simulated.

The versatility of TAC and its men is pointed up in the 9th and 12th Air Forces.

The 12th is composed of the tactical fighters—the supersonic F100s, the F104s and the new Mach-2 (twice the speed of sound), all-weather F105s. It's peopled by young, but emotionally solid, pilots, who at the same time are the last of the rugged individualists—fliers who also are navigator, radio operator, gunner and bombardier as they take their single-seat fighters on a mission.

Twenty-nine-year-old Capt. George L. Von Tersch of Marshalltown, Iowa, is an example. An Air Force man for seven years, he chose fighters from the beginning—"I liked the idea. Instead of spending years as the assistant to the guy flying the thing,

Rabbi Comments on Swastika Daubing

Portland - (UPI) - Rabbi Emanuel Rose of Temple Beth Israel said Sunday he had not accused the John Birch Society or the Freedom Crusade of Portland of direct involvement in smearing of swastikas on the walls of the Temple.

But he repeated his comment of Friday that such groups were "partially responsible for such desecrations."

Friday he said he thought the swastikas were the work of pranksters.

Rabbi Rose said the irresponsible acts such as attacking the chief justice of the United States and former President Dwight Eisenhower encouraged other forms of irresponsibility.

Spokesmen for the John Birch Society and the Freedom Crusade had taken issue with Rabbi Rose's comments.

Police were investigating the smearing of 23 swastikas on the exterior walls and doors of the Temple.

National Airlines Resuming Service

Miami, Fla. - (UPI) - National Airlines spokesmen said today service along the carrier's 37-city route should return to normal by Wednesday while a federal mediator studies union grievances against the company.

Members of the International Association of Machinists agreed Sunday to end a six-day walkout and submit the dispute to binding arbitration. The strike had idled 4,000 employees.

Union President Al J. Hayes said IAM members voted to accept Labor Secretary Arthur J. Goldberg's proposal to let an arbitrator settle the dispute. The company immediately accepted Goldberg's recommendation, last Thursday, but a week end vote had to be taken among union members.

Goldberg, who now has settled three major strikes since taking office Jan. 20, said in a statement the settlement "is an equitable one, fair to the workers, to the company and to the public."

you start out as boss of it.
He's one of the new TAC elite, assigned to the 334th Tactical Fighter Squadron, one of only four squadrons so far equipped with the highly touted Republic F105 Thunderchief.

Force of All Things
The 9th Air Force almost could be called a force of all things for everybody. In it are the C123 and C130 airlift and troop carrier planes—the ones that deliver the Army's paratroopers to their drop zone—the KB50J aerial tankers, the RF101 and RB66 reconnaissance planes, the WB-66 weather aircraft, ski-equipped C130s which supply polar radar and scientific stations, and tactical support units, such as communications squadrons, aero-medical evacuation squadrons and aerial port squadrons.

Typical of 9th Air Force is 1st Lt. Jim Moreton, Los Angeles, a C123 assault transport pilot, who last month flew an Army truck and trailer to Panama for an exercise, assault-landed it on a grass air strip, and the next day was flying an air evacuation mission of paratroopers injured in the exercise.

"We don't know what we're going to do next," Moreton said.

(Next: The fighter pilots of the 12th Air Force.)

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