

Operation Sky Shield Tests Our Air Defense Muscle By Mock War On October 14

By TOM NOLAN
Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

WASHINGTON (NEA) — About 125,000 Americans will feel the first pinc of a missileless mock war on Saturday, Oct. 14. In a maneuver that has been dubbed "Operation Sky Shield II," North America's air defenses will be tested against a sham atomic attack by long-range bombers.

All civilian aircraft will be grounded for 12 hours during this exercise, beginning at 1 p.m. (EDT). And the 125,000 airline passengers who would normally fly that day will have to book flights earlier or later, according to the Air Transport Association.

Only participating military aircraft will be permitted to take off until 1 a.m. (EDT), Sunday, Oct. 15.

Purpose of the exercise is to provide operational training for the entire North American Air Defense System (NORAD).

Sky Shield will begin when a force of Strategic Air Command (SAC) B-47's and B-52's, supported by a small number of British bombers, simulates an attack on the United States.

NORAD fighter squadrons of U.S. and Royal Canadian Air Force F-102, F-106 and F-89 jets will make an estimated 6,000 sorties in defense. Neither side will use missiles or live ammunition.

From headquarters in Colorado Springs, Gen. Laurence S. Kuter, NORAD commander, will coordinate defensive activities.

Army air defense units under Lt. Gen. Robert J. Wood, commander of U.S. Army Air Defense Command, will also participate in the action.

Some 150,000 military personnel and civilians will have active parts in the exercise. Another 100,000, including air rescue teams a n d

maintenance men, will play supporting roles.

Army National Guardsmen manning 15 NIKE-AJAX missile bases in the northeastern U.S. will be on the alert, although missiles will be fired in theory only.

Thirty Air National Guard interceptor squadrons along the northern and southern perimeters of the country are part of the NORAD command.

Navy Airborne Early Warning Squadrons of WV-2 Super Constellation and Navy picket ships, which together form the outer warning line in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, will be tested in the alert.

WV-2's, long-range radar planes with large fuel reserves, patrol the northern limits of the oceans. Further south, the picket ships, destroyer escorts carrying full radar equipment, take over.

Other radar defenses involved in the operation include Canadian "Pine Tree" stations along the U.S. border, the Mid-Canadian line, and DEW Line (Distant Early Warning) units.

Civil Defense teams will not be tested during the exercise.

All of the continent north of Mexico and adjacent coastal waters will be blanketed by the grounding order handed down by Federal Aviation Agency "to assure air safety."

This arbitrary boundary does not rule out simulated attacks from the south, according to Air Force officials. Aircraft Control and Warning bases along the Gulf coast are alerted to the maneuver.

All the U.S. scheduled domestic and international air carrier fleet, about 1,800 aircraft, will remain on the ground during the exercise, in addition to more than 70,000 general aviation planes. Also grounded will be the North Ameri-

can operation of all foreign air carriers.

This conforms to the Air Force's SCATTER (Security Control of Air Traffic) plan which, in an emergency attack, would force all civilian and nonessential military planes to land at the nearest field to clear the air for combat.

FAA Administrator N. E. Halaby points out that the Sky Shield grounding is necessary to give complete freedom of movement, at all altitudes, in both ascending and descending patterns, to NORAD and SAC planes.

Halaby also notes that the attacking forces will attempt to jam all NORAD radar, FAA air traffic control radar, and other electronic guidance equipment. Thus, civilian planes would be without necessary guidance and control.

Other FAA officials add that the possibility of a real enemy attack during the operation cannot be ruled out. SAC forces in the U.S. will be on the alert for any unauthorized planes in the air during the 12-hour period. NORAD defenders are aware of the location of the prescribed simulated attack.

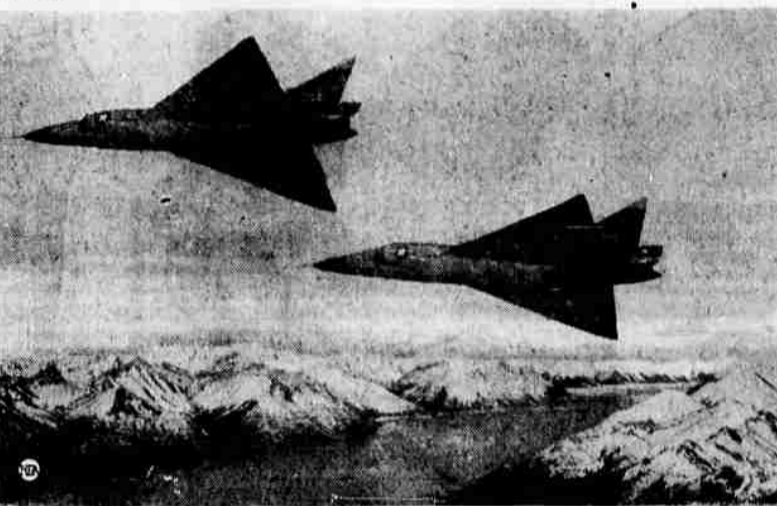
FAA points out that last year's "Sky Shield I" received exceptional public understanding and was accomplished with a minimum of inconvenience.

"Sky Shield I," however, took place in the early hours of a Sunday morning and lasted only six hours. This year the exercise lasts twice as long and hits airlines in prime Saturday afternoon and evening time.

To avoid a loss of revenue estimated at \$40 million requires a fast double-shuffle by commercial airlines. Most airlines are packing their schedules to get as many planes as possible into the air immediately before and after zero-hour.



NAVY AIRBORNE RADAR PLANE — Here is one of the Navy airborne early warning radar planes that form the outerline of defense along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.



F-102 INTERCEPTORS — These planes are the F-102 interceptors that will fly some of the 600 defense sorties in the exercise.



B-52's OF SAC — Any simulated attack will be carried out by planes such as the B-52 of the Strategic Air Command.

Semi-Automatic Rifles Stockpiled For Border

BERLIN (UPI) — The United States today stockpiled semi-automatic M1 rifles for West Berlin border guards despite Communist protests against strengthening this isolated city's military defenses.

U.S. officials said shipments of the weapons to Berlin have been sent for several weeks. The move was taken following heavy pressure from both the West Berlin press and police officials here for better armed border guards.

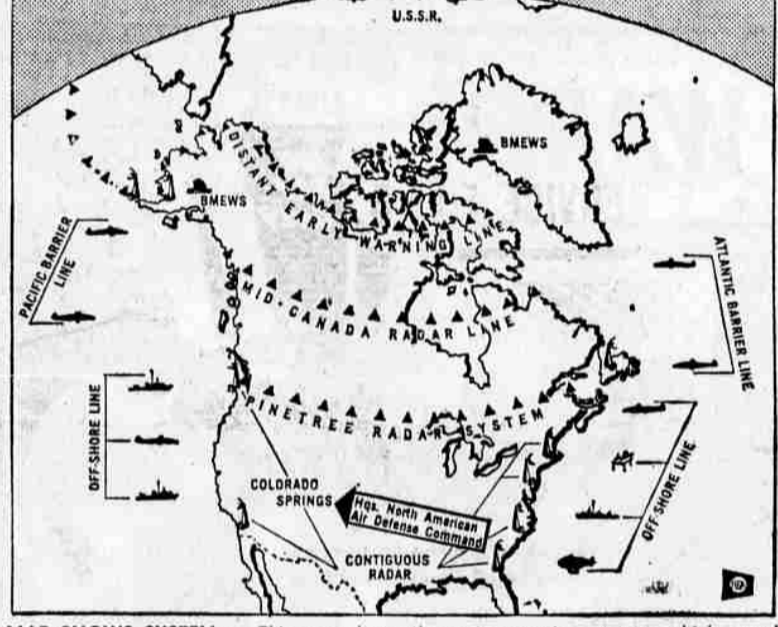
West Berlin's 12,500 policemen have been carrying only pistols on patrol of the divided city's borders. Communist patrols are equipped with sub-machineguns and other automatic weapons.

Informed sources said the U.S. government would prefer to have West Berlin police patrol the borders and felt they would be able to handle any incidents if they were properly equipped for the job.

One source said the main mission U.S. forces have here is to counter any Soviet or other Communist military threats and not worry about handling water fights and tear-gas grenade attacks by

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MAP SHOWS SYSTEM — This map shows the major warning systems which guard the U.S. The BMEWS stations in Alaska and Greenland are the only ones which provide the adequate warning against a ballistic missile attack.

GRANGE NEWS

MIDLAND GRANGE
Booster Night was held at Midland Grange Hall Wednesday, Sept. 20. A 6:30 no-host dinner started the evening. There were a large number of grangers, visitors and children present; tables and the hall were beautifully decorated with an assortment of fall flowers.

Serving on the decorating committee were Carolyn Kelly, Kathryn Smith, Alice Hoover and Nelle Moteschenbacher.

The Thanksgiving Grace song was sung by all before dinner. Kathryn Smith accompanied on the piano. After dinner, Master Grange, Lecturer Mayme Cammock then opened her section with a song, "When the Grange is Called to Order, I'll Be There."

The Bible was opened and the flag presented by Ruth Andrieu, Ceres, Verda Urbach, Lady As-

sistant Steward, and Butch Schneider, Assistant Steward. Opening prayer was said by Chaplain Opal Waresback. While the flag was being presented, the group sang "God Bless America." Steward Lee Waresback introduced Roscoe Roberts, state speaker of Medford; Klamath County Deputy Mildred Largent; Pomona Master Francis Flowers and Shasta View Master Jack Rehmeier. They were escorted to the masters' station.

Deputy Largent gave a report on what the grange stands for and how it started, she also gave a brief resume of Midland Grange. Lecturer Mayme Cammock then opened her section with an instructional report on grange insurance.

Francis Flowers read the National Master's Message followed by entertainment.

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