

HISTORY

of the

4th Fighter Wing

JANUARY - JUNE 1998 (U)

Volume I of V

Assigned to

NINTH AIR FORCE

AIR COMBAT COMMAND

Stationed at

Seymour Johnson AFB, North Carolina

00-018 ✓
Obtained Under the
Freedom of Information Act
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Randall K. Bigum
RANDALL K. BIGUM, Brig Gen, USAF
Wing Commander

DATE: 9 December 1998
OFFICE OF ORIGIN: 4 FW/HO
CLASSIFIED BY: Multiple Sources
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR
~~(FOUO/PV) If declassified, review~~
~~under AFI 37-151 before public~~
~~release.~~

Evaluation. This part of the exercise tested the units ability to employ, survive and operate, support the mission, handle Fighter Nuclear procedures, and demonstrate the Nuclear Surety of the 4 FW.²⁷

U (PV) The scenario used for both the exercises and the inspection went as follows: The 4 FW generated 24 aircraft from the 336th Fighter Squadron (FS) in support of the Operations Plan (OPLAN) tasking in Southeast Asia. The invasion of an allied nation required sustained offensive operations. The 4 FW employed a fighter squadron and executed air interdiction and strategic attack missions as well as protection against air attacks. E-3A Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS), KC 135s, F-16CJs, and F-15Cs provided air support. Elements of the 4 FW subsequently redeployed and generated long-range nuclear missions. [(b)(1) & (b)(5)]

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Interview (U), Brigadier General Randall K. Bigum, Commander 4th Fighter Wing with SSgt John T. Murphy, 4th Fighter Wing Historian, 14 July 1998.

Murphy: Sir, what was the most significant wing accomplishment during the first half of calendar year 1998?

Bigum: It has to be the Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI), Nuclear Surety Inspection (NSI), and Nuclear Surety Exercise (NSE). Air Combat Command's Inspector General (ACC/IG) accomplished, for the first time in the history, what they referred to as back-to-back-to-back major inspections. The ACC IG team and guest help from around the world consisted of over 100 inspectors. They were on base for a 10 day period evaluating us. The inspectors performed a Phase II inspection. It tested our war fighting capability. We simulated fighting a war in Korea, using a Korean scenario. This included chemical attacks

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to protect against using full chemical gear. The scenario was developed to lead us into the Nuclear Surety Inspection. This simulated a decision by the National Command Authority about considering using nuclear weapons. So, we went into our NSI phase. We identified aircraft, crews, and (weapon) loaders to load up tactical nuclear weapons onto our aircraft. When that phase was terminated, the last phase of the exercise, the employment phase, began. It required us to fly those airplanes down to a range in Florida and drop a concrete blivet. The blivet has the same aerodynamic shape as a bomb, but is full of concrete. What was remarkable about that, was the depth of experience and expertise required to do all three inspections non-stop, back-to-back. That was pretty impressive. In fact, the overall grade for the first, second, and third phases was an overall "Excellent." Lieutenant General Hal Hornburg, Ninth Air Force Commander, paid the 4 FW a big compliment by saying that in his 30 plus years of service in the US Air Force, he had never seen an Inspector General outbrief replete with so many excellent and outstanding ratings.