

HISTORY

of the

4th Fighter Wing

JANUARY - JUNE 1998 (U)

Volume I of V

Assigned to

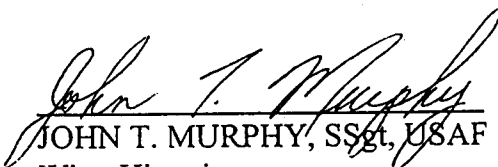
NINTH AIR FORCE

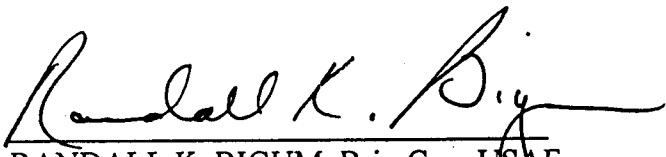
AIR COMBAT COMMAND

Stationed at

Seymour Johnson AFB, North Carolina

00-018 ✓  
Obtained Under the  
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DATE: 9 December 1998  
OFFICE OF ORIGIN: 4 FW/HO  
CLASSIFIED BY: Multiple Sources  
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# UNCLASSIFIED

## CHRONOLOGY

1 January - 30 June 1998

### JANUARY

**1 January** (U) All military personnel received a congressionally approved 2.8 percent monthly base pay raise.\*

**5 January** (U) The 4 FW conducted an Air Combat Command directed "Safety Day".\*

**13 January** (U) One member from the base Fire Department (FD) deployed as part of the 406th Expeditionary Air Base Group (EABG) to Taszar Air Base (AB), Hungary. The first ever orientation program about fire fighting equipment and procedures was conducted. \*

**16 January** (U) SSgt Stuart Brown, 372nd Training Squadron (TRS), Detachment 1, qualified for the Air Force (AF) skeet shooting team. P. 51

**21-23 January** (U) The 4th Fighter Wing began a series of Nuclear Surety and Employment exercises in preparation for the major inspection in May. P. 18

**25 January** (U) Maj Beverly Y. McNair replaced Lt Col Patricia Ridgeway as commander of the 4th Component Repair Squadron. P. 40

**28 January** (U) SSgt Darrell S. Scheiber, 4th Mission Support Squadron - Education Supervisor, won the ACC Professional Military Education Achievement award. P. 51.

### FEBRUARY

**1 February** (U) SJAFB celebrated Black Heritage month. The Base Exchange (BX) sponsored many displays, booths, and games for the celebration. Later in the month, the annual luncheon was held at the Officer's club. United States Marine Corps Col Gilda A. Jackson was the guest speaker.\*

**4 February** (U) Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force (CMSAF), Eric Benken, arrived at SJAFB. He met with enlisted members addressing current AF issues. He also spoke at the wing's annual awards banquet. P.55

**6 February** (U) The 4 FW handed out it's annual wing awards. Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Eric Benken, spoke at the awards dinner. The winners included: Company Grade Officer - 1Lt Joseph E Gardenhour, 334 FS; First Sergeant - MSgt Fred Knipper, 4 CRS; Senior Non-Commissioned Officer - MSgt Judith Ruiz, 4 AMDS; Non-Commissioned Officer - TSgt Robert Terrell, 4 OSS; Airman - A1C Shabbir Hasan, 334 FS; Civilian - Mrs. Sam Adams, Southern Pines Inn Manager, 4 SVS P. 49.

**6 February** (U) Col George Gerdts replaced Lt Col June Gavron as 4th Medical Group deputy commander. Lieutenant Colonel Gavron replaced Colonel Gerdts as commander of the 4th Medical Operations Squadron (MDOS). P. 5

**13 February** (U) The 4th Civil Engineer Squadron (CES) won the 1997 Curtin Award for best CE unit in the Air Force. P. 51

\* denotes items taken from articles in "Wright Times," base paper

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**13 February** (U) Lt Col Mike Spencer replaced Lt Col Charles G. Duke III as commander of the 335 FS. P. 5

**13 February** (U) Col David A. DellaVolpe replaced Col Jack R. Barnes as commander of the 4th Support Group. P. 5

**18 February** (U) Mr. Charles Duncan, Deputy Assistant to the President and Associate Director of Presidential personnel visited SJAFB. P. 55

**21 February** (U) The 4th Aeromedical Dental Squadron (ADOS) and the 4th Security Forces Squadron (SFS) teamed up to sponsor "Project Safe Child". This program was opened to active duty members, their spouses, and retirees. All those who attended received a dental chart and were fingerprinted for identification purposes, as a preventive measure against the missing children problem. P. 52

**23-25 February** (U) The 4 FW underwent the first of a series of Operational Readiness Exercises (ORE) in preparation for the upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI). P. 20

**26-27 February** (U) The 4 FW underwent a Nuclear Surety Exercise. P. 21

**26 February** (U) Mr. Avelino Reyes-Alfonso, deputy Chief of Supply received the Meritorious Civilian Service award (MCSM). This award is equivalent to the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) received by military members. It recognized employees whose continuous outstanding performance resulted in significant accomplishments for the Air Force. P. 51

**26 February-  
2 March** (U) The 4 FW underwent a Nuclear Employment exercise. P. 21

**27 February** (U) The 335 FS received a flying safety award from Boeing representative, Mr. Steve Mosier. The award recognized the squadron's 70,000 consecutive flying hours without a Class A mishap. The "Chiefs" last aircraft accident occurred in October 1987. P. 51

### MARCH

**1 March** (U) Sixteen 4 FW members received notification of promotion to Senior Master Sergeant (SMSgt). The wing's SMSgt promotion rate ran at seven percent, as 16 out of the 244 eligible received promotions. P. 52

**3 March** (U) More than 300 base members and 18 F-15Es from the 335th Fighter Squadron departed for a 45 day deployment to Prince Sultan AB, SA. This marked the seventh deployment for this squadron in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH. P. 27

**6 March** (U) The 4th Logistics Plans flight won the ACC 1997 best flight award. P. 51

**13 March** (U) The 4 FW established a First Term Airman's Center (FTAC) and an Enlisted Enhancement program. The FTAC was a 15 day introductory program designed to assist first termers, first duty station airmen, to transition from the controlled environment of basic training and technical school to one of self discipline. The enhancement program developed the leadership and management skills of the wing enlisted members, gained commitment to Air Force core values, and motivated the enlisted force toward a more effective mission accomplishment. P. 42

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**15 March** (U) Royal Air Force (RAF) Wing Commander, Angus B. Crockatt, and 10 staff members of the 4th Flying Training School (FTS) arrived on SJAFB for a two day visit. They toured the base and the surrounding area, including Wash DC. P. 56

**17 March** (U) Mr. Larry Pickett, 4th Operations Support Squadron (OSS), won the ACC Air Space and Range Professional of the year award. P. 51

**19 March** (U) The 4th Supply Squadron (SUPS) opened a new Hazardous Material (HAZMAT) pharmacy facility building. ACC created the HAZMAT pharmacy concept in 1993 in order to reduce hazardous air pollutants throughout the command.\*

**20 March** (U) The 4th Services Squadron (SVS) won the ACC award for the best Services Squadron in ACC. They won the large-base category and went on to compete for the General Curtis LeMay award at the AF level. P. 51

**21 March** (U) The 4th Logistics Support Squadron (LSS) held it's logistics professionals of the year awards banquet at the 916th Air Refueling Wing (ARW) maintenance hangar. Brigadier General Michael E. Zettler, Director of Maintenance, Deputy Chief of Staff, AF Headquarters, Washington, DC, was the guest speaker. P. 56

**27 March-** (U) The 4 FW conducted an Operational Readiness Exercise. CORONET

**1 April** EXTEND 98-03 became the second of three Phase II exercises the wing experienced for the upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection. P. 22

### APRIL

**1-6 April** (U) The 4 FW underwent a Nuclear Surety exercise. P. 22

**2 April** (U) The 4th Medical Group (MDG) underwent a Health Services Inspection (HSI). They received an excellent rating from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). This agency was a civilian organization that credentials health care facilities.\*

**2 April** (U) A member of the Air Force Inspection Agency (AFIA) conducted a Fraud, Waste, Abuse (FW&A) and personal conference period for members of SJAFB. The conferences provided personnel an opportunity to communicate directly with the AF Inspector General (IG) representative.\*

**9 April** (U) The wing broke ground for a new \$5 million Temporary Lodging Facility (TLF). The two story building's scheduled completion date was May 1999. P. 53

**9 April** (U) Twenty-one members of the wing's enlisted ranks graduated from Airman Leadership School (ALS).\*

**11 April** (U) The Auto skills development center held their second auto show at the base's Debden Park. The show included 30 competition categories, such as long distance and the commander's trophy. Mr Gene Garners 1934 Ford Cabriolet won the commanders trophy for the best of show.\*

**21 April** (U) SJAFB recognized it's 500 base volunteers during National Volunteer recognition week. Base wide volunteers accounted for over 75,000 hours of work during the reporting period.\*

**21 April** (U) LG Carl E. Franklin, Ninth Air Force Commander, made his final official visit to SJAFB. General Franklin retired from active duty at the end of the month. P. 56 \* denotes items taken from articles in "Wright Times," base paper

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**22 April** (U) Members of the 335th Fighter Squadron returned home after a 45 day rotation to Southwest Asia, in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH. P. 27

**25-31 April** (U) The 4 FW executed their final Operational Readiness exercise before the Air Combat Command's major inspection.. CORONET EXTEND 98-04 tested the wing's warfighting capability during this Phase I, combat employment scenario. P. 24

**29 April** (U) Several SJAFB members participated in a charity golf tournament at Lane Tree Golf Course in Goldsboro, NC. The tournament raised in excess of \$10,000 for the needy of the community.\*

**29 Apr-  
4 May** (U) The 4 FW underwent a Nuclear Employment Exercise and a Nuclear Surety exercise. P. 24

### MAY

**1 May** (U) SJAFB celebrated Asian-American heritage month.\*

**1 May** (U) Wayne Memorial Hospital, in Goldsboro, signed a Tri-Care prime contract. The military members of SJAFB converted from Champus to Tri-Care for their personal medical insurance.\*

**1 May** (U) Lt Col Michael S. Tarleton replaced Lt Col David G. Jowers as commander of the 334th Fighter Squadron. Lieutenant Colonel Jowers left to attend the Air War College at Maxwell AFB, Alabama. P. 5

**1 May** (U) SJAFB lodging facility, Southern Pines Inn, won the ACC Innkeeper of the year award for the second consecutive year. P. 51

**5-6 May** (U) General Richard Hawley, commander of Air Combat Command (COMACC), officially visited the 4 FW for the final time. Gen Hawley retired in mid-May after 34 years of active duty service. P.56

**7 May** (U) TSgt Mark Hosier, 4th Operations Support Squadron (OSS) received a Stripe for Exceptional Performer (STEP) promotion to Master Sergeant (Msgt).\*

**8 May** (U) The Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) held it's semi-annual graduation ceremony at the base Officer's club. Eighty 4 FW members received their associates degree in applied science. P. 50

**8 May** (U) SJAFB celebrated it's eighth annual Warrior Banquet in the 333 FS maintenance hangar. The banquet honored one crew from each of the four fighter squadrons in addition to an overall wing crew.\*

**9-17 May** (U) SJAFB celebrated Armed Forces Week.\*

**13 May** (U) MG Thomas Neary, Director of Nuclear and Counterproliferation and Deputy Chief of Staff, Air and Space Operations visited SJAFB. P. 56

**15 May** (U) The 4 FW held it's semi-annual "Safety Day". The wing supported this non-flying day in order to promote safety awareness basewide.\*

**26 May** (U) Maj Brian Acker replaced Lt Col Michael L. Hopper as commander of the 4th Medical Operations Squadron. Lieutenant Colonel Hopper went to the Air Force surgeon General's Office to become Chief of the Medical Manpower Division. P. 5

\* denotes items taken from articles in "Wright Times," base paper

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**27 May-** (U) The Air Combat Command (ACC) Inspector General (IG) conducted a

**5 June** (U) Phase II Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI) on the 4 FW. This marked the first time in 18 months the wing experienced a Phase II inspection. This was the first Fighter Nuclear Procedures Inspection for the 4 FW under ACC. P. 25

**29 May** (U) Col Randall K. Bigum, 4 FW/CC, handed out three Stripes for Exceptional Performer (STEP) promotions. The recipients included: MSgt (MSgt) Kenneth Schmitz, 4th Component Repair Squadron (CRS); SSgt (SSgt) Ernest Perry, 335th Fighter Squadron (FS); and SRA Eric Coan, 4th Operational Support Squadron (OSS).\*

**29 May** (U) The 4 FW Safety Office won the Air Combat Command (ACC) Ground Safety award for 1997. The office reported zero off-duty fatalities since June 1995, a 30 percent decline in off-duty mishaps, and a 27 percent decline in all reportable mishaps. P. 51

### JUNE

**5 June** (U) Col Randall K. Bigum, 4 FW/CC, received a promotion to Brigadier General (BG). Lt Gen Hal M. Hornburg, Ninth Air Force commander, performed the pinning ceremony. P. 5

**8 June** (U) Capt John A. Santaniello replaced Maj James J. Ravella as the wing's executive officer. P. 5

**9 June** (U) Mr. Tom Donnely, professional staff member, House National Security Committee visited SJAFB. P. 56

**9-29 June** (U) The 4 FW sent six F-15Es from the 335th Fighter Squadron to Karup Air Station, Denmark. This deployment supported the multinational exercise BALTOPS/Central Enterprise 98. This North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) sponsored event provided training in a major live-air for main defense forces and Reserve forces in support of NATO. The 335 FS also provided 130 personnel for this exercise. P. 28

**12 June** (U) Lt Col Emerson A. Bascomb replaced Lt Col Joseph T. Rarer Jr. as commander of the 4th Services Squadron. Lieutenant Colonel Rarer departed the wing in order to become services commander at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. SO-I

**12 June** (U) Maj Charles E. Clark replaced Lt Col Thomas R. Meredith as commander of the 4th Supply Squadron. Lieutenant Colonel Meredith moved on to the Pentagon in the Air Staff's Aircraft and Missile Support Directorate. P. 47

**12 June** (U) Lt Col William C. Redmond replaced Lt Col Larry C. Coleman as commander of the 336th Fighter Squadron. Lieutenant Colonel Coleman went on to attend the Army War College in Pennsylvania. P. 5

**19 June** (U) The 4th Logistics Group won the 1998 General Thomas P. Gerrity Award. This Air Force level award recognized the LG for their contributions to the Air Force and to Seymour Johnson AFB. P. 51

**20 June** (U) Thirty-six members of the Ukrainian Air Force arrived on base for a week of tours and cultural events. This visit reciprocated last years visit to the Ukraine commemorating the anniversary of Operation FRANTIC. P. 54

PORTION  
NOT  
RESPONSIVE

(U) Inspections and Exercises

(U) In May 1998, the Commander of Air Combat Command (COMACC), Gen Hawley, dispatched a message altering the active duty unit's Operational Readiness and Unit Nuclear Surety Inspection schedules. The inspection cycles changed from a two year to a four year interval. The change reduced the inspection driven operations tempo (OPSTEMPO) of the units. Higher headquarters reviewed the Nuclear Operational Readiness Inspections on a case-by-case basis. The inspection schedules were to take effect beginning 1 October 1998.<sup>25</sup>

U (PV) The 4th Fighter Wing (FW) experienced an extremely busy time period for the months of January to June 1998. Air Combat Command (ACC) scheduled a Phase II Operational Readiness and Nuclear Combat Employment Inspection in May. In order to prepare for the inspection, the wing planned several exercises. These exercises began in January and ran monthly until the inspection occurred at the end of May. The inspection package included: Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI), Phase II, Combat Employment; a Fighter Nuclear Procedures Inspection; and a Nuclear Surety Inspection. The wing decided to emulate the actual inspection, and formed their monthly exercise processes accordingly. The exercises kicked-off with the Operational Readiness

<sup>25</sup> Rpt (U), 4 OSS/OSOMA, "333 FS Maintenance Digest," Mar 98, SD II-37; Rpt (U), 4 OSS/OSOMA, "335 FS Maintenance Digest," Mar 98, SD II-38; Rpt (U), 4 OSS/OSOMA, "336 FS Maintenance Digest," Mar 98, SD II-39; Rpt (U), 4 OSS/OSOMA, "334 FS Maintenance Digest," Mar 98, SD II-40; Rpt (U), 4 OSS/OSOMA, "4th Wing Maintenance Digest," Feb 98, SD II-41

<sup>26</sup> Msg (U), HQ ACC to AIG 7151 et al, "Consolidation of ACC Inspection Process and change to ORI/UCI," 2143L, 4 May 98, SD II-42

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.<sup>27</sup>

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) ]

U (PV) The following sections list the exercises and inspection performed by the 4 FW during the January to June time frame, in chronological order. The exercise packages contain all three phases; the Operational Readiness Exercise (ORE), Nuclear Surety Exercise (NSE), and the Nuclear Employment Exercise (NEM).<sup>29</sup>

#### (U) Nuclear Surety Exercise

U (PV) The 4 FW underwent a Nuclear Surety Exercise 21 through 23 January 1998. The last Nuclear Surety Inspection for the wing occurred in December of 1996. The exercise evaluated the 4 FW administration of their nuclear program. The exercise did not receive an overall rating.<sup>30</sup>

U (PV) The Nuclear Surety Exercise concentrated on nine areas of the nuclear program. This initial evaluation did not go well. [ (b)(5) ]

[ ] Overall, management and administration personnel exhibited basic knowledge of the Personnel Reliability Program (PRP). Problems occurred in following the specific procedures for hospital visits.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>27</sup> Memo (PV), HQ ACC/IG to 4 FW/CC, "Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI) Phase II, Fighter Nuclear Procedures, and Nuclear Surety Inspections," 5 Jun 98, SD II-43

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>30</sup> Rpt (PV), 4 FW/CVX, "Nuclear Surety Inspection," c. Jan 98, SD II-44.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid*



U (PV) Three areas needing the most improvement included:

(b) (1) ; (b) (5)

The discrepancies ranged from failure of adherence to technical manual data to the

(b) (1) ; (b) (5)

U (PV) Selected

(b) (5)

All members

began weekly testing after this exercise. The Personnel Reliability Program (PRP) revealed many deficiencies within the program. The most notable problem discovered the general lack of knowledge, throughout the wing, on PRP. The lack of proper documentation and good communication skills resulted in this problem.<sup>33</sup>

(U) Operational Readiness Exercise Coronet Extend 98-02

U (PV) This 4 FW underwent a Phase II, Combat Employment exercise from 23 through 25 February 1998. The wing received an overall rating of MARGINAL, for this exercise. Few areas received Excellent or Outstanding ratings. The sortie generation phase of the exercise went well. The wing flew 94 out of the 100 sorties tasked, and all sorties proved to be maintenance effective. The gun system reliability rate passed with a 100 percent score. All stations checked passed the inspection. The munitions supply personnel relocated smoothly to an alternate location upon notification that they had lost their facility. The new facility became functional within 15 minutes. Eighty-two evaluated sorties flew combat effective, resulting in a 93 percent combat sortie effective rate. The 336 FS demonstrated strong flight leadership during the execution of the tactical plan during all evaluated sorties. The aircrew chemical defense operations demonstrated teamwork and decontamination knowledge throughout the process.<sup>34</sup>

U (PV) The activation of the alternate Wing Operations Center (WOC) confused personnel. WOC personnel did not allow entry of Security Forces, for the purpose of

<sup>32</sup> Ibid

<sup>33</sup> Ibid

<sup>34</sup> Rpt (PV), 4 FW/CVX, "Operational Readiness Evaluation Report, Coronet Extend 98-02," c. Mar 98, SD II-45

implementing relocation actions. Some information, requiring channeling up to Higher Headquarters, failed to be sent due to the non-availability of separate phone lines for all agencies sharing the WOC. All phases of maintenance experienced difficulties throughout the exercise. Problems occurred with documentation; incomplete or non-existent forms for Aerospace Ground Equipment (AGE), and multiple errors within many aircraft forms. Maintenance personnel experienced many problems during and after air attacks. These ranged from improper self aid and buddy care (SABC), to the non-use of chemical gear during condition red. The Ability to Survive and Operate (ATSO) turned out to be one of the weakest areas during this exercise. The overall knowledge of chemical suits by wing personnel proved to be very poor. Numerous personnel did not have complete chemical suit equipment or decontamination kits. Wing personnel displayed improper use of M8 tape and M9 paper on individuals and equipment, throughout the exercise.<sup>35</sup>

(U) Nuclear Surety Exercise

U (PV) The wing experienced another Nuclear Surety exercise from 26 through 27 February 1998. The wing received an overall rating of UNSATISFACTORY, for this exercise. Several areas improved compared with the last exercise. However, the problems areas exposed in the previous exercise showed a trend of digressing. The Nuclear Surety Program testing greatly improved over the last exercise. The aircrews that tested passed at a 100 percent rate, and the maintenance personnel passed at a percentage of 94. The nuclear control order procedures continued to be a problem area. An aircrew failed due to missing a critical Nuclear Surety Inspection question. The Personnel Reliability Program (PRP) continued their documentation problems. Eighty medical and 117 personnel records checked reflected numerous discrepancies. Temporary duty (TDY) orders did not have proper PRP codes annotated on them.<sup>36</sup>

(U) Nuclear Combat Employment Exercise

U (PV) The wing performed its first nuclear combat employment exercise from 26 February through 3 March 1998. The wing received an overall rating of

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<sup>35</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>36</sup> Rpt (PV), 4 FW/CVX, "Nuclear Surety Inspection," c. Mar 98, SD II-46.

SATISFACTORY.  (b) (5) 7

The Battle Staff Coordinator (BSC) and the Mission Director (MD) maintained good control throughout the exercise with regards to the status of aircraft and the aircrews. Briefer prepared the aircrews effectively prior to leaving the Command Post. The most notable discrepancy noted, of the number of jets tasked to drop a BDU-38, only two completed the mission. An aircrew went to two different spares for their sortie, and the last spare did not have a BDU-38 loaded. The squadron solved the problem by having the generated aircraft loaded with BDU-38s, and then not to task all the aircraft to accomplish the fly-off.<sup>37</sup>

(U) Operational Readiness Exercise Coronet Extend 98-03

U (PV) The second exercise in a set of preparatory exercises for the upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI), ran from 27 March through 1 April 1998. The wing received an overall rating of MARGINAL for this exercise. During the exercise, inspectors tasked the wing with 120 sorties. Only 111 sorties actually flew, and all but one of the sorties fulfilled maintenance effectiveness. This equated to a rate of 91.6 percent. All related systems reliability rates scored outstanding ratings. Maintenance showed slight improvements over the previous inspection, but several repeat write-ups continued to occur. The area reporting the most problems continued to be the Ability to Survive and Operate (ATSO). The Survival Recovery Center (SRC) announced the bugle calls slowly, because of the decision making process at the battle staff. The established procedures to differentiate SOF attacks from Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) planned detonations of Unexploded Ordnances (UXO) proved to be inefficient. The reporting of casualties became a problem area for this exercise. The casualty messages contained erroneous names and Social Security numbers. The casualty messages also contained names of Host Nation personnel that were otherwise not included in the Local Personnel Database (LPD).<sup>38</sup>

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>38</sup> Rpt (PV), 4 FW/CVX, "Operational Readiness Evaluation Report, Coronet Extend 98-03," c. Apr 98, SD II-47

(U) Nuclear Surety Exercise

U (PV) The wing conducted its third NSE of the calendar year from 1 through 6 April 1998. The wing received an UNSATISFACTORY rating for this exercise. The inspection, as a whole, showed marked improvement. [ (b)(5) ]

[ ] The one stumbling block continued to be the Personnel Reliability Program (PRP). The record keeping of medical, dental, and mental health documentation remained inaccurate and out of date. There were a total [ ]

[ (b)(5) ] 4 FW a similar rating for the overall inspection.<sup>39</sup>

(U) Nuclear Combat Employment

U (PV) The wing's second exercise of this type occurred 1 through 6 April 1998. The wing received a SATISFACTORY rating for the exercise. The wing began to move towards an outstanding rating with this inspection. [ (b)(5) ]

[ ] The problems of improper technical manual data continued to occur along with some Direct Safety Violations (DSV). The mission results area did not receive a rating for this exercise due to an In-Flight Emergency (IFE) forcing two of the primary jets to return to base (RTB) earlier than scheduled. Only one jet loaded with a bomb arrived at the designated target.<sup>40</sup>

(U) Nuclear Surety Exercise, May 98

U (PV) The final NSE before the Operational Readiness Inspection occurred on 29 April through 4 May 1998. Every phase, [ (b)(5) ]

[ ] or close to it, during this inspection. Even though 89 percent of the program received [ (b)(5) ]

rating, causing the 4 FW to receive the similar rating. Individual squadron PRP programs

[ (b)(5) ] One medical record with seven entries of documentation for dizziness, light-headedness, and one black out spell failed to mention proper PRP certification. This caused the low rating. Another medical record

<sup>39</sup> Rpt (PV), 4 FW/CVX, "April 98 NSE Report," c. Apr 98, SD II-48.

<sup>40</sup> Rpt (PV), 4 FW/CVX, "April 98 Nuclear Employment Report," c. Apr 98, SD II-49

documented the use of prescribed medicines that could cause impairment, stated no reporting notification was necessary. [ (b)(5) ]

(U) Operational Readiness Exercise Coronet Extend 98-04

<sup>u</sup> (PV) The final preparatory Phase II exercise for the wing ran from 25 through 31 April 1998. The wing received a SATISFACTORY rating. [ (b)(5) ]

Maintenance showed the greatest improvement of all inspected areas. Throughout the maintenance complex, personnel demonstrated the adherence to technical data and a sense of urgency. [ (b)(5) ]

(U) Nuclear Combat Employment

<sup>u</sup> (PV) The wing underwent their final nuclear employment exercise, prior to the ORI, on 29 April through 4 May 1998. The overall rating for the exercise was SATISFACTORY. This exercise represented slight improvement over previous exercises. [ (b)(5) ] However,

<sup>41</sup> Rpt (PV), 4 FW/CVX, "May 98 NSE Report," c. May 98, SD II-50.  
<sup>42</sup> Rpt (PV), 4 FW/CVX, "Operational Readiness Evaluation Report, Coronet Extend 98-04," c. May 98, SD II-51.

(b)(5)

(U) Operational Readiness Inspection, Phase II

U (PV) The 4th Fighter Wing prepared for the Air Combat Command (ACC) Inspector General (IG) inspection throughout calendar year 1998. The ACC/IG team arrived on Seymour Johnson Air Force Base on 25 May 1998. The inspection team, headed by Col Robert W. Penar, consisted of core inspectors, augmentees, core trainees, augmentee trainees, and support personnel. This resulted in a total of 740 man-days expended in a two week period. The team evaluated the 4 FW for the first time for Fighter Nuclear Procedures. The inspection lasted from 27 May through 5 June 1998. The 4 FW earned an EXCELLENT rating for this inspection. □

(b)(5)

<sup>43</sup> Rpt (PV), 4 FW/CVX, "Nuclear Employment Report," c. May 98, SD II-52

<sup>44</sup> Rpt (PV), HQ ACC/IGI to 4 FW/CC, "Operational Readiness Phase II, Fighter Nuclear Procedures, and Nuclear Surety Inspections Report," c. Jun 98, SD II-53.

(b)(5)

[

]

7

U (PV) One of the problems identified during this inspection dealt with [

(b)(5)

[

U (PV) As part of the ACC/IGI inspection package, they inspected the wing under Fighter Nuclear Procedures. This marked the first time for an inspection of this type at SJAFB. The wing received an overall rating of EXCELLENT for this inspection. [

(b)(5)

[

<sup>45</sup> Ibid

<sup>46</sup> Ibid

<sup>47</sup> Ibid

(b)(5)

u (PV) The final stage of the inspection package was the Nuclear Surety Inspection (NSI). The inspectors rated the wing EXCELLENT during this inspection.

(b)(5)



## APPENDIX K

UNIT EXERCISE PARTICIPATION

(Operational History: January - June 1998)

<u>DATES</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>AIRCRAFT</u>	<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
3 January- 26 January	JRTC 98-03	4 SPTG	N/A	N/A	Ft. Polk. LA
23- 25 February	Phase II ORE 98-02	336 FS	12 F-15E	100	SJAFB, NC
3 March- 22 April	OSW SWA rotation	335 FS	18 F-15E	474	Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia
27 March- 1 April	Phase II ORE 98-03	336 FS	12 F-15E	111	SJAFB, NC
25-31- April	Phase II ORE 98-04	336 FS	12 F-15E	108	SJAFB, NC
27 May- 5 June	Phase II ORI NEM, NSI	336 FS	18 F-15E	112	SJAFB, NC
9-29 June	CN 98 (Central Enterprise)	335 FS	6 F-15E	95	AS Karup, Denmark

Source: AAR (U), [reports for AW II, CN 98, and SWA rotation], SD II-62, II-57, and II-56; Report (PV), CVX, [exercise and inspection reports Jan-Jun], SD II-43-53.

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

**Murphy:** General Bigum, I have several questions that add perspective to the 4<sup>th</sup> Fighter wing's history for the January to June 1998 time period. You have served as wing commander for almost a year now, would you like to comment on any events during this time?

**Bigum:** A series of events have occurred. The end of 1997 and the beginning of 1998 saw a drawdown in the number of times our people were required to deploy overseas in support of contingencies to locations in Southwest Asia, Bosnia, Haiti, Malaysia, and other places around the world. That was a big step for morale and operations tempo here at Seymour Johnson AFB. Of significance, though, were major deployments. We currently have a squadron deployed to Turkey and we had two deployments to Southwest Asia. Those make up the major events as far as the operational world is concerned. Major changes of command have occurred here in the 4th. I have been in command now for little over a year, and next month we will swap out the Logistics Group and Medical Group commanders. This means that there are no group commanders remaining from when I assumed command. They all changed over. The turmoil in the groups out there due to changes in leadership require us to watch our step, and ensure we keep pace with continuing operations.

**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.

**Murphy:** Recently, the Air Force began an operations tempo slowdown. The frequency and regularity of exercises and deployments were altered. Could you expand on the specifics affecting the wing's opstempo slowdown?

**Bigum:** Last November, Saddam Huessein threatened to not allow the United Nations (UN) inspectors into some areas they needed to inspect, including his palace. As a result of that, the US began a military build-up in November 1997. Shortly thereafter, he backed off and allowed the UN inspectors into those places. Until recently, we have kept the same elevated level of military presence in Southwest Asia. We are now exercising a Department of Defense (DoD) initiative to draw back down to the pre-November levels. It would appear that we are going to draw back to levels even below the pre-November levels. What that means to us is that we can deploy fewer times to Southwest Asia because there are fewer billets and aircraft required. When we do deploy we will be able to take fewer people and airplanes. Overall, our opstempo slows in the number of deployments and the number of people going on those deployments.

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