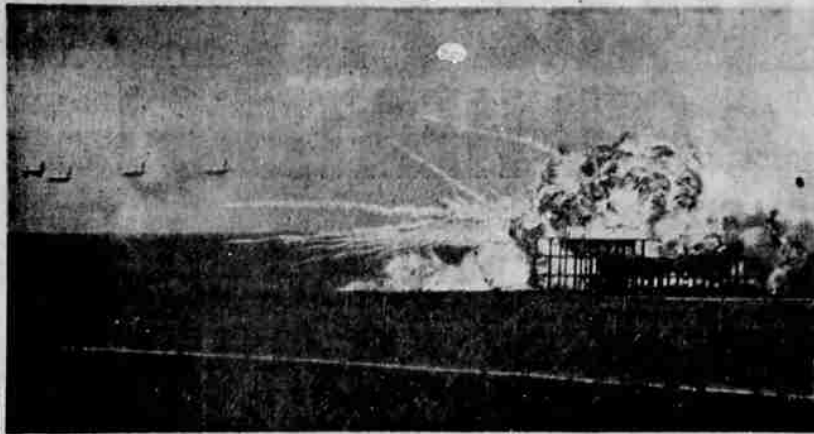


# Air Force Stages Spectacular Firepower Show In Florida



**FLAMING NAPALM ENGULFS THIS SIMULATED FACTORY BUILDING** during the Aerial Firepower Demonstration staged by the U.S. Air Force at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida Sunday, October 7. In this photograph a flight of four USAF F-86H jet fighter-bombers have dropped the napalm on the simulated factory building located about 200 yards to the left front of the bleacher stands where some 5,000 civilians and military personnel watched the various demonstrations of the Air Force's firepower inventory. Official USAF photo.



**PRECISION FORMATION FLYING** was demonstrated by the "Thunderbirds," a team of U.S. Air Force pilots who staged a magnificent show at the Aerial Firepower Demonstration at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, Sunday, October 7. In June of 1956, the "Thunderbirds" became the first world's supersonic aerobatic team when they were equipped with the North American F-100 Super Sabre shown here. Official USAF photo.

alizing that the U.S. cannot afford the luxury of trial and error methods, the Air Proving Ground Command has replaced this costly system with "Proof by Test."

The Air Proving Ground Command is commanded by Maj. Gen. Robert W. Burns.

The busy flight line at Eglin is only a part of the overall picture. Not only aircraft, but new equipment undergoes static and in-flight testing at this air base.

Tests at Eglin have been accomplished on missiles with electronic brains of their own, complicated pneumatic flying suits designed to apply life-saving pressures on a pilot's body, rapid refueling systems, and hundreds of other items are an important part of a supersonic U.S. Air Force. APGC tests them all—from fuses to fighters.

The testing center also has several exchange officers from the Royal Canadian Air Force and the Royal Air Force of England. These men work as integral parts of the various testing jobs accomplished at Eglin. U.S. Air Force exchange officers are in turn working in Canada and England in the same capacity with these two friendly nations' air forces.

**BASE COMPLEX.** The entire area of the Eglin base complex includes some 465,000 acres of land in the northwest section of Florida near the Gulf of Mexico. There are 10 auxiliary bases around the main base of Eglin and 40 bombing and gunnery ranges.

The visiting civilians and military personnel attending the Aerial Firepower Demonstration were flown into the main base at Eglin and to several of the auxiliary bases. Buses then took the visitors to Range 32 where the firepower show was staged. It began about 1:15 p.m. Sunday, October 7 and was put on with split-second precision. Each of the some 32 demonstrations followed the welcoming address given by Gen. Burns.

The show was put on in front of permanent bleachers which seated the over 5,000 visitors. Firing of guns and rockets, and the dropping of bombs was accomplished in the range area immediately in front of the stands for all to see. Flybys of various types of aircraft was done at low, medium, and high altitudes in such a manner that the laymen watching the demonstration could easily observe what was going on. An Air Force colonel narrated the show over a public address system explaining just what the aircraft were doing.

**ATTENDING.** Attending the firepower demonstration from Klamath Falls were Mayor Paul Landry and Max Wauchope, city editor of the Herald and News. The two local men were flown to Hamilton Air Force Base, California from Klamath Falls in a C-45 type twin-engine aircraft transported by Lt. Col. Robert Larson who is stationed at the Klamath Falls Municipal Airport. At Hamilton, the Klamath Falls men joined a group of press, radio, and television men and civic officials from the Bay area. Another group of Ground Observer Corps members accompanied the press group in another Air Force airplane. The two groups, both flown in C-47 transports from the

2317th Air Transport Squadron of Hamilton, stopped one night in Phoenix, Arizona, two nights in New Orleans, Louisiana and one night in Yuma, Arizona.

(Editor's note: The actual show will be explained in more detail in subsequent issues of the Herald and News.)

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By MAX WAUCHOPE  
"The Greatest Show On Earth" was staged by the U.S. Air Force at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida on Sunday, October 7. This annual show, the Aerial Firepower Demonstration put on each year by the Air Proving Ground Command, was attended by members of Congress, military leaders from all over the world, civic officials and members of the various press media of the U.S. Over 5,000 persons were flown to the Florida air base by the Air Force to watch the demonstration. The show is designed to give civilians, and military men, a close look at the latest tactics and uses of the firepower inventory of the U.S. Air Force. As close a look, of course, as security regulations will permit.

ing B-52 eight-jet bomber is parked beside a B-57 twin-jet light attack bomber, the U.S. version of the British "Canberra."  
Each of the aircraft and weapons systems assembled at Eglin has been designed for a specific purpose. While they are assigned to the Air Proving Ground Command, their capabilities and limitations are studied and evaluated, their operational suitability to combat units of the Strategic, Tactical and Air Defense commands of the Air Force are determined.  
All these aircraft are production models, not prototypes. Their "hand built" predecessors have undergone functional testing as flying machines at the Air Re-

search and Development Command centers. These early production models will undergo testing as fighting machines before they are produced in large quantities for U.S. Air Force combat units.  
The initial Air Force contract for "Super Sabres"—the North American F-100 — called for only 100 aircraft at a cost of \$108,000,000. The introduction of large quantities of an effective new model of aircraft commits large portions of the nation's economic and production resources. Introducing an ineffective model would require an exorbitant expenditure to correct the error. Re-

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