

# **THE PUEBLO CALL-UP:**

**40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Activation and Deployment  
123<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing  
in Support of the Pueblo Crisis  
(26 January 1968 – 09 June 1969)**



**JOHN M. TROWBRIDGE  
JASON M. LeMAY  
2008**

Cover photograph: USS *Pueblo* (AGER-2). *Official U.S. Navy Photograph.*

# Proclamation

by

Steven L. Beshear  
Governor

of the

Commonwealth of Kentucky



## *To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come:*

- WHEREAS, Since 1792, the members of the Kentucky National Guard have unhesitatingly answered the call to serve our nation and our Commonwealth; and
- WHEREAS, Today, members of the Kentucky National Guard serve across the Commonwealth and around the world, including Iraq and Afghanistan, in the finest traditions of Kentucky's military heritage; and
- WHEREAS, On June 24, 1792, the Militia Act was signed into law by Governor Isaac Shelby, which recognized the formation of a Kentucky Militia, the forerunner of today's Kentucky National Guard; and
- WHEREAS, This year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of two significant events in the history of the Kentucky National Guard, the Call-Up of the Kentucky Air National Guard in support of the "Pueblo Crisis" and the activation and deployment of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 138<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery's tour of duty in Vietnam; and
- WHEREAS, The Kentucky National Guard has been second to none in its role on the front lines of the war on terrorism. The distinguished service of many brave young men and women bears witness to the dedication and character of Kentucky's sons and daughters. Many have suffered from hardship and injuries, and some have given their last full measure of devotion in the name of freedom; and
- WHEREAS, June 24, 2008, marks the 216<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the Kentucky National Guard as its longstanding and distinguished military service to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the nation continues;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEVEN L. BESHEAR, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby proclaim June 24, 2008, as

## KENTUCKY NATIONAL GUARD DAY

in Kentucky, and urge all citizens to show special recognition of the current members, former members, and Guard member families of the Kentucky Army and Air National Guard for their unparalleled dedication and professionalism in their defense and protection of the citizens of the Commonwealth and the nation.



DONE AT THE CAPITOL, in the City of Frankfort this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand Eight and in the 21<sup>st</sup> year of the Commonwealth.

Handwritten signature of Steven L. Beshear in black ink.

STEVEN L. BESHEAR  
GOVERNOR

Handwritten signature of Trey Grayson in black ink.

Trey Grayson  
Secretary of State

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

In compiling information for this publication a number of individuals deserve our thanks. The Kentucky Air National Guard 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Staff for the publication, *Mustangs to Phantoms*, many who served on this staff were themselves participants in the Pueblo Call-Up. Many of the photographs contained in this publication came directly from it pages.

Chief Ken Coogle who once again opened up the collections in Heritage Hall to us, thanks Kenny for your continued support.

Valuable information and photographs were borrowed from the collections of Jack Dunn and Ed Hornung. We would like to recognize the efforts of the KyANG Retiree Group for their assistance in obtaining the Jack Dunn Collection.

Additional information and photos were gleaned from the documents and photographic files of the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs, Military Records and Research Branch, many thanks for their assistance.

Special recognition to the hundreds of men and women, of the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123<sup>rd</sup> Wing, who served, and contributed to this history. And finally to those who were family members, for their support and sacrifice during the "Pueblo Crisis."

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To the Men of the 123<sup>rd</sup>:

We have reached a major crossroads in the annals of the wing and I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep thanks to each one of you for the excellent job you have accomplished since our recall on Jan. 26.

At this point I find that my own reaction is one of mixed emotions: I am truly sorry that some of our number, are destined for separate assignments, for the theoretical integrity of Air Guard units becomes a personal matter when you bid even a temporary farewell to your colleagues. At the same time, I think that we can look back with pride and forward with anticipation of new and perhaps more important tasks.

Over the past five months the cooperation of each man has been a source of personal pride to me as your commander. You have responded to the initial call with an admirable spirit and a “can-do” attitude. You have borne the inconvenience of this no-notice uncertainty with far greater cheeriness than anyone had a right to expect of you; your families have been most generally supportive and through you I offer my thanks to your wives, parents, and children.

Our mutual regret over having the unit split should be self evident, but I think we all have to understand that such decisions are made by men at the very top of command who bear the responsibility for our nation’s and the world’s security. Just this week I noticed this quotation and it seems that these words were never more appropriate:

“It may be taken as our position, and the basis of our system, that every man who enjoys the protection of a free government owes not only a portion of his property but even of his personal services in defense of it.”

—George Washington

It seems to me that each one of us must want to be where he is needed the most and utilized in the most effective way. Therefore, as we turn this corner and part ways with some of you, I would urge upon you the thought that the best approach each of us can take is to do the best possible job of what ever is asked of us.

In coming months we will be having new experiences which one day we will look back upon, for the most part, as constructively interesting. For those of you who are going to the Far East, you will find that the Orient is a place of many wonders; Korea, for instance, has been improved as a military assignment and is a far cry from the Chosen we experienced in the 50’s. In addition, there are large numbers of ANG troops who are being assigned there now as replacements and you will be working with men who have interests and backgrounds similar to your own. In contrast to what you may expect now, I can predict that you will see many familiar faces before you return to the States.

I wish you every good fortune in the months to come and I repeat my thanks for everything you have contributed to the unit to date. Good luck and Godspeed in your new assignments.

Sincerely,

JACK H. OWEN, Brig. Gen., USAF  
Commander

## **INTRODUCTION**

On 23 January 1968, the “Pueblo Incident,” off the coast of North Korea precipitated the recall to federal service of the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing at Shewmaker Air National Guard Base in Louisville.

On 26 January, the 123<sup>rd</sup> was recalled to federal service. Orders for the Wing and all other units of the Kentucky Air National Guard (except for State Headquarters) called for 24 months’ active duty, unless sooner relieved.

**Kentucky Units affected by the recall (with their gaining command in parentheses) were:**

- Hq, 123<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing (TAC)
- Hq, 123<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Group (TAC)
  - 165<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron
  - 123<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Hospital
  - 123<sup>rd</sup> Combat Support Squadron
  - 123<sup>rd</sup> Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
  - 123<sup>rd</sup> Supply Squadron
- 123<sup>rd</sup> Communication Flight (AFCS)
- 165<sup>th</sup> Weather Flight (AWS-MAC)

**Non-Kentucky units of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Wing affected by the recall were:**

- 189<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Group and subordinate units, Little Rock, Arkansas
- 123<sup>rd</sup> Reconnaissance Technical Squadron, Little Rock, Arkansas
- 152<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Group, Reno, Nevada.

**123<sup>rd</sup> Units not affected by the recall:**

- 190<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Group, Hutchinson, Kansas.

The no-notice recall brought 104 officers and 650 airmen of the Kentucky Air National Guard to active duty abruptly, giving them no time to adjust from civilian life. Nonetheless, with 24 hours, all members of the Kentucky units reported for active duty.

At the time of recall, the readiness rating of the Kentucky Air National Guard was C-3 due to a number of factors related to modifications of the RF-101s, shortage of parts and equipment, and the priority which had been assigned the unit while it was on Air Guard status.

By 29 January, the initial “recall shock” leveled off, the Kentucky units launched into serious training efforts. Aircrews were sent incrementally to Sea Survival School at Homestead Air Force Base, Florida, and to tactical training at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, home of the Tactical Air Reconnaissance Center (TARC). Other training included camera repair, aircraft maintenance, photo processing and interpretation, and intelligence debriefing.

On 28 May the unit was alerted that it would be moved to Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base, Missouri, located south of Kansas City. On 9 July, “farewell ceremonies” were conducted at Shewmaker ANG Base for the departing units.

On 12 July the aircraft from the squadrons in Kentucky and Nevada were deployed in flights destined for Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base. By 14 July, back at

Shewmaker, personnel from the inactivated portions of the Kentucky Air National Guard were beginning to leave for other assignments. The 381 officers and airmen who went to Missouri were equaled by 131 Kentuckians who were reassigned to 30 separate bases in the continental United States, and 173 who were sent overseas. Of those leaving the country, 156 went to six bases in Korea, 14 to two bases in Japan, one to South Vietnam and one to Libya.

The main part of the personnel assigned to Richards-Gebaur reported 22 July. On 23 July, 154<sup>th</sup> Squadron was launched for temporary assignment to Itazuke Air Base, Japan. This was the first rotation of wing units to the Far East.

The Wing supported two other major operational commitments, "Coronet Sombrero" and "Cool Optic II." The "Coronet Sombrero" deployment was to Howard Air Force Base under the Southern Command in the Panama Canal Zone. The "Cool Optic II," deployment was to Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, under the Alaskan Air Command.

The 192<sup>nd</sup> Squadron's detachment was deployed to Panama on 8 August. On 16 August, the 165<sup>th</sup> Squadron sent its detachment to Elmendorf. The Kentucky unit returned to Richards-Gebaur on 26 September.

By 16 October the rotation of personnel in the detachment at Howard Air Force Base was due and a contingent from the 165<sup>th</sup> departed for Panama. There they relieved the 192<sup>nd</sup> Squadron, to continue "Coronet Sombrero."

On 20-21 November the 154<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron returned to Little Rock Air Force Base for deactivation. The 154<sup>th</sup> and 123<sup>rd</sup> Reconnaissance Technical Squadron were returned to State control in ceremonies held 20 December.

In January 1969, the 165<sup>th</sup> Squadron began its rotation to the Far East, bound for Itazuke Air Base, Japan. The unit flew 18 sorties per day routinely as directed by the operations center at Osan Air Base, Korea. Most were bridges, railway complexes, communication facilities, airfields, and radar sites. One of their biggest jobs was pre-strike photography for Exercise "Focus Retina," the longest airborne assault in history, which took place in March.

In late April the 165<sup>th</sup> returned to Richards-Gebaur. From 18-25 May, the Kentucky and Nevada contingents of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Wing departed from Richards-Gebaur returning to their respective Air National Guard bases. A deactivation ceremony for the Kentucky Air Guardsmen was conducted at Louisville on 9 June 1969.

During the recall period of 17 months, following several major re-organizations including the inactivation of Group Headquarters, together with most of its component units, the entire Wing compiled an enviable record. The 123<sup>rd</sup> Wing units had flown approximately 20,000 tactical flying hours, from a total of 11,561 sorties, and delivered almost 320,000 reconnaissance prints to requesting agencies. The command was deployed on important missions to the Panama Canal Zone, the Alaskan Air Command and to Itazuke Air Base, Japan.

When the unit went onto active duty they had 20 RF-101s (G and H-models), two TF-101s, one C-54 and three T-33s. They acquired one additional C-54 while on active duty and lost one RF-101 in Missouri in a crash which took the life of Captain Robert W. Sawyer.



During the recall a total of 69 members of the Kentucky Air National Guard were discharged on expiration of enlistments. Only five of these were released for hardship reasons—an outstanding record of sacrifice and service.

At various ceremonies, 37 individual awards were presented to Kentucky Air National Guardsmen for outstanding performance of duty during the recall (1-Bronze Star Medal, 1-Joint Service Commendation Medal, 1-Meritorious Service Medal, and 34-Air Force Commendation Medals). Performance during the period attained the unit its first Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (AFOUA).

## **THE PUEBLO CRISIS**

On 23 January 1968, the United States Naval Ship *Pueblo* (AGER-2), a Banner-class technical research ship (Navy intelligence) was boarded and captured by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea), in what has become known as the Pueblo Incident or alternatively as the Pueblo Crisis.<sup>1</sup>

The North Korean Government stated that the *Pueblo* had strayed into North Korea's territorial waters, but the United States maintained that the vessel was in international waters at the time of the incident. More recently, facts have come to light that indicate that USS *Pueblo* was captured by North Korea at the instigation of the Soviet Union, which was seeking a cryptographic machine onboard to match with a key provided to the Soviets by the spy John Anthony Walker.<sup>2</sup>

The ship was launched at the Kewaunee Shipbuilding and Engineering Company in Kewaunee, Wisconsin, on 16 April 1944 as United States Army cargo ship FS-344. She was transferred to the United States Navy in 1966 and was renamed USS *Pueblo*. Initially, she served as a light cargo ship, AKL-44, but shortly after resuming service was converted to an intelligence gathering ship, or what is colloquially known as a spy ship, and re-designated AGER-2 on 13 May 1967. AGER (Auxiliary General Environmental Research) denoted a joint Naval and National Security Agency (NSA) program.<sup>3</sup>

*Pueblo*'s ill-fated voyage began on 5 January 1968, when she left for Sasebo, Japan. She left Sasebo on 11 January with specific orders to intercept and conduct surveillance of Soviet naval activity in the Tsushima Straits and to gather signal and electronic intelligence from the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK).<sup>4</sup>

On 21 January a modified Soviet style sub chaser, SO-I class, passed within two miles of the *Pueblo*.

The next day, two DPRK fishing trawlers (Lenta Class) passed within 25 yards of *Pueblo*. That day, a North Korean unit made an assassination attempt against South Korean leadership targets, but the crew of *Pueblo* was not informed.

According to the American account, the following day, 23 January, *Pueblo* was approached by a sub chaser and her nationality was challenged, *Pueblo* responded by raising the U.S. flag. The DPRK vessel then ordered her to stand down or be fired upon. *Pueblo* attempted to maneuver away, but was considerably slower than the sub chaser. Additionally, three torpedo boats appeared on the horizon and then joined in the chase and subsequent attack. The attackers were soon joined by two MiG-21 fighter aircraft. A fourth torpedo boat and a second sub chaser appeared on the horizon a short time later. The ammunition onboard *Pueblo* was stored below decks, and her machine guns were wrapped in cold-weather tarpaulins. The machine guns were unmanned, and no attempt was made to man them.

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<sup>1</sup> The Pueblo (AGER-2) was the third ship named after Pueblo, Colorado. It is widely, but incorrectly, believed to be the first American ship to have been captured since the wars in Tripoli. On December 8, 1941, the river gunboat USS Wake (PR-3) was captured by Japanese forces while moored in Shanghai.

<sup>2</sup> Heath, Laura (June 2005). "An Analysis of the Systemic Security Weaknesses of the U.S. Navy Fleet Broadcasting System, 1967-1974, as Exploited by CWO John Walker". Georgia Institute of Technology. Retrieved on 2007-08-01. pp. 54-58.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.history.navy.mil/danfs/p13/pueblo-iii.htm>

<sup>4</sup> Naval Vessel Register webpage on USS Pueblo - AGER-2

U.S. Naval authorities and the crew of the *Pueblo* insist that before the capture, *Pueblo* was miles outside North Korean territorial waters; the Koreans claim the vessel was well within the DPRK's territorial waters. The mission statement allowed her to approach within a nautical mile of that limit. The DPRK, however, claims a 50-nautical-mile sea boundary even though international standards are 12 nautical miles.<sup>5</sup>

The North Korean vessels attempted to board *Pueblo*, but she maneuvered to prevent this and the sub chaser opened fire with a 55 mm cannon. The smaller vessels fired machine guns into *Pueblo*, which then signaled compliance and began destroying sensitive material. The volume of material on board was so great it made it impossible to destroy all of it.

Radio contact with Naval Security Group in Kamiseya, Japan had been ongoing. Seventh Fleet command was aware of *Pueblo's* situation. Help was promised, but never arrived. More than likely, no one wanted to take responsibility for an attack on North Korean vessels attacking *Pueblo*. By the time President Lyndon Johnson was awakened, and advised of *Pueblo's* predicament, she had been captured and any rescue attempt would have been futile.

*Pueblo* followed the North Korean vessels as ordered, but then stopped immediately outside North Korean waters. She was again fired upon, and a U.S. sailor, Fireman Apprentice Duane Hodges, was killed. She was boarded by men from a torpedo boat and a sub chaser. Crew members had their hands tied, were blindfolded, beaten, and prodded with bayonets.

Once *Pueblo* was in North Korean territorial waters, she was boarded again, this time by high-ranking North Korean officials. *Pueblo* was taken into port at Wonsan and the crew was moved twice to prisoner of war (POW) camps, with some of the crew reporting upon release that they were starved and regularly tortured while in North Korean custody.<sup>6</sup> This treatment was allegedly worsened when the North Koreans realized that crewmen were secretly giving them "the finger" in staged propaganda photos.<sup>7</sup>

Commander Lloyd M. Bucher, commanding officer of the *Pueblo*, was tortured and put through a mock firing squad in an effort to make him confess. Eventually the Koreans threatened to execute his men in front of him, and Bucher relented. None of the Koreans knew English well enough to write the confession, so they had Bucher write it himself. They verified the meaning of his words, but failed to catch the pun when he said "We paeen the North Korean state. We paeen their great leader Kim Il Sung."<sup>8</sup> Following an apology, a written admission by the U.S. that *Pueblo* had been spying, and an assurance that the U.S. would not spy in the future, the North Korean government decided to release the 82 remaining crew members. On 23 December 1968 the crew was taken by buses to the DMZ border with South Korea and ordered to walk south across the "Bridge of No Return". Exactly 11 months after being taken prisoner, the Captain led the long line of crewmen, followed at the end by the executive officer, Lieutenant Ed

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<sup>5</sup> American Society of International Law. Proceedings of the American Society of International Law: at its sixty-third annual meeting held at Washington, D.C. April 24-26, 1969. "Questions of international law raised by the seizure of the U.S.S. Pueblo."

<sup>6</sup> <http://edition.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/asiapcf/04/09/richardson.pueblo.ap/index.html>

<sup>7</sup> <http://groups.msn.com/ctoseadogs/usspueblocrew1.msnnw>

<sup>8</sup> "We paeen" sounds almost identical to "we pee on".

Murphy, the last man across the bridge. The U.S. then verbally retracted the ransom admission, apology, and assurance. Meanwhile the North Koreans blanked out the paragraph above the signature which read: "and this hereby receipts for 82 crewmen and one dead body". Commander Lloyd M. Bucher, commanding officer of the *Pueblo* and all the officers and crew appeared before a Navy Court of Inquiry. A court martial was recommended for Commander Bucher and the Officer in Charge of the Research Department, Lieutenant Steve Harris. But the Secretary of the Navy, John H. Chafee, rejected the recommendation, stating, "They have suffered enough." Commander Bucher was never found guilty of any indiscretions and continued his Navy career until retirement.

There is some debate as to whether Commander Bucher acted within his orders. It was clearly stated in his orders that Bucher was not to spark an international incident. The Americans allege that North Korea attacked and boarded *Pueblo* in international waters — a clear act of war, whereas the DPRK has stated the *Pueblo* was in violation of the territorial limit. Historically, U.S. ships engaged in the collection of intelligence would often approach the very limits of territorial waters and sometimes cross over for brief periods of time. Such actions would often prompt the target country to mobilize parts of their military and thereby provide more intelligence for the U.S. ship to capture. The question is posed whether or not Bucher should have kept *Pueblo* in the area after the first encounter with the gunboat. Those familiar with the operations of the ship point out that such encounters were routine while on station, and it was expected that Bucher would remain on station in spite of such events. Further, Bucher was not informed of escalating tensions between North Korea and the South Korean-U.S. bloc in the days leading up to the capture of *Pueblo*. Bucher died in San Diego on 28 January 2004, partly resulting from complications from the injuries he had suffered during his time as a prisoner of war in North Korea.

The USS *Pueblo* is still being held by Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea today, she remains a commissioned vessel of the United States Navy.<sup>9</sup> North Korean leader Kim Jong Il has specified that the ship will be used to promote anti-Americanism.<sup>10</sup>

USS *Pueblo* is one of the primary tourist attractions in Pyongyang, North Korea, having attracted over 250,000 visitors since being moved to the Taedong River. The *Pueblo* is now anchored at the very spot where the General Sherman Incident is believed to have taken place in 1866. Often tourists are led through the ship by a guided tour. Participants will first enter the ship for a 15-minute video shown from a small TV set mounted in the ceiling, explaining how the North Koreans captured the ship, with some old film footage from that time. All areas of the ship are shown, including the secret communications room full of encryption machines and radio equipment, still in a partly disassembled state after they were inspected by North Korean technicians. One highlight

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<sup>9</sup> Naval Vessel Register webpage on USS Pueblo - AGER-2

<sup>10</sup> <http://edition.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/asiapcf/04/09/richardson.pueblo.ap/index.html> Information for this article includes text from the Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships, and information collected from the Naval Vessel Register, which, as a U.S. government publication, is in the public domain.

of the guided tour is a photo opportunity where visitors may have their pictures taken while holding the rear-mounted machine-gun.

In October 1999, she was towed from Wonson on the east coast, around the Korean Peninsula, to Nampo on the west coast. This required moving the vessel through international waters. No attempt to recapture the *Pueblo* was made. This move was done just before the visit of U.S. presidential envoy James Kelly to the capital Pyongyang.

During an October 2000 visit to Pyongyang by then-Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, North Korean negotiators reportedly presented an offer to repatriate the USS *Pueblo* as part of a proposed process of normalizing diplomatic relations between the two nations. However, the Department of State is unable to confirm this claim. The offer dissipated with the U.S. policy shift under George W. Bush.

During an August 2005 diplomatic session in North Korea, former U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Donald Gregg received verbal indications from high-ranking North Korean officials that the state would be willing to repatriate the USS *Pueblo* to United States authorities, on the condition that a prominent U.S. government official, such as Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, come to Pyongyang for high-level talks. While the U.S. government has publicly stated on several occasions that the return of the still-commissioned Navy vessel is a priority, the current overall situation of U.S.-North Korean relations makes such an official state visit very unlikely. The U.S. government has taken the position that North Korea's nuclear weapons ambitions, human rights record, and its reputation as a sponsor of terrorism are its main concerns, and that the USS *Pueblo* is of low priority at this time.



## *123<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing*



### **Organization**

**Headquarters, 123<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing (TRW)  
(Shewmaker Air National Guard Base, Louisville, Kentucky)**

**123<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Group (TRG)**



**165<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron (TRS)  
123<sup>rd</sup> Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron  
123<sup>rd</sup> Supply Squadron  
123<sup>rd</sup> Combat Support Squadron  
123<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Hospital  
165<sup>th</sup> Weather Flight (MAC), attached unit  
123<sup>rd</sup> Communications Flight (AFC), attached unit**



**152<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Group (TRG)**  
**(May Air National Guard Base, Reno, Nevada)**  
**192<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron (TRS)**  
**152<sup>nd</sup> Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron**  
**152<sup>nd</sup> Supply Squadron**  
**152<sup>nd</sup> Combat Support Squadron**  
**152<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Dispensary**  
**192<sup>nd</sup> Weather Flight (MAC), attached unit.**  
**152<sup>nd</sup> Communications Flight (AFCS), attached unit.**



**189<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Group (TRG)**  
**(Little Rock Air Force Base, Jacksonville, Arkansas)**  
**154<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron (TRS)**  
**189<sup>th</sup> Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron**  
**189<sup>th</sup> Supply Squadron**  
**189<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Squadron**  
**189<sup>th</sup> Tactical Dispensary**  
**154<sup>th</sup> Weather Flight (MAC), attached unit**  
**189<sup>th</sup> Communications Flight (AFCS), attached unit**

**Key Personnel**  
**123<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing**

Commander:  
Brig. Gen. Jack H. Owen



Vice Commander:  
Director of Operations:  
Assistant Director of Operations:  
Director of Materiel:  
Director of Administration:  
Director of Personnel:  
Information Staff Officer:  
Intelligence Staff Officer:  
Director of Safety:  
Management Analysis Officer:  
First Sergeant:

Col. Fred W. Dyer  
Col. Eugene F. Kinnaird Jr.  
Col. James W. Dalzell  
Lt. Col. William H. Robertson  
Capt. John F. Souder  
Maj. Keith Wolfe  
Maj. Donald L. Armstrong  
Maj. William Gast  
Lt. Col. Clifford Sachleben  
Capt. Charles A. Mays  
MSgt. Theodore A. Bolton



## 165<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron

Commander:

Lt. Col. Lawrence A. Quebbeman



Maintenance Officer:

Operations Officer:

Supply Officer:

Executive Officer:

Intelligence Officer:

Photo Officer:

Photo Intelligence Officer:

First Sergeant:

Lt. Col. William H. Beck

Lt. Col. William J. Semonin

Maj. Alvin R. Byrd

Maj. Ray K. Troutman

Maj. Stanley A. Worsham

Capt. Glenn E. Duhs

Capt. Jay V. Paxton

SMSGt. Howard Curtis.

## 192<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron

Commander:

Lt. Col. Henry N. Gallues



Operations Officer:  
Maintenance Officer:  
Supply Officer:  
Intelligence Officer:  
Photo Officer:  
First Sergeant:

Lt. Col. Wayne B. Adams  
Maj. Harry Bengochea  
Capt. Walter Glantz  
Maj. Carl Robinson  
Capt. Joseph Johnson  
TSgt. Ralph Poole

## 123<sup>rd</sup> Field Maintenance Squadron

Commander:

Lt. Col. Gustave L. Welch



Maintenance Officer:

Administrative Officer:

Unit Supply Officer:

Maintenance Officer (Fabrication):

Maintenance Officer (Aerospace Systems):

Avionics Officer:

Maj. William F. Hamilton

Capt. Eugene M. Eisenmenger

Capt. Kenneth L. Wolfe

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Thomas Wiechman

CWO Kenneth A. Sorenson

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. John G. Spanyer

## Aircraft



### RF-101 Voodoo

Primary Function:	Escort/All-weather interceptor/Fighter-Bomber/Reconnaissance.
Contractor:	McDonnell.
Crew:	One.
Unit Cost:	N/A.
Powerplant:	Two Pratt & Whitney J57-P-55 turbojet engines rated at 17,000Lb (7,666Kg) each.
	Dimensions Length: 67 feet, 5 inches.
Wingspan:	39 feet, 8 inches.
Height:	18 feet.
Performance Speed:	Max. 1,009 mph.
Ceiling:	38,900 ft
Range:	N/A

## **Chronology of Events: 123<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing**

### **26 January – 31 December 1968**

- 26 January 123<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, 123<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Group, 152<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Group, 189<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Group recalled to active duty. Approximately 800 Kentucky guardsmen were involved.
- 29 January All units begin intensive combat readiness training.
- 30 January 165<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron flies crew levy for the 4440<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Group (ADGp) to Hickham Air Force Base, Hawaii.
- 13 February Visit from Major General Autrey Maroun and Pentagon Survey Team.
- 21 February 192<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron crew levy for 4440<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Group (ADGp) to Tan Son Nhut, South Vietnam.
- 192<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron crew levy for 4440<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Group (ADGp) to Kadena Air Base, Okinawa.
- 22-27 February Ten pilots from the 123<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Group attend sea survival training at Holmstead Air Force Base, Florida.
- 23 February 154<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron conducts mobility exercise to test unit readiness.
- 25 February 123<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Hospital exercises Field Hospital capability.
- 26 February – 09 March 123<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Group sends 3 reconnaissance pilots, 1 target officer to OPERATION CABALLO BLANCO, Fort Hood, Texas.
- 01 March Twenty-two Reconnaissance pilots of the 189<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Group awarded Combat Readiness Award.
- 05-15 March 192<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron personnel to Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, for crew training.
- 07-12 March 192<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron pilots attend sea survival school.

14-19 March	192 <sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron pilots attend sea survival school.
14-20 March	Tactical Air Command (TAC) Project HARVEST REAPER, Joplin, Missouri, and Richmond, Kentucky.
18-27 March	154 <sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron personnel temporary duty (TDY) to Bergstrom Air Force Base, Texas, for crew training.
19-29 March	192 <sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron personnel temporary duty (TDY) to Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, for crew training.
21 March	Eleven pilots from 154 <sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron to sea survival training.
	165 <sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron flies crew levy for the 4440 <sup>th</sup> Air Defense Group (ADGp) to Kadena Air Base, Okinawa.
24 March – 07 April	165 <sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron personnel temporary duty (TDY) to Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, for crew training.
26 March	165 <sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron completes crew levy for 4440 <sup>th</sup> Air Defense Group (ADGp) to Clark Air Force Base, Philippines.
26-27 March	192 <sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron crew levy for the 4440 <sup>th</sup> Air Defense Group (ADGp) from Clark Air Base to McClellan Air Force Base, California.
02-12 April	192 <sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron personnel temporary duty (TDY) to Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, for crew training.
04 April	Seven crew members from the 154 <sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron to sea survival training.
	Tactical Air Command (TAC) RR1010 Photo Project 68-64, with Sixth Infantry Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky.
04-09 April	165 <sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron pilots temporary duty (TDY) for sea survival training.
05 April	Photo project 1023, Tactical Air Command (TAC) mission 68-75, Utah.

07-21 April	165 <sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron aircrews and support personnel to Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, for training.
10 April	189 <sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Group participates in “BUCKSKIN RIDER” exercises, Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas.
11-16 April	165 <sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron aircrews temporary duty (TDY) to sea survival school.
12 April	154 <sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron pilots among thirty-four (34) personnel sent temporary duty (TDY) to Bergstrom Air Force Base, Texas, for crew training.
18 April	Nineteen (19) personnel of 123 <sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing sent temporary duty (TDY) to Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, for special training.
18-23 April	192 <sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron aircrews temporary duty (TDY) to sea survival school.
19 April	192 <sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron flies crew levy 620 for 4440 <sup>th</sup> Air Defense Group (ADGp) from Clark Air Force Base, Philippines, to McClellan Air Force Base, California.
	192 <sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron flies Photo Project 1028, Tactical Air Command (TAC) mission 68-80 for “Thunderbirds.”
21 April-05 May	165 <sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron personnel temporary duty (TDY) to Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, for training.
22 April	Completion date for Tactical Air Command (TAC) RR1007, Photo Project 68-62, area covers 5 cities.
	165 <sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Group completes Tactical Air Command (TAC) mission 68-62, Photo Project 1007, over 3 cities.
23 April	Open house for wives and families, Shewmaker Air National Guard Base, Louisville, Kentucky.
23-24 April	192 <sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron pilots fly Tactical Air Command (TAC) RR1021, Photo Project 68-73, Fifth Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colorado.
25-30 April	Pilots of 192 <sup>nd</sup> and 165 <sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadrons complete sea survival training.

26 April Eleven (11) personnel of the 189<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Group sent temporary duty (TDY) to Bergstrom Air Force Base, Texas, for training.

05 May Four (4) personnel of the 189<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Group sent temporary duty (TDY) to Bergstrom Air Force Base, Texas for training.

07 May 165<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron flies Tactical Air Command (TAC) mission 1041, Project 68-93 for Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) at 3 airports.

08 May 165<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron flies Tactical Air Command (TAC) mission 1062, Project 68-110, "WALLEYE" at McDill Air Force Base, Florida.

165<sup>th</sup> and 192<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadrons fly Tactical Air Command (TAC) mission 1078, Project 68-118, 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force Operation Order (OPOrd) 1-68.

12-18 May Flyovers and static displays at Langley, Patterson, Tyndall, and Bakalar Air Force Bases for Armed Forces Day, 1968.

13 May Brigadier General Owen on temporary duty (TDY) to Europe for OPERATION ROYAL FLUSH XIII, the annual exercise to evaluate air reconnaissance in NATO.

165<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron flies Project 68-64, mission 1010 at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Two weekends, two aircraft each from 165<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, civil disturbances in Washington, D. C.

28 May Wing units alerted for movement to Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base, Missouri.

04 June 189<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Group holds mobility exercise for 154<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron to test readiness.

06 June 165<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron flies crew levy 726 for 4440<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Group (ADGp) from Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, to Hill Air Force Base, Utah.

10-14 June Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI) by Tactical Air Command (TAC) conducted for the 154<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron prior to overseas movement.



- 11 June Photo Processing Cell conference for wing held at Shewmaker Air National Guard Base, Louisville, Kentucky.
- 12 June Shewmaker Air National Guard Base-Community Council sees Fort Knox fire-power demonstration.
- 24 June Five (5) personnel from the 154<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron on advance party to Itazuke Air Base, Japan.
- 27 June Tactical Air Command (TAC) Photo Project RR1107 completed by the 123<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Group for 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force.
- 30 June Millions of pounds of equipment processed for transfer of 123<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing to Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base, Missouri.
- 01 July 192<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron flies crew levy for 4440<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Group (ADGp) from Clark Air Base, Philippines, to McClellan Air Force Base, California.
- 04 July 192<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron flies crew levy from McClellan Air Force Base, California, to Ton Son Nuht Air Base, Vietnam.
- 09 July Major General Allen K. Carrell, The Adjutant General of Kentucky, presents medal and awards at Shewmaker Air National Guard Base, Kentucky, in formal farewell to the Louisville elements of the wing.
- 12 July Aircraft of the 165<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron deployed to Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base, Missouri, in permanent change of station.
- Aircraft of the 192<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron deployed to Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base, Missouri, in permanent change of station.
- 14 July Personnel declared surplus in reorganization of the wing begin leaving for other assignments, the majority to South Korea.
- 18 July Wing advance party at Richard-Gebaur begins opening facilities for arrival of the Louisville, Kentucky, and Reno, Nevada, elements of the wing.

- 20 July The augmented 154<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron moves overseas for temporary duty with Pacific Air Force (PACAF) at Itazuke Air Base, Japan.
- 165<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron flies crew levy 047 for 4440<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Group (ADGp) from Guam Air Base to McClellan Air Force Base, California.
- 22 July Main body of reorganized wing personnel arrive at Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base, Missouri, the wing's new home station.
- 23 July Twenty RF-101's (Voodoo) fly in flights of six to begin overseas movement to Itazuke Air Base, Japan, for use by the 154<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron.
- 24 July Brigadier General D. R. Searles, the Tactical Air Command (TAC) Inspector General, visits the 123<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing at Richards-Gebaur, Missouri.
- 26 July Six RF-101s (Voodoo) from the wing deploy to Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, to participate in the retirement ceremony for General G. Disosway.
- 05 August Captain Robert W. Sawyer killed in RF-101 accident near Oak Grove, Missouri.
- 08 August 192<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron advanced detachment to Howard Air Force Base, Canal Zone, for OPERATION CORONET SOMBRERO.
- 12 August 165<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron advanced detachment to Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, for OPERATION COOL OPTIC II.
- 16 August 192<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron main body to Howard Air Force Base, Canal Zone for OPERATION CORONET SOMBRERO.
- 165<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron main body to Elmendorf Air Force Base for OPERATION COOL OPTIC II.
- 21 August Major General Jay T. Robbins, commander, 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force, visits the 123<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing at Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base, Missouri.

29 August Brigadier General K. L. Riddle, special assistant to the commander of 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force, visits the 123<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing.

01 September Colonel Fred W. Dyer assumes the vice commander's slot for the 123<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing. Colonel Eugene F. Kinnaird Jr., former vice commander, becomes director of operations.

03-04 September 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force staff assistance team at Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base, Missouri.

165<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron in several different missions photographs a number of bases for the Air Training Command under a 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force mission.

06 September Colonel James W. Dalzell departs for Itazuke to serve as liaison officer between 154<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron and Fifth Air Force (PACAF).

07-08 September RF-101 (Voodoo) static display for more than 100,000 persons attending open house at Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base, Missouri.

09-13 September 192<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron deploys five RF-101s for participation in EXERCISE BOLDSHOT BRIMFIRE I at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

16-18 September 835<sup>th</sup> Air Division Safety Survey team at Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base, Missouri.

24 September Brigadier General Thomas Waltz, commander of Tactical Air Rescue Command (TARC), and party visit the 123<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing.

26 September 165<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron returns from OPERATION COOL OPTIC II to home station.

04 October 165<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron flies drop zone photography in the Army's EXERCISE COLD MASS III at Fort Riley, Kansas.

165<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron participates in EXERCISE BOLDSHOT BRIMFIRE II at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

07-11 October Tactical Air Command (TAC) Safety Survey team visits 123<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing.

14-18 October	Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI) by Tactical Air Command (TAC) Inspector General.
17-25 October	123 <sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing Command Post participates in EXERCISE HIGH HEELS.
19 October	192 <sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron returns from OPERATION CORONET SOMBRERO and 165 <sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron assumes role in that operation.
21-25 October	165 <sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron furnishes three RF-101s to support EXERCISE LINE BACKER staging from Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina.
22 October	Major General Floyd Edsall, The Adjutant General of Nevada, visits 123 <sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing.
01 November	192 <sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron sends advance detachment to Itazuke Air Base, Japan.
05-07 November	12 <sup>th</sup> Air Force staff assistance team at Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base, Missouri.
09 November	192 <sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron flies crew levy for the 4440 <sup>th</sup> Air Defense Group (ADGp) from McClellan Air Force Base, California, to Tan Son Nhut, South Vietnam.
12 November	154 <sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron begins to return to home station, Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas.
14 November	154 <sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron loses a RF-101 in accident near Itazuke Air Base, Japan. Pilot escapes with minor injuries.
16 November	192 <sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron assumes operational control of temporary duty mission at Itazuke Air Base, Japan.
18 November	165 <sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron flies crew levy for the 4440 <sup>th</sup> Air Defense Group (ADGp) from Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base to Itazuke Air Base, Japan, and return.
20 November	154 <sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron completes redeployment to Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas.
29 November –	165 <sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron flies pre-strike missions

- 03 December for joint Air Force – Army exercise in Puerto Rico.
- 05 December U.S. Senator Howard Cannon of Nevada visits the 123<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing.
- 12 December Lieutenant Colonel James McClure, 123<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing operations officer, and two airmen leave for temporary duty with Fifth Air Force (PACAF) to coordinate special targets for reconnaissance operations in the Fifth Air Force’s theater of operations.
- 20 December 189<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Group and the 123<sup>rd</sup> Reconnaissance Squadron deactivated at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, and returned to the control of the Arkansas Air National Guard.
- 30 December Brigadier General Jack H. Owen, wing commander, and Colonel Eugene F. Kinnaird Jr., director of operations, visit 165<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron detachment at Howard Air Force Base, Canal Zone.

## 01 January – 09 June 1969

- 06 January Brigadier General Jack H. Owen, wing commander, and Colonel Eugene F. Kinnaird Jr., director of operations, return from inspections of OPERATION CORONET SOMBRERO in Panama.
- 06-07 January 123<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing conducts full-scale mobility practice.
- 08 January Brigadier General Frank Spink, Air Force Reserve mobility assignee 10<sup>th</sup> Air Force, given tour and briefing of 123<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing operations.
- 09 January Major General Larry C. Dawson, The Adjutant General of Kentucky, visits the wing with Kentucky Air National Guard staff.
- 10 January 123<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing conducts another mobility practice.
- 13-15 January 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force operational readiness inspection team conducts security, mobility recheck.
- 15 January 165<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron advance detachment deployed to Japan, GAME FOX III.
- 16 January 165<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, CORONET SOMBRERO detachment re-deployed to Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base, Missouri.
- 17 January Advance detachment of the 192<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron leaves Itazuke Air Base, Japan, to home station at Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base, Missouri.
- 165<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron pilots leave for Itazuke Air Base, Japan.
- 18 January 192<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron at Itazuke Air Base goes on expanded aircraft alert in reaction to intelligence reports that the Korean situation could worsen.
- 165<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron pilots begin Korean checkout program.
- 25 January - 02 February 165<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron main body deploys to Itazuke.

26 January	165 <sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron assumes responsibility for “Commando Look,” an alert program in Japan.
27 January – 03 February	192 <sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron re-deploys main body to home station.
29 January	165 <sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron assumes command of operations at Itazuke Air Base, Japan.
30 January	The 192 <sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron is awarded the Fifth Air Force Plaque for outstanding achievement in the defense of the Republic of Korea.
01 February	165 <sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron flies crew levy for the 4440 <sup>th</sup> Air Defense Group (ADGp) from Clark Air Force Base, Philippines, to McClellan Air Force Base, California.
03-07 February	12 <sup>th</sup> Air Force special team conducts safety inspection of the wing, including the just re-deployed 192 <sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron.
10 February	All pilots of the 165 <sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron are Korean qualified.
12 February	Lieutenant General Thomas K. McGehee, commander of Fifth Air Force, visits the 165 <sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron.
16 February	Colonel James Dalzell returns to Richard-Gebaur Air Force Base, Missouri, and is replaced by Lieutenant Colonel Robert K. Hendricks as liaison between 165 <sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron and Fifth Air Force.
17 February	XVIII Airborne Corps Artillery requests for reconnaissance work in the Fort Campbell, Kentucky, area is fulfilled.  Brigadier General Owen departs for inspection tour of operations of wing forces in Korea and Japan.
24 February	Lieutenant Colonel William Robertson, director of materiel, and Major William Gast, director of intelligence, leave for inspection visit of 165 <sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron at Itazuke Air Base, Japan.
24-28 February	12 <sup>th</sup> Air Force Inspector General Team conducts no-notice General Inspection of the wing.

- 28 February Captain John Molini and Lieutenant Colonel Mervin Johnson are injured in a major aircraft accident at Buckley Air National Guard Base, Colorado, while flying a TF-101 F.
- 11-12 March Wing hosts de-mobilization planning conference at Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base, Missouri, attended by representatives of OOAMA, Tactical Air Command (TAC), National Guard Bureau (NGB), 189<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Group, 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force, and 4676<sup>th</sup> ABG (ADC).
- 14 March 165<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron begins participation in Exercise FOCU RETINA in the Republic of Korea.
- 16 March Lieutenant Colonel James McClure returns from special assignment at Headquarters, Fifth Air Force.
- Lieutenant Colonel Mervin Johnson dies of injuries suffered in major aircraft accident on 28 February 1969.
- 18 March General Joseph Nazzaro, commander-in-chief of the Pacific Air Forces, visits the 165<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance at Itazuke Air Base, Japan.
- 20 March 192<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron completes reconnaissance request at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.
- Contingent of officers and airmen from the wing attend the funeral of Lieutenant Colonel Mervin Johnson in Reno, Nevada.
- 22 March Pilot from 165<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron scrambles for “Commando Look.”
- 23-29 March 165<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron flies crew levy for 4440<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Group (ADGp) from Itazuke Air Base, Japan, to Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base, Missouri.
- 25 March General William Momyer, commander of Tactical Air Command, visits Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base, Missouri.
- Second “Command Look” scramble.
- 27 March Sergeant Donald E. Crawford is awarded membership in the “TAC Thinkers Club” for his suggestion that improved maintenance procedures and was adopted Air Force-wide.



30 March Colonel Fred Dyer leaves for Temporary duty (TDY) to participate in OPERATION CRESTED CAP I.

04 April Colonel James Dalzell leaves for May Air National Guard Base, Nevada, to begin reconstitution of the 152<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Group.

07 April Former Air National Guard technicians leave Richards-Gebaur for Reno, Nevada, and Louisville, Kentucky to aid in reconstitution of Air National Guard units.

15 April 165<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron relieved of responsibility for “Commando Look.”

16 April Lieutenant General Thomas K. McGhee, presents the 165<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron the Fifth Air Force outstanding achievement award for the defense of the Republic of Korea. The 165<sup>th</sup> TRS was only the third squadron to receive this award.

20 April 165<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance re-deployed to Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base, Missouri.

22 April On departure from Itazuke Air Base, an RF-101 flown by Captain Bill Seiber burst into flames on the runway, while being filmed by Japanese television. Captain Seiber was unharmed.

01 May Additional personnel leave for May Air National Guard Base, Reno, Nevada, to prepare for de-activation of the 192<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron.

12 May Tactical aircraft from the 192<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron deploy to May Air National Guard Base in preparation for de-activation.

18-25 May 123<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing personnel and equipment moved to Shewmaker Air National Guard Base, Louisville, Kentucky, in preparation for de-activation.

20-25 May Main body of the 192<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron re-deploys to May Air National Guard Base, Reno, Nevada.

22 May Aircraft from the 165<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron deploy to Shewmaker Air National Guard Base, Louisville, Kentucky.

- 25 May Personnel from the wing and personnel formerly declared surplus and sent world-wide, re-form at May and Shewmaker Air National Guard Bases.
- 07 June De-activation ceremonies at May Air National Guard Base, Reno, Nevada.
- 09 June De-activation ceremonies at Shewmaker Air National Guard Base, Louisville, Kentucky. The 123<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing de-activated and returned to state control.
- 15-16 December The Wing and Group commanders, Brigadier General Jack H. Owen and Lieutenant Colonel Lawrence Quebbeman, were received by President Richard M. Nixon at the White House with a personal thanks and a proclamation which stated, in part:

*“All of these Reserve Component units responded to the Nation’s call in time of need and established records of performance, both in and out of combat, which have demonstrated a level of readiness and training never before achieved by our reserve forces. . . they have truly upheld the heritage and tradition of the citizen soldier and have again proven that both the National Guard and the Reserves are a great resource for our country and one which is necessary for our national security.”*

## 1970

- 03 November The Secretary of the Air Force announced that the 123<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing had won the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (AFOUA) for the Pueblo call-up of 1968 – 69. This special order, numbered GB – 886, dated 03 November, stated that the award was being made for “exceptionally meritorious service in support of military operations from 26 January 1968 to 09 June 1969.”

## **OPERATIONS/EXERCISES**

BOLDSHOT/BRIMFIRE I: Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

BOLDSHOT/BRIMFIRE I: Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

BOLDSHOT/BRIMFIRE II: Puerto Rico.

COBALLO BLANCO: Fort Hood, Texas.

COLD MASS III: Fort Riley, Kansas.

COOL OPTIC II: Alaskan Air Command.

CORONET SOMBRERO: Howard Air Force Base, Canal Zone. 17 August – 18 October 1968.

COMBAT FOX – GAME FOX III: Itazuke, Japan.

FOCUS RETINA: Korea. March 1969.

GARDEN PLOT: Major U. S. Cities.

HARVEST REAPER: Joplin, Missouri – Richmond, Kentucky.

LINEBACKER: Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

# **OPERATIONAL STATISTICS SUMMARY**

(26 January 1968 – 09 June 1969)

## **192<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron**

Aerial film footage processed:	273,000.
Photographic prints processed:	36,000.
Quality of work:	Good to excellent.
Flying hours:	6,915.
Sorties flown:	3,894.

## **165<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron**

Aerial film footage processed:	284,251.
Photographic prints processed:	257,200.
Quality of work:	Good to excellent.
Flying hours:	7,192.
Sorties flown:	4,438.

## **154<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron**

Aerial film footage processed:	278,570.
Duplicate aerial film processed:	5,780.
Photographic prints processed:	25,656.
Quality of work:	Good.
Flying hours:	5,161.
Sorties flown:	2,932.

## **Squadron Totals**

Total aerial film footage processed:	841,601.
Total photographic prints processed:	318,856.
Quality of work:	Good to excellent.
Total flying hours:	19,715.
Total sorties flown:	11,561.

# **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

## **COMMANDER'S APPRAISAL**

As we close out our active duty service we can look back upon the outstanding performance of this wing, particularly its tactical squadrons which have compiled a tremendous record of accomplishment in the commitment overseas in Japan and the Republic of Korea. We can also look back on the successful adjustments which we have made following the operational readiness inspection, several safety surveys, and the general inspection. As we leave active duty it seems that we have set each successive requirement asked of the wing.

The last visit to the wing from the advisory assistance team from the 835<sup>th</sup> Air Division at McConnell showed that the time-phased items which the unit was responsible for accomplishing were being met according to schedule. Reaching May 1, we were relieved of many of the commitments for which we were responsible previously.

Operationally, this wing is without an equal anywhere in the Air Force. I would like to thank each member of the wing for his individual contribution to this total effort. We have been operating with an incredible span of operations - - from Arkansas to Panama, from Missouri to Alaska, and from Japan to South Korea. We have continued to demonstrate the key concept of flexibility and mobility which is so vital to Tactical Air Command units today. We have flown more hours, more sorties, and more fringed missions than any comparable unit anywhere. If we are a little proud of ourselves, we have good cause.

Now we turn to the task of reconstitution. We must take this unit from its high state of readiness at present and return to Air National Guard status without appreciable loss in combat capability. This is a vital responsibility, the very heart of the "ready, now!" concept of our Air Reserve Forces.

Finally, because of the mountainous task involved, I would like to thank the staff of the Office of Information for its work in compiling this history, the third and final documentation of our active service. We hope that these efforts will be useful to Air Force historians some day in evaluating the record of ARF in the defense and security of this nation.

JACK H. OWEN, Brigadier General, USAF  
Commander

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS TACTICAL AIR COMMAND  
LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, VIRGINIA 23365



REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: DO

SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation

TO: 12 AF

The attached letter is forwarded with pleasure. The ability to respond rapidly with a high quality product reflects favorably on our tactical reconnaissance force and demonstrates to organizations outside the USAF our ability to get the job done. Please convey our compliments for an excellent performance to all participants.

FOR THE COMMANDER



1 Atch  
Ltr, AAC (C), 4 Feb 69

USAF  
RECEIVED

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER, ALASKAN AIR COMMAND  
APO SEATTLE 98742



4 FEB 1969

SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation

TO: TAC  
Langley AFB, Virginia 23365

1. I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the officers and airmen of the 165th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, who participated in Exercise COOL OPTIC II.
2. During the exercise this unit provided the Alaskan Air Command with a much needed and timely reconnaissance force. The professional ability and aggressiveness of the men of the 165th enabled this command to provide, to numerous federal and state agencies within Alaska, a high quality and up to date photographic product.
3. Please convey my sincere congratulations to the officers and airmen of the 165th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron for their highly professional performance of a job well done.



T. E. MOORE, Major General, USAF  
Commander

Cy to: 123rd  
Tac Recon Wg

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS FIFTH AIR FORCE (PACAF)  
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96325



REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: C

SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation

30 JAN 1969

TO: CINCPACAF  
APO 96553

1. I heartily endorse Col Matlick's comments. The 192 Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron has been a great asset to Fifth Air Force throughout the deployment period. They have maintained a high state of readiness, supported a large complex maintenance effort involving assets other than their own, and have reacted to all operational tasks in a timely and professional manner.

2. In acknowledgement of this fine record, I have personally presented the Fifth Air Force Plaque for Outstanding Achievement to the 192 Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron.

THOMAS K. McGEHEE, Lt Gen, USAF  
Commander

1 Atch  
348 CSG (HC) ltr, 22 Jan  
69, subj as above

1st Ind

12 FEB 1969

DAF, PACAF (DORC)

TO: 123d Tac Recon Wing (C)

1. It is a distinct and sincere pleasure to receive and forward correspondence of this nature. The singular professional performance of the 192nd TRS is in keeping with the finest traditions of the Air National Guard.

2. Please convey my congratulations to the officers and men of the 192TRS for a truly outstanding job.

ERNEST C. BARDIN, JR, Major General, USAF  
Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations

1 Atch n/c

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS TWELFTH AIR FORCE (TAC)  
BERGSTRON AIR FORCE BASE, TEXAS 79743



OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER

28 FEB 1969

SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation

TO: 835 Air Div (C)

1. The attached letters are forwarded with sincere pleasure. It is extremely gratifying to receive favorable correspondence such as this pertaining to the quality of our tactical reconnaissance forces.
2. The professionalism displayed by the 165th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing during Exercise Cool Optic II did not pass unnoticed. Their exceptional performance reflects favorably on our mobilized national guard reconnaissance forces and demonstrates to all the ability of Twelfth Air Force forces to respond rapidly with outstanding results.
3. Please convey my sincere appreciation to the members of the 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing responsible for a job well done.

JAY T. ROBBINS, Maj Gen, USAF  
Commander

1 Atch  
TAC (DO) Ltr, 15 Feb 69,  
w/Atch

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS 835th AIR DIVISION (TAC)  
McCONNELL AIR FORCE BASE, KANSAS 67221



OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER

6 MAR 1969

SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation

TO: 123 Tac Recon Wg (C)

1. The attached correspondence from Major Generals Jay T. Robbins and T. E. Moore and Brigadier General Joseph G. Wilson is forwarded with great pride. It is always a pleasure to receive favorable correspondence depicting the mission accomplishments of the personnel assigned to your command.
2. Please express my appreciation to all of the participants for their noteworthy demonstration. Thank you!

W. E. DAVIS, JR., Brig Gen, USAF  
Commander

1 Atch  
Hq 12 AF (Office of  
the Commander) Ltr,  
28 Feb 69, w/Atch



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCES SOUTHERN COMMAND  
ALBROOK AIR FORCE BASE, CANAL ZONE



2 APR 1969

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: NDI

SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation -- 123rd TRW

TO: 123 TRW (OI)  
Richards Gebaur AFB, Mo.

1. A rotational squadron of RF-101's of the 123rd TRW completed its initial deployment to Howard AFB, Canal Zone, in August 1968. By 19 August, two flights per day were scheduled as a sustained operational rate. The RF-101 crews quickly became accustomed to flight operations in this theater and made a smooth transition into activities of this command's 24th Special Operations Wing.

2. Following this initial adjustment period, the presence of three RF-101's presented USAFSO with an excellent opportunity to fulfill outstanding requirements, especially those requiring high altitude capabilities and, further, to accomplish many hitherto deferred photo reconnaissance requirements.

3. Within a very short time after the arrival of the RF-101's, word about their capabilities soon spread and many local military and non-DOD agencies began soliciting photo reconnaissance support from USAFSO. The command was delighted to comply, and the variety of missions flown and the results were very impressive and very satisfying to those receiving the end products. The activities of the rotational squadron of the 123rd TRW with USAFSO are listed in Atch #1 and the photo reconnaissance accomplished is listed in Atch #2.

4. The men of the 123rd TRW rotational squadron were competent and enthusiastic. They were responsive to requirements levied by this command in support of objectives and agencies listed in the attachments. The last rotational element of the 123rd TRW returned to CONUS on 15 January 1969. This command expresses its deep appreciation for the services rendered by squadrons of the 123rd TRW while in this theater.

  
KENNETH O. SANBORN, Major General, USAF  
Commander

2 Atch  
1. 123rd TRW Det Activity  
2. Photo Requests Completed by RF-101's



HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE'S KOREA  
UNIFIED KASONG COMMAND  
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96376

C

Letter of Appreciation

The Adjutant General, Kentucky  
State Capitol  
Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601

1. On behalf of the United States Air Force in Korea, I convey my appreciation for the significant contributions made by the Kentucky Air National Guard while serving on active duty in the Republic of Korea.
2. The seizure of the U.S.S. Pueblo in January 1968 and the subsequent downing of the EC 121 aircraft in April 1969 by the North Koreans created critical international situations for our government. The presence of guard units from your State was essential to us in maintaining a high state of preparedness for any contingency. Had it become necessary for the air forces to counter those unprovoked attacks we would have been ready to do so.
3. The 123rd Combat Support Squadron and the 123rd Supply Squadron provided many personnel to supplement support functions at Osan Air Base. Mission accomplishment dictated that neither of these units could operate in unit strength; however, various members were represented in such positions as Inspector General, 631st Support Wing; Logistics Officer, 557th Engineering Squadron and other important positions within the 31st Air Division at Osan. Other members were integrated into various units at Kimpo, Suwon, Kunsan, Taegu and Kwang Ju Air Bases. Their duty performance made a definite contribution in the accomplishment of our mission.
4. Please extend my personal thanks and congratulations to the fine members of those units who augmented the United States Air Force in Korea during these emergency conditions.

  
A. W. HOLDERNESS, JR, Brig Gen, USAF  
Commander



# NEWS RELEASE

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

OFFICE OF INFORMATION, HQ FIFTH AIR FORCE (PACAF), FUCHU AS, JAPAN, TEL: 44370

Release No. 69 - 27

April 26, 1968

FUCHU AS, Japan -- The 165th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron received the Fifth Air Force Outstanding Performance Award today from Lieutenant General Thomas E. McClure, Fifth Air Force commander.

Accepting the award for the 165th Tactical Recon Squadron was Lieutenant Colonel Lawrence A. Gumberson, 165th commander.

The unit, from Louisville, was cited by General McClure for its outstanding contribution to Fifth Air Force's studies during its temporary duty tour at Itazuka Air Base, Japan.

Since coming to Japan in February, the 165th has maintained an around-the-clock alert commitment while carrying out an intensive flying training program in its reconnaissance jets. The unit is equipped with F-105-JAL 70000s.

The 165th, a unit of the 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing at Richmond-Memphis Air Force Base, Mo., was called to active duty shortly after the Pueblo crisis in January 1968.

- 30 -





**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE  
AIR FORCE OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD  
TO  
THE 123<sup>RD</sup> TACTICAL RECONNAISSANCE WING (TAC)**

The 123<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, Tactical Air Command, has distinguished itself by exceptional meritorious service from 26 January 1968 through 9 June 1969. During this period the 123<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing and its assigned and attached units, recalled to active duty from Air National Guard status in the service of their country, have contributed spectacular achievements in the defense of the United States of America by conducting vital tactical operations in widely separated locations in the United States and overseas, including Alaska, Panama Canal Zone, Japan and Korea. Through these distinctive accomplishments the members of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing have reflected great credit upon themselves, the Air National Guard establishments of the States of Arkansas, Kentucky, and Nevada, and the United States Air Force.



**President Richard M. Nixon's Remarks on Signing the Proclamation Honoring Reserve Components of the Armed Forces.** December 16th, 1969

I APPRECIATE the opportunity to join in this ceremony; and it is one that I wish I could participate in more often, where a proclamation expresses appreciation for service rendered, and where those involved have completed that service and have returned to civilian life, where that is their choice.

I should point out, of course, that you are still in the Reserve. That means that you can still be called, something which I know you understand and something I know which will always be the great tradition in this country.

I think it is worth saying, however, something about the Reserve components that were called up as a result of this proclamation of 1968, to which [Deputy] Secretary [of Defense David] Packard has referred.

Executive Orders 11392 of January 25, 1968, and 11406 of April 10, 1968, together called up 36,000 men.

Thirty-six thousand men have been called up under that proclamation. Twenty-two thousand of those 36,000 served overseas. Those 22,000 received over 4,000 citations, including over 250 Purple Hearts.

This is, it seems to me, eloquent demonstration of the service that is rendered to the United States, not only by our regular forces, and those who are brought into the service through the Selective Service, but also those who are in the Reserves, as are the people who are here.

The Nation is grateful to you, grateful to you for the service you have rendered. The Nation is also grateful to you for the fact that you are in the Reserves, that you are ready, ready to serve the Nation again, as you have in the past.

And in this Christmas season, we can only say that this is the appropriate time to sign the proclamation, a proclamation which recognizes the service, recognizes what you have done. And it also gives me the opportunity in this East Room, which is appropriately decorated, to wish all of you the very best for Christmas and the New Year. I should point out, incidentally, to the Secretary, as I see all of this rank in the front row, that I am reminded of the fact that I, too, am in the Reserves, although it is now inactive--I understand inactive, at least.

But, while, because of the position I hold--I hold the rank of Commander in Chief of our Armed Forces--I realize that except for that election that I would be a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Naval Reserve, showing proper respect to my superiors here in the front row.

We hope you all have a chance to look at the Christmas decorations and take anything that isn't nailed down.<sup>11</sup>

---

<sup>11</sup> The President spoke at 10:50 a.m. in the East Room at the White House on signing Proclamation 3949. More than 130 people were present for the ceremony which honored the National Guard and the Reserves. John T. Woolley and Gerhard Peters, *The American Presidency Project* [online]. Santa Barbara, CA: University of California (hosted), Gerhard Peters (database). Available from World Wide Web: <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=2372>.

# CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

FOR SERVICE IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES

*I extend to you my personal thanks and the sincere appreciation of a grateful nation for your contribution of honorable service to our country. You have helped maintain the security of the nation during a critical time in its history with a devotion to duty and a spirit of sacrifice in keeping with the proud tradition of the military service.*

*I trust that in the coming years you will maintain an active interest in the Armed Forces and the purpose for which you served.*

*My best wishes to you for happiness and success in the future.*

*Richard Nixon*

COMMANDER IN CHIEF



Certificate of Appreciation issued to all military personnel involved in the Pueblo Call-Up.  
Courtesy of Ed Hornung.

# PHOTOGRAPHS

## Shewmaker Air National Guard Base



Added security was required at Shewmaker during the call-up.

Publicity photo taken at time of the call-up: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Tina Kline and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Bev O'Bryan give Allen Miller a blood pressure and pulse check.



With the call-up, Food Services section found itself preparing three meals a day, week after week. Larry Singleton and Charles Leachman on KP duty.



American Airlines pilots recalled. (l-r): Albert "Dub" Shean, Kenny Glass, Marty Case, Buz Sawyer, and Austin Bond. On 5 August 1968, near Kansas City, MO., Captain Sawyer was killed in an aircraft crash.



This group of eight KyANG worked for the Kentucky Bell Telephone system. Win Appleby (right) organized the get together. Roger M. Sanders (seated, center) was killed 14 September 1971, in the craft of his aircraft at Standiford Field.





Eleven members of Kappa Alpha fraternity were in the unit during the call-up. (l-r): Bob MacNamara, Wayne Lollis, Harry LeeWaterfield Jr., Kyle Hubbard, Bill Irion, Tom Dunker (not with unit), Jay Paxton, William Hays, Bob Walters, Ted Schneider, Anthony Overbey, and Leroy Dale.



Members of the Supply Squadron at Shewmaker were: kneeling (l-r) Overby, Link, Seay, Woodward, Merrick, Board, King; (middle row) Will, Snyder, Lollis, Wells, Skees, Bizzell, Hawkins, Phillips, and Byrd; (rear) Mays, Bowling, Kessler, Jones, Abbott, Brown, and Rice.

**Tactical Air Command  
Small Arms Championship  
Langley Air Force Base, Virginia  
April 1968**



Col Falletta presents trophy to small bore rifle team, standing team champions. *Courtesy Ed Hornung.*

Brig Gen Wilson presents TSgt Donald L. Durbin the trophy as the 1968 small bore rifle champion. *Courtesy Ed Hornung.*



**Combat Training  
Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina**



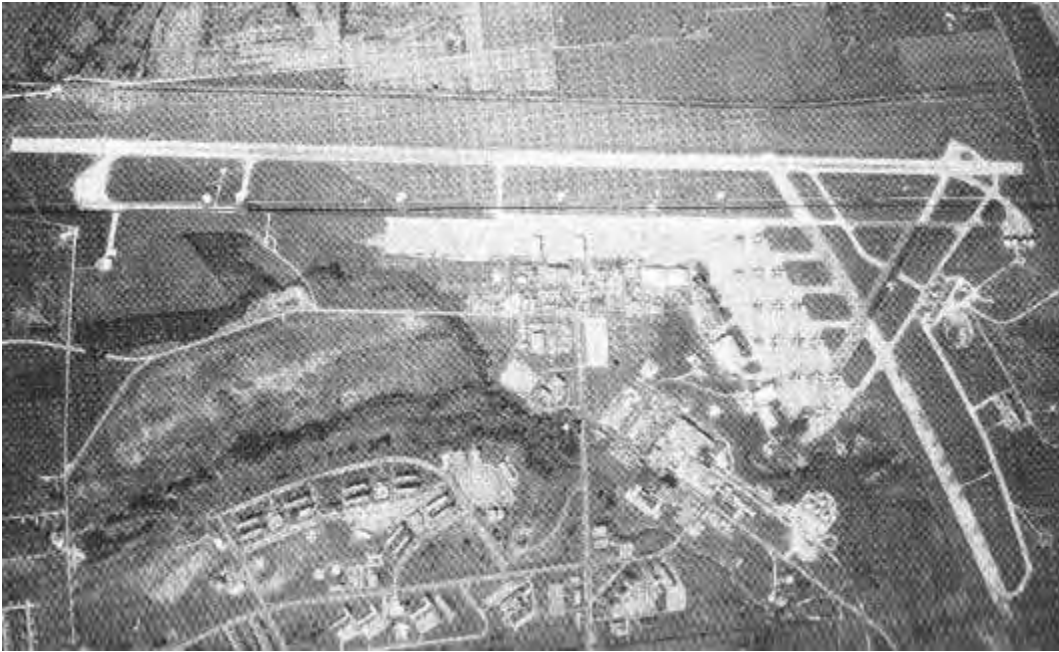
Maj Fred Bradley, Lt Col William J. Semonin, Col Williams of TAC, Col Verne Yahne (not on active duty), and Lt Col D. L. Oter of TAC. Bradley, Semonin, and Yahne were receiving combat tactics training in the RF-101.

**Sea Survival School  
Homestead Air Force Base, Florida**



Following the call-up some of the first training conducted was sea survival training. All Kentucky Air National Guard Voodoo pilots rotated to Florida for the training. The above photographs were taken in March 1968.

## Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base

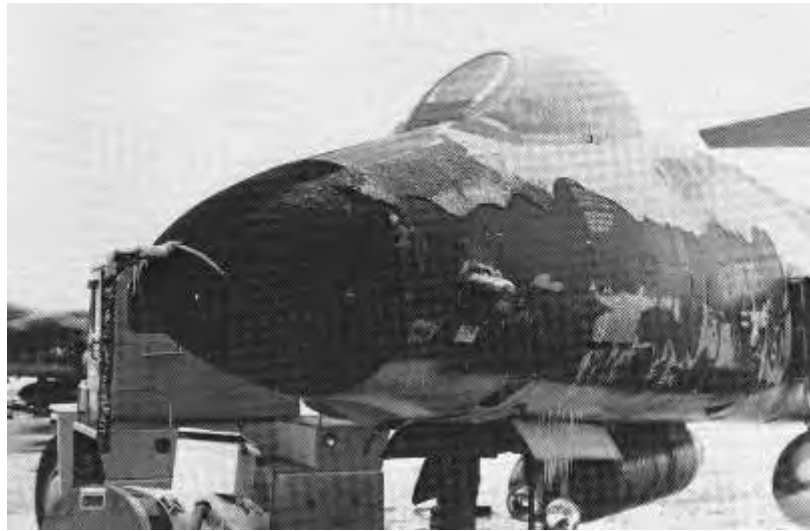


Welcome to 'R-G': Crew chief Bob Kinser welcomes the Voodoos of the 165<sup>th</sup> Tac Recon Squadron to Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base, near Kansas City, MO., 12 July 1968.



RF-101 Flight line of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing

Snow and ice at 'R-G'



Brass at Richards-Gebaur  
1969.



Major General Larry C. Dawson visits  
165<sup>th</sup> at 'R-G'





Return to 'R-G'



The first flight of RF-101 Voodoo jets return from Itazuke Air Base, Japan, to Richards-Gebaur AFB, MO., is Maj Fred Arnold, a flight leader, from Lexington, Kentucky. Taking Maj. Arnold's maps and navigational equipment is Staff Sgt. Gary E. Brock of New Albany, IN., a phase inspector with the 165<sup>th</sup> TRS.





Return of the 165<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron on 24 April 1969, to Richards-Gebaur AFB, MO. Maj. Richard L. Frymire (center), with his wife, Phyllis and their children, shows his new movie camera purchased in Japan to Capt. Kenneth R. Stick of the 192<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron.

**Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska  
Cool Optic II**



COOL OPTIC II, Elmendorf Air Force Base, September 1968. (l-r): Bob Eppler and Dan Higgins.



Maj Fred Arnold prepares to fly another dawn mission for the Alaskan Air Command.



Ground crew performing maintenance on an RF-101. Ronnie Siddons and Melvin Davis.



The second group to go to Elmendorf, commanded by Lt Col Quebbeman (center front). Kneeling (l-r): Gowan, Irion, Paxton, Matlock, Smith, Long, Quebbeman, Tesner, Sanders, Bradley, Arnold, Deusch, Dunn, sunglasses; Standing: Staff, Baer, Daugherty, Foster, Mooney, Foster, Ezell, Eppler, Moore, unidentified, Ardery, unidentified, Higgins, next unidentified, Ryan, Harmon, Richardson, Bowles, unidentified, Benedict, Hall, Smith, next four unidentified, (on wing) Bronger, Lundigan, Roland, Lurker, two unidentified, Hall, Westerman, Thomas, Jones, Siddons, unidentified, Willis, Pohl, and Kinser.

## Coronet Sombrero

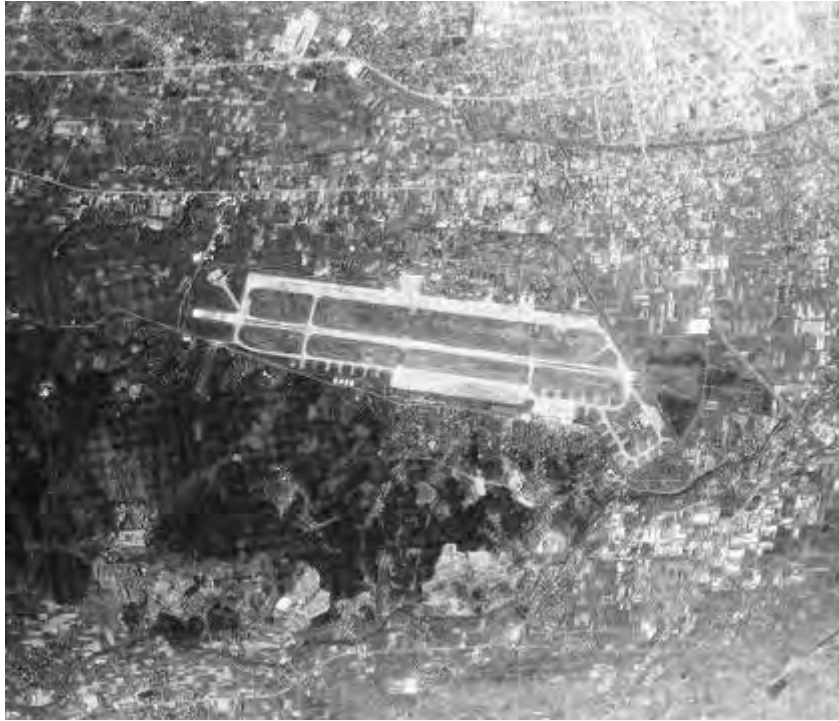


Members of the 165<sup>th</sup> Tac Recon Squadron at Howard Air Force Base, Panama, Operation Coronet Sombrero. Kneeling (l-r): Ken Glass, Ron Duhs, Melvin Richardson, unidentified, Dick Ellingsworth, Tom Lamb, Paul Caufield, Charles Beanblossom, Lou Dusch, Phil Hodges; Standing: Jim Evens, Bob King, Ed Logsdon, Frank Devan, Ed Brennan, Taylor Davidson, Jr., John Hill, Bob Bronger, Bob Banet, Ron Siddons, Norman Busch, Melvin Davis, Mike Abbott, Don Krigbaum, Frank Devan, Bill Seiber, Jim Snodgrass, Fred Bradley, and Mike Ryan.



Panama Canal.

## Itazuke Air Base



Itazuke Airbase, Fukuoka, Japan. Shot by Voodoo camera directly overhead.



Itazuke Air Base, Japan, February 1969.  
(l-r): unknown, unknown, Volkerdein, Jim Snodgrass, Mike Ryan.



Itazuke Japan 1969.  
Operations Desk: (l-r):  
Capt. Evans, Capt.  
Matlock, Capt. Smith  
(seated), A/3 LeBlanc,  
Maj. Frymire, Capt.  
Tesner, Sgt. Telvin.

Photo Intell Shop: (l-r):  
Capt. Paxton and Sgt.  
Elder.





Photo Intell Shop:  
(l-r): Sgt. Eppler,  
Capt. Evans,  
Maj. Worsham.

An RF-101 (Voodoo) over  
rice paddies in South Korea,  
Spring 1969.









Lt Col Quebbeman (seated) briefs pilots on reconnaissance mission. Pilots l-r: Marty Case, Roger Sanders, Bill Seiber, and Mick Gannon.



Suiting up for flight: pilots are aided by Ken Wheatley and Paul Yahne in Personal Equipment Section at Itazuke.

Lt Col Quebbeman gives map briefing to Sanders, Seiber, and Case.



Frozen rice, flying over the “Land of the Morning Calm,” around the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel.



RF101 PHOTO RUN - KOREA



RIVER RECONNAISSANCE - KOREA 1969



RF101 ROUTE RECONNAISSANCE - KOREA 1969



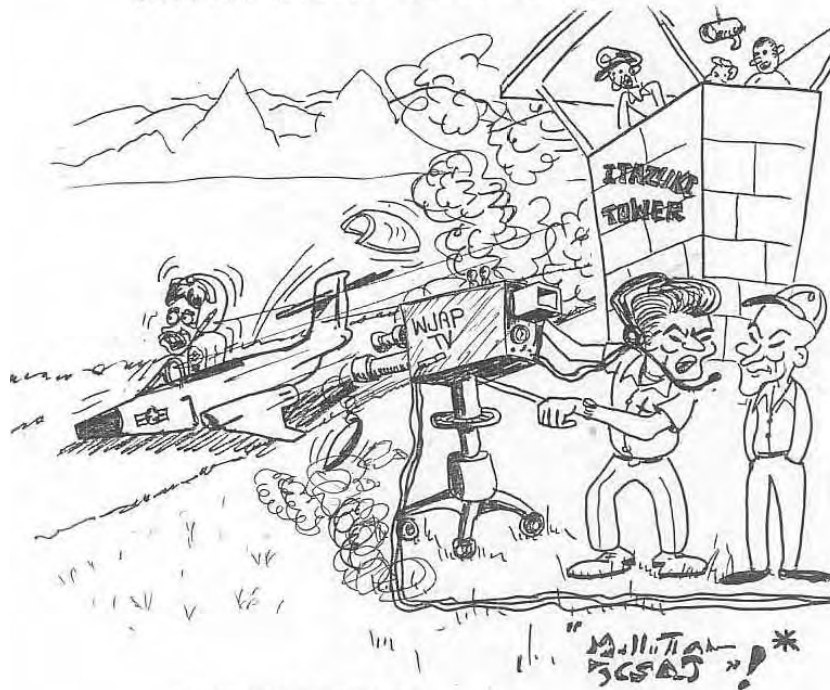
Brig Gen Owen visits the 165<sup>th</sup> at Itazuke



Unforgettable take-off: Captain Bill Seiber rode his RF-101 until the fuel tanks were clipped off by the last arresting barrier. He walked away! The incident was captured by Japanese Television and the Wing's Cartoonist Paul Coyle.

**FILE-13** by Coyle

As the 165th was departing from Itazuke AB . . .  
 SEIBER'S WORLD-FAMOUS CRASH (LIVE T-V)



\*"THOSE CRAZY AMERICANS WILL  
 DO ANYTHING TO GET ON TELEVISION!!"  
 (English translation.)

**Bergstrom Air Force Base, Texas**



Aerial view of Bergstrom Air Force Base.

**Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Saigon, South Vietnam**



Aerial view of Tan Son Nhut Air Base, 1968.

## Kadena Air Base, Okinawa



Aerial photograph of Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, 1968.



## Return to Shewmaker Air National Guard Base

Deactivation and awards ceremony at Shewmaker Air National Guard Base, Louisville, Kentucky, 09 June 1969. Presentations made by Major General Larry Dawson, The Adjutant General of Kentucky.



Returning the Colors: Brig Gen Jack H. Owen, returns the Colors to MG Larry C. Dawson, The Adjutant General of Kentucky.



Brig Gen Donavon Smith, handed out medals to, (l-r) Lt Col L. A. Quebbeman, Maj Fred Cross, Maj Harry Greschel, Capt Walter Baker, and Sgt John Ripy.



Major General Larry C. Dawson, The Adjutant General of Kentucky makes individual awards presentations.



Parade and Review:  
July 1969.  
Recognition for service  
during the Pueblo Call-  
Up. Chaplain W. E.  
Hisle receives Air  
Force Commendation  
Medal for his service  
from MG Dawson.  
Chaplain Hisle is aided  
by his son Billy.



## The Last Two – Then and Now

Ed and Jerry the last Kentucky Air National Guardsmen (one a traditional airman, the other a full-time Tech) from the Pueblo Call-Up were still serving in the Kentucky Air National Guard until both retired in 2008.



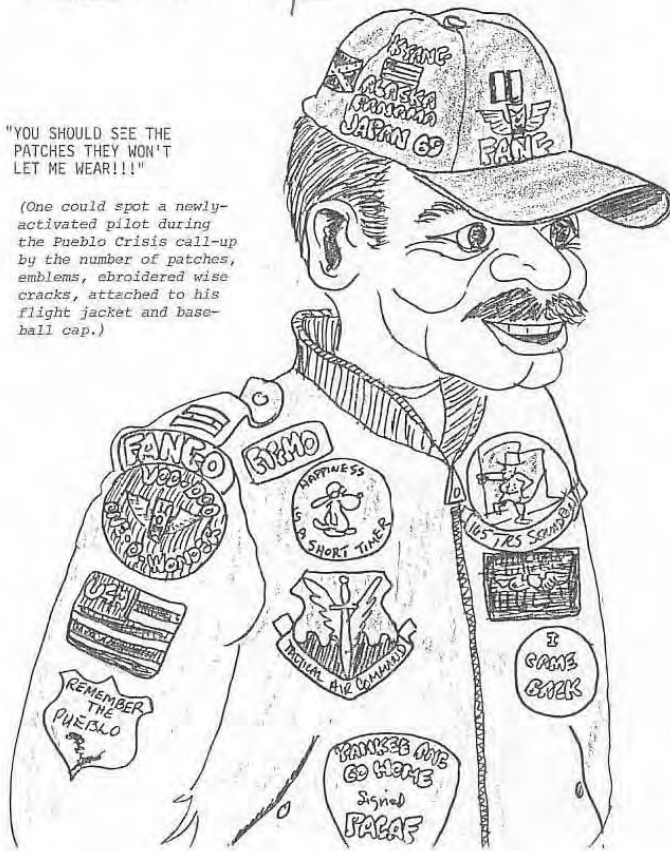
**FILE 13:  
THE ARTWORK OF  
SMS PAUL E. (PETER CHARLIE) COYLE**

THE  
PUEBLO  
CALL-UP

# FILE-13 by Coyle

"YOU SHOULD SEE THE  
PATCHES THEY WON'T  
LET ME WEAR!!!"

(One could spot a newly-  
activated pilot during  
the Pueblo Crisis call-up  
by the number of patches,  
emblems, embroidered wise  
cracks, attached to his  
flight jacket and base-  
ball cap.)



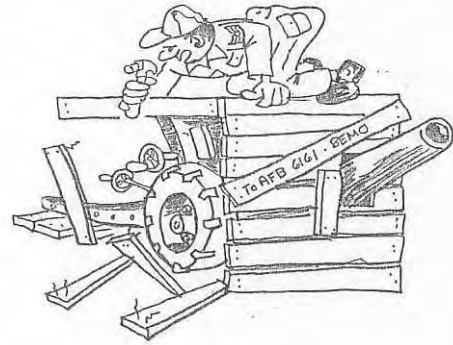
"WOULD YOU SAY YOU'RE LEAVING THINGS  
IN PRETTY GOOD SHAPE, SERGEANT?"

**FILE-13** by Coyle



"DEAR MOM: AFTER COMPLETING 36 WEEKS AT ELECTRONICS SCHOOL, I WAS GIVEN A VERY IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT HERE AT RICHARDS-GEBAUR AIR FORCE BASE, MISSOURI. I HAVE BEEN APPOINTED AN . . .  
'Aerospace Personnel Physiological Relief Equipment Maintenance Specialist' . . ."

**FILE-13** by Coyle



"HEY, LOUIE, I THINK YOU'D BETTER CHECK THE STOCK NUMBER ON THAT ITEM YOU ORDERED FOR THE PISTOL TEAM!!!"

**FILE-13** by Coyle



"NO, SIR, WE DON'T HAVE NO ENGINE PROBLEMS . . . CAUSE WE DON'T HAVE NO ENGINES . . ."

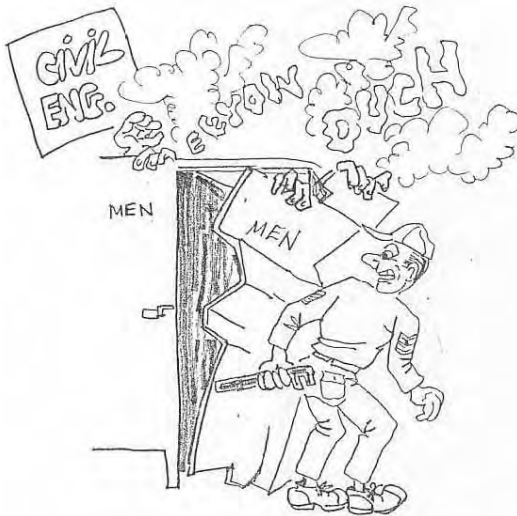
**FILE-13** by Coyle



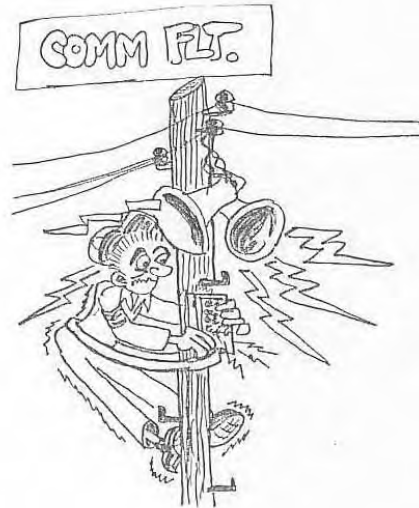
"HOW DID YOU GET A CLIPBOARD WITH THE K.P. LIST IN HERE CROSSWAYS?!!"

**FILE-13** by Coyle

**FILE-13** by Coyle



"HEY, JOHN O., YOU WERE RIGHT! WE DID HOOK INTO THE PHOTO LAB'S HOT WATER PIPE!!!!"



". . . ATTENTION, PLEASE: DO NOT USE THE PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM FOR THE NEXT HALF HOUR IN THE INTEREST OF SAFETY FOR OUR REPAIRMAN ON THE POLE . . .!!!!"



# FILE-13 by Coyle

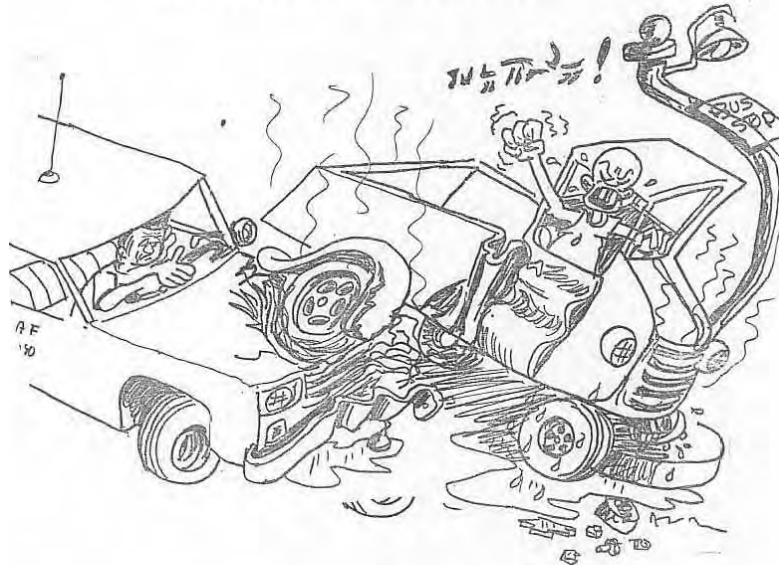
## SQUADRON BASKETBALL AT RICHARDS GEBAUR

"NOW, GENTLEMEN, BEFORE WE START THIS GAME, REMEMBER YOU HAVE TO PASS YOUR FLIGHT PHYSICALS DOWN AT OUR PLACE NEXT WEEK!!"



# FILE-13 by Coyle

## AT ITAZUKE AIR BASE, JAPAN...



(After lecturing the troops long and loud about taking great care in driving in the Japanese traffic, guess who wrecked a staff car!!

... Yep, the Commander himself!!!)

20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Pueblo Call-Up  
26 January 1988



AIR TECHNICIAN VETERANS TOAST THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PUEBLO CALL UP  
26 JANUARY 1988

Back Row (Left to Right): John N. Henry, George J. Finck, William D. Rose, James S. Davis, Edward L. Sachleben, Gary M. Sarge, Wendell F. Downs, William D. Seiber, Leroy W. Korfhage, Marshall O. Leigh, William F. Pierce, Paul R. Bell, Paul F. Reinhard, & James A. Kessler.

Middle Row (Left to Right): Kenneth L. Franklin, James R. Rogge, Thomas W. Seay, John R. Pearl, Steven L. Neqman, Kenneth D. Duncan, Robert H. Williams, Glenn D. Adair, Donald L. Durbin, & James R. Mack.

Front Row (Left to Right): BG John L. Smith, Sue A. Meyer, Edwin H. Hornung, Gary J. Bettag, John F. Hall, James W. Snodgrass, & William R. Moore.

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**Kentucky**  
UNBRIDLED SPIRIT