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SAC STUDY MICROFILM ROLL NUMBER 0013

SAC HISTORY STUDY 109

THRU

SAC HISTORY STUDY 140

25 February 1992

OFFICE OF THE HISTORIAN

HEADQUARTERS STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND

OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, NEBRASKA 68113-5001

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NOTES---- SUBJECT: Four Crises; Berlin, Lebanon, Cuba and Korea (U)

BERLIN

As a culmination of several months of increasing pressure the Soviets, between 1 April and 24 June 1948, gradually stopped all movement of people, supplies, and mail into the allied sectors of Berlin. Electric power was also interrupted.

25 June 1948 - Gen Lucius Clay, CINC, US Forces Europe, and military governor in US Sector of Germany, asked Lt Gen LeMay, Cmdr, USAFE, for an airlift for Berlin.

26 June 1948 - Airlift began by US and British planes. Operation Vittles for US forces; Operation Plainfare for British. First headed by Brig Gen Joseph Smith of Gen LeMay's staff. On 29 July 1948 Maj Gen Wm. H. Tunner, MATS Director of Operations, who had headed the "HUMP" supply effort in the CBI in WWII took over as Cmdr, Airlift Task Force (Provisional).

Daily required tonnage set at 5620 tons in Oct 1948, peak day in mid-April 1949, 1398 aircraft brought in 12,940.9 tons, at first used C-47s. C-54s were the backbone of the fleet, a maximum of 319 used, usually about 225 C-54s. Also used C-74, C-82, YC-97, C-121, and R5Ds (Navy C-54). British used C-47 and York aircraft.

Typical flight was from Rhein-Main, near Frankfurt, to Tempelhof Airport in the US Sector, a distance of 268 miles in a 20-mile wide air corridor. The British used Gatow Airport in their sector. A third airport Tegel, in the French sector, was constructed during the crisis and put into operation in Nov 1948.

The blockade was lifted on 12 May 1949. By that time the Allies had airlifted over 2.2 million tons of supplies. The airlift continued through September to build up reserve stocks. The Task Force was absorbed on 1 Sep and the last C-54 flight to Berlin was on 30 September.

As of 3 Feb 1949 the US had lost 9 C-54s, 6 C-47s, and 2 R5Ds. Overall there was one mid-air collision and 12 crashes causing 31 US deaths.

Air Force and Naval air costs between June 1948 and May 1949 was \$181.3 million. Army support costs were \$8.8 million.

SAC Efforts

(u)  
(e) In June 1948 SAC had one B-29 squadron of the 301st Bomb Group at Furstenfeldbruck, Germany. Immediately the other two squadrons of the 301st were ordered to Goose for deployment. Also the 307BG (MacDill) was put on 3-hour alert and the 28BG (Rapid City, Ellsworth) was put on 12-hour alert. The rest of the SAC force went on a 24 hour alert. By 2 July all but 2 of the 301st's aircraft were in Germany.

By 17 July the 307th had deployed two squadrons to RAF Marham, UK and one squadron to RAF Waddington, UK. The 28BG deployed to RAF Scampton, UK. At that time the ZI alert was relaxed.

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RICHARD G. DAVIS AF/CHO  
22 JULY 1983 RE-REVIEW 1993

CLASSIFIED BY: SAC (by direction)  
ON 10 Nov 1991



2

A regularly scheduled rotation of 16 P-80 fighters from the 56th FG were sent from Selfridge to Germany on 14 July 1948. They returned early in August 1948. The 301st also returned to ZI in early August and was replaced by the 2BW. It went to RAF Lakenheath, UK, and rotated one squadron at a time to Furstenfeldbruck. 2 BW rotated to ZI on 11/1/48.

The 28BG returned to the US beginning 18 Oct 1948.

The 307th returned beginning 2 Nov 1948.

The 97th BG was at Marham and Waddington from early<sup>4</sup> Nov 48 to mid-Feb 49.

The 22BG was at Lakenheath from 15 Nov 48 to 15 Feb 49.

The 301st went to Scampton late in 1948 and returned ZI in mid-Jan 49.

In mid-Feb 49, SAC posture in Europe dropped from three to two groups.

92d Bomb Wg to Sculthorpe (4 Feb-20 May 49).

307BG to Lakenheath and Marham (13 Feb-4 May 49) with one squadron rotating to Germany.

509BG replaced the 307th and stayed to Sep 49.

98BG replaced the 92d at Sculthorpe (28 May-29 Aug).

15 Aug - 43BG (B-50s) deployed one squadron each to Marham, Lakenheath, and Sculthorpe. When the 509th left in Sep 49 this was the only group left in Europe.

#### Lebanon

(u)  
(S) From 9 May 1958 on - open rebellion by moslem dissidents backed by United Arab Republic (Egypt/Syria) - Army headed by Gen Chehab (Moslem) remained neutral.

14 Jul 58 - After rebels overthrew neighboring pro-west government in Iraq, Lebanese President Camille Chamoun (Christian) appealed to the US for help.

15 Jul 1958 - President Eisenhower agreed to send in Marines.

Operation Blue Bat initiated - an anglo-american operation (OPLAN 1-58).

15 Jul 58 - 3-1/2 battalions of Marines (CTF-62) from 2d, 6th, and 8th regiments landed from 6th Fleet on beaches of Lebanon - about 5,500 men - later army troops brought in maximum ground force of about 14,400.

Operation commanded by Adm James L. Holloway, CINCNELM & CINCSPCOMME.

17 Jul 58 - British flew 2000 troops to Jordan. They were escorted by 50 USN fighters.

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19 Jul 58 - Army TF Alpha, 1749 men, (Brig Gen D. W. Gray arrived by air at Beirut via Incirlik from Germany in USAFE (322 AD) C-130, C-122, and C-119s.

25 Jul 58 - Army TF Charlie (1632 men) arrived by air using the same route.

Other Army troops brought in by sea.

In addition to USAFE transports MATS provided C-124s and TAC supplied a large composite air Strike Force which moved B-57s, F-100s, RF-101s, RB-66s, WB-66Ds, C-130s from various bases in ZI to Incirlik, Turkey. USAFE also sent F-86Ds to Incirlik.

All these air movements were done between 15 and 26 Jul 1958 - TAC, USAFE and MATS had been ready since May.

Air Force Commanders - 15-21 Jul - Brig Gen James F. Roberts, Hq USAFE  
21 Jul on - Maj Gen Henry Vicellio, Cmdr, 19AF.

U.S. Ground Forces Cmdr - 23 Jul 58 - Maj Gen Paul D. Adams.

31 Jul 58 - Gen Chehab elected President of Lebanon.

US withdrawal began 12 Aug 58.

First Air Force units withdrawn 23 Aug 58; last MATS C-124s out 11 Sep 58; F-86s out 21 Oct 58; main withdrawal began 15 Sep 58; last marines out 30 Sep 58; Army forces airlifted out by USAFE between 16-25 Oct 58.

Blue Bat over 25 Oct 58; DOD cost - \$119,795,000.

(u)

SAC

(S) On 15 Jul 58 SAC had 1213 combat aircraft available; 1132 of these were brought to a combat configuration; a 1/3 alert was instituted and more aircraft were sent to Reflex bases; others were moved to northern bases. 253 B-47s were undergoing Project Milk Bottle modification and were unavailable.

By 18 July SAC had 405 bombers and 182 tankers on alert - a full show of force posture was maintained for 5 days - under OPOD 67-59, which called for show of force options by Reflex force in UK, Spain, North Africa, Turkey and Guam. The SAC alert ended on 30 July and by 4 Aug the bomber alert force was down to 301. The force was eased back to normal over a month's time.

15/1910Z JUL 58 - SAC WENT ON 'BLUE ALERT'  
16/1200Z JUL 58 - 961 BOMBERS GENERATED OUT OF 970 AVAILABLE  
INCLUDED 131 B-52; 67144 BOMBERS  
18 JUL (AT 12 HOURS) - 152 BOMBERS GENERATED, 792 TANKERS ON ALERT  
405 BOMBERS + 182 TANKERS ON ALERT  
21 JUL (AT 30 HOURS) - 117 BOMBERS GENERATED, 792 TANKERS ON ALERT  
396 BOMBERS, 132 TANKERS, 12 BOMBS A/C AVAILABLE

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Cuba - 1962

(S) Soviet buildup in Cuba began in July 1962 - On 14 Oct 62 a SAC U-2 (4080SW) detected IRBMs being emplaced.

President Kennedy ordered a buildup of forces in the Southeast US and considered an appropriate response.

Between 17 and 18 Oct MATS moved 7,000 tons of supplies including bombs, rockets, and ammunition.

By 22 Oct TAC had deployed over 500 F-100s, F-105s, RF-101s, KB-50 and RB-66s to Florida; ADC sent 56 F-102s, F-104s, and RF-101s to Florida; a total of 623 AF planes available to AFLANT (Gen W. C. Sweeney, Cmr TAC).

22 Oct 68 - President Kennedy announced a naval quarantine on all offensive weapons to Cuba; TF 136 under VADM G. D. Ward, Cmr, 2d Fleet, was set up to do it, supported two carrier TFs, (Enterprise and Independence); Adm Robert L. Dennison, CINCLANT, was to be overall military commander - 100,000 men from the Strategic Army Corp were designated Army Forces, LANT, and were put under the commander of the Army's XVIII airborne corps.

All commands went to Defcon 3 on 22 Oct 62 - MATS flew 3600 marines to Guantanamo between 21-25 Oct. TAC began low level recon of Cuba on 26 Oct 62.

On 28 Oct the AF recalled 14,000 reservists in C-119, C-124 and aerial port squadrons.

At the end of Oct AFLANT had 574 AF, 75 marine and 43 navy aircraft.

On 28 Oct 62 - Soviets agreed to withdraw their IRBMs. They began on 2 Nov 62 - 42 IRBMs left by ship between 5 and 9 Nov; after further negotiations they agreed to withdraw 42 IL-28 medium bombers.

The quarantine ended 20 Nov 62; The IL-28s were removed by ship on 5-6 Dec 62.

(u)

SAC

(S) 14 Sep 62 - SAC began peripheral recon of Cuba with 55SRW's RB-47s.

14 Oct 62 - SAC U-2Fs (4080SW) began overflights of Cuba (Brass Knob) and detected IRBMs being emplaced.

19 Oct 62 - SAC aircraft began evacuating from McDill, Homestead, and McCoy, Fla. to make way for TAC, ADC, and Army. SAC aircraft resumed alert in Georgia, Texas, and Michigan.



1400Z/22 Oct 62 - SAC implemented 1/8th airborne alert of B-52s (66 sorties, increased to 76 later) and the dispersal of 183 second cycle B-47s to 32 airfields (done in 24 hours).

2300Z/23 Oct 62 - SAC and other forces to Defcon 3.

1400Z/24 Oct 62 - SAC to Defcon 2; part of the B-52 airborne alert force joined the Atlantic sea search as part of the quarantine.

25 Oct 62 - SAC alert force reached 1436 bombers, 145 ICBMs and 916 tankers; KC-97s and RB-47s of 98 & 303ARS; 455SRW flying from Kindley, Bermuda, and Lajes, Azores, joined sea search under operations Blue Banner (one time effort, 25 Oct 62) and Baby Bonnett (search for tanker Grozny).

27 Oct 62 - first Minuteman on alert; RB-47 (55SRW) crashed on take off from Kindley; Major Rudolph Anderson, Jr. (408OSW) shot down in U-2 over Cuba - only US combat casualty in crisis.

31 Oct 62 - B-47 Reflex alert force increased by 22 aircraft.

1 Nov 62 - 86 KC-97s deployed overseas, thus upgrading 41 dispersed B-47s to first cycle status.

4 Nov 62 - SAC peak force - 1479 bombers and 182 ICBMs with 2962 weapons and 1003 tankers.

15 Nov 62 - modified Defcon 2 - some relaxation.

<sup>2330Z</sup>  
21 Nov 62 - SAC down to Defcon 3 - 1/8 airborne alert ended.

24 Nov 62 - dispersed B-47s recalled.

<sup>2300Z</sup>  
27 Nov 62 - back to Defcon 4 (normal).

29 Nov 62 - SAC relieved from sea search requirements; aircraft allowed to return to Florida bases.

Between 22 Oct and 21 Nov 62 - 2088 B-52s were launched on airborne alert and flew 47,168 hours.

70 million pounds of fuel was offloaded in 4076 refuelings.

Korea - 1968

<sup>(u)</sup>  
23 Jan 1968 - North Korea naval units captured a US intelligence ship, USS Pueblo (Cmdr, Lloyd Bucher) 3.5 miles outside the 12 mile limit.

No forces were ready to respond and no one had been tasked to cover the intelligence ship. The only US combat aircraft in Korea were 7 F-4Cs committed to the SIOP. There were also 56 aircraft in Japan, 63 on Okinawa and 84 on the Enterprise en route south from Japan. As a first step some F-4s and F-105s supported by C-130s were moved from Japan and Okinawa to Korea.

25 Jan 68 - President Johnson called up 22 ANG/AFRES units (F-100, RF-101, HC-97, C-124) and 6 navy units totaling 14,787 men.

182 TAC and PACAF aircraft (Combat Fox) including F-4D, F-100, FB-66, F-105, F-102, and RF-40s were to move to Korea. TAC move (Coronet Wasp) done 28 Jan to 14 Feb. PACAF move 27 Jan-4 Feb 68.

By 4 Feb - 181 USAF aircraft were there along with 127 USN on two carriers. An F-106 squadron arrived 14 Feb.

Between 27 Jan and 4 Feb AF personnel in Korea went from 4,588 to 11,991. The maximum was 12,921 on 12 Feb, 2/3 of these were on 90 day TDY.

The airlift used C-124, C-130 and C-141.

29 Jan 68 - Lt Gen Seth J. McKee, commander 5AF, went to Korea as Cdr 5AF, ADVON.

By July 68 - USAF force down to 129 aircraft.

(u) SAC  
In January 1968 SAC already had large forces at Guam, Thailand, and Taiwan due to Vietnam war. SAC told to send 26 B-52D and 10 KC-135s to Guam and Okinawa.

Port Bow - move done 3-7 Feb 68.

91st BW (Glasgow) sent 15 B-52D and 10 KC-135 to Kadena, Okinawa.  
22 BW (March) sent 10 B-52D to Andersen, Guam.

An annex (Fresh Storm) to the SAC contingency plan (52 plan) included several options for non-nuclear options against North Korea.

Port Bow forces gradually merged into Arc Light Operations.



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