

U.S. Air Force's Latest Tactics, Aircraft, Weapons Shown Civilians



THE DELTA-WINGED F-102A, the U.S. Air Force's Air Defense Command's newest jet fighter-interceptor, is shown here taking to the sky at the Air Proving Ground Command, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. The Convair built supersonic jet is capable of seeking out and destroying enemy aircraft under any weather condition. An F-102A from the proving ground recently shot down an unmanned QB-17 drone aircraft in a practice mission over the command's vast water ranges in the Gulf of Mexico. The drone kill was made with the Hughes GAR-1 "Falcon," a rocket propelled guided missile which is capable of seeking out and destroying a target by means of its own electronic brain. This mission was the first in which a production model of the interceptor knocked down a drone with the new missile. Official USAF photo.

By MAX WAUCHOPE

Probably the most spectacular demonstration of aerial firepower staged anywhere in the world for civilians to see is put on every year by the Air Proving Ground Command at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

The U.S. Air Force holds this Aerial Firepower Demonstration to show the latest tactics and weapons use to selected civilians and members of the various press media. The civilians are invited to see the demonstration in an effort by the Air Force to acquaint these civilians with the progress the Air Force is making in providing aerial defense of America with today's supersonic aircraft.

A striking example of the supersonic "boom," achieved when an aircraft exceeds the speed of sound (760 miles per hour at sea level) was staged by a flight of four F-100 Super Sabre jet fighters as one of the early parts of the show.

CONTRAILS

Flying in trail at 43,000 feet above the stands holding the some 5,000 persons watching the show, the four jets could be seen by the contrails behind the jets. The leader of the flight could be heard over his radio which was tied into the public address system in front of the stands.

At a designated time, the leader put his aircraft, followed by the other three jets, into a dive and aimed at the bleachers. Each jet pulled out of the dive at 20,000 feet and the sonic boom from each aircraft was aimed directly at the stands. Several seconds later the six detonations struck the stands. The concussion approximated that of 500 pounds dropped near the stands. Needless to say an im-

pressive demonstration of supersonic flying as accomplished by the Air Force pilots today.

Although the F-100s were diving from 43,000 to 20,000 feet in this demonstration, they are capable of breaking the sonic barrier in level flight. They represent one of the several aircraft in the Air Force inventory capable of supersonic speed with which operational combat units are now equipped.

SONIC BOOM

Following this display of the sonic boom, the improvement in weapons as carried by today's jets compared to the weapons of World War I and II was demonstrated. Beginning with the firing of the old Lewis .30 caliber machine gun of World War I various types of machine guns and machine cannon were fired from test mounts directly in front of the stands. The Air Force now has a 30 millimeter cannon capable of firing explosive shells at a faster rate than the old .30 caliber machine gun could fire.

A parade of aircraft accomplished by a fly-by of types ranging from the old Standard E-1 powered by an 80 horsepower engine through the jet delta-winged Convair F-102 brought home to all those persons watching the show the tremendous progress attained by the aircraft industry in the past 35 years.

Probably one of the most impressive displays of aircraft speed was shown when two F-100s flying only about 30 feet off the ground and not more than 100 yards in front of the stands pierced the sonic barrier directly in front of the audience.

CONCUSSION

The concussion resulting from this sonic boom was sufficient to break windows in houses, had their been any such structures locat-

ed there. By the time the audience had recovered, the two aircraft were miles away.

After a demonstration of the firing of air-to-air rockets by F-86s, F-86Ds and F-94 jet fighters and a fly-by of a large four-engine RC-121 flying radar station, four F-86H Sabrejets, flying at ground level, dropped napalm bombs on a simulated factory building just a few hundred yards from the stands.

An impressive demonstration of precision formation flying was also staged at the show by the "Thunderbirds," a team of jet pilots from Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada.

In-flight refueling of jet bombers of the Strategic Air Command, destruction of ground targets, several demonstrations of "toss" bombing, and simulated drops of atomic bombs were also included in the show.

BOMBER

The last section of the show was a giant 10-engine B-36 bomber of the Strategic Air Command dropping a full load of 500 pound bombs set at minimum intervalometer set-

guests of the Air Force. The Aerial Firepower Demonstration is a graphic example that the U.S. Air Force is going to great lengths to attain as near perfection as is humanly possible in the race for supremacy in the realm of supersonic flying.

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY
FLOYDS STUDIO 1037 MAIN STREET
KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON

Big Florida Flood Abates

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
An Atlantic coastal storm which drenched southeast sections of the country, caused flooding in several Florida areas and forced evacuation of homes by some 200 persons, headed northward today. Heaviest 24-hour rainfall was nearly 7 inches reported at Jacksonville, Fla. Water measured 30 inches deep in the streets at Fellsmere, Fla., one of several towns flooded. Other-

ers included Kissimmee, St. Cloud and Taft.

Floodwaters at Kissimmee forced some 200 residents to evacuate their homes as a creek beside the town overflowed. Damage was estimated at some two million dollars.

For the third straight day, rain pelted drought areas in Texas, with rainfall amounts measuring more than 5 inches in McCoy, in the southern part of the state.

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FLAMING LOVE

BURBANK, Calif. (AP) — Police called this a case of flaming love. They said Vincent Louis Fassola, 24, entered the home of his girl friend, Arlene Sutter, 21, stole her purse and set three fires. Fassola was booked on suspicion of burglary and arson. Damage to the house was estimated at \$4,500.

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