

Defense Department Out to Close Low Level Air Gap

By DARELL GARWOOD
United Press International
Washington—U.S. Air Force officials are out to prove that a plane flying 1,000 miles an hour with a nuclear bomb six times more powerful than the Hiroshima atomic bomb must be considered one of the most dangerous weapons in the world.

The difference is that the faster, heat-seeking and radar-guided missiles have all the military hardware and bugs that a low-flying plane has.

That, according to Defense Department experts, is one way of describing renewed U.S. efforts to close the so-called low-level air gap which French President Charles de Gaulle's nuclear bombers are designed to penetrate.

Such a gap does exist, the experts admit. But three U.S. missile weapons—the Hawk, Mauler and Redeye—are expected to close it before de Gaulle's bombers can be used.

Surprisingly, considering there have been few realistic tests, authorities, including de Gaulle, appear to be agreed that the high-flying bomber which can neither be seen nor heard is no longer any match for sophisticated missiles.

Upper Air Safe
Less than three years ago there was consternation when the Soviet Union shot down an American U2 reconnaissance plane at 60,000 feet or more. Now it is taken for granted that the upper air space is too dangerous for bombers to use.

The Pentagon's answer is a "defense in depth" which would either force the bombers to fly at low altitudes or destroy them before they could get in.

The three missile weapons would be deployed as follows:

Hawk—This is a back-ward low flying plane, a roll, in which the bomb is released while the plane is speeding upward. The French have a variation called a "chandelier," in which the critical turn is more sideways than upward.

The Mauler is a missile which would be fired from the front of the bomber. It is fired at the target, and the bomber is in a position to fire again at the target.

Redeye—This is a one-man, shoulder-fired, bazooka-type weapon that could be used by a pilot in the front of the bomber. It is fired at the target, and the bomber is in a position to fire again at the target.

The Hawk is already operational on a large scale. The first production models of the Mauler are to be purchased beginning next July 1 under terms of the budget now before Congress. Redeye is in an advanced stage of development and could be in the hands of troops by 1965.

Move to Erase Ugly American Image at Port of Entry

(Editor's note—The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, on orders from President Kennedy, is trying to help erase the "ugly American" image sometimes associated with this country abroad. What the government agency is doing is described in the following dispatch.)

By SAM FOGG
United Press International
Washington—U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service officials here today said they will make sure that all of our airports and all of our ports of entry reflect a determined effort on the part of the people who work on them to show a face of America which is our best face.

President Kennedy said, dedicating Dulles International Airport on Nov. 18.

Face Lifting
In keeping with the President's words, the Nation's welcome to foreign visitors and returning American tourists and business men is undergoing a face-lifting operation for the better.

A tour of immigrations and customs operations at key ports of entry reflects a determined effort on the part of the people who work on them to show a face of America which is our best face.

At San Juan airport in Puerto Rico, a young Dominican in the process of entering U.S. territory has laid his hand on the shoulder of a U.S. immigration official and is smiling.

At New York's Idlewild International airport where the visitors arrive by the thousands each day, a young German mother enters the immigration inspection area trying to control a tired and fidgety 10-month-old boy.

Kolene French, versed in German and Spanish, moves to her aid. The boy, while his mother is cleared through inspection, is held in a luggage cart.

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Apple Jelly

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