

HEADQUARTERS
36th FIGHTER-DAY WING
United States Air Force
APO 132 US AIR FORCE

36OP

Feb 28, 1957

SUBJECT: Commander
36th Fighter-Day Wing
APO 132, US AIR FORCE

1. Purpose of Staff Visit. To gather all available information on F-100 gunnery and any other information which would be of value to our Wing Gunnery Program.

2. Officer participating in Staff Visit.

Major Carl G. Schneider

3. Date of Visit.

4 - 8 February 1957.

4. Place of Visit.

3595th Combat Crew Training Wing, Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada.

5. Personnel Contacted.

a. Colonel Hinton, 3595th Group Commander.

b. Major Mass, Commander, 3525th Fighter Weapons School.

c. Major Ferris, Operations

d. Captain Giardano, Research and Development.

e. Captain Barbena, Academics.

6. Problem Areas Discussed: Action and/or Recommendations:

a. Nellis at present has no Gunnery Team organized and doesn't anticipate getting one started until July. The Fighter Weapons School is giving up their F-86H's and is scheduled to get F-100F's in July so they will have no Research and

Development flying capability for the next four or five months. The people at Nellis don't think there will be a Training Command Gunnery Meet held this year but that Crew Training Air Force will just designate either Luke, Nellis, or Williams to field the team with no "shoot-off" between the Bases. This should give us a good head-start.

b. The R&D section is testing a North American Range Indicator which would be attached to the sight and would give an automatic lock-on at 3,000 feet. The range reticle would flash from a dim position to bright and the lock-on light would be mounted directly below the combining glass to give better viewing. I tried to get the plans on this from the North American Tech Rep but he wouldn't release it until Nellis had done some more testing. Major Mass promised to send us all information on this subject just as soon as they finish the testing.

c. The R&D section is completing the final tests on the Dart tow target and have had their best success with the 6' x 16' target. They tried the 4'x12', 6'x16' and 8'x20' sizes and found that the 4'x12' was too hard to track except for an experienced gunnery and that the 8'x20' was too heavy and expensive. They will also send us a copy of the project report when completed. I called Lt Col Fred Bullock at George Air Force Base, California requesting any information that he might have on the Dart and have since received a complete project report on their tests. I observed a launching of the Dart rig using a 6'x30' banner target as a test and it appeared to work very satisfactorily. Nellis has a new method of firing on the Dart which I can best explain orally for further clarification.

d. Experiments are being conducted with towing the 6'x30' targets at speeds up to 350 knots. The target is reinforced with a double tow bar and double webbing. These tests have been very successful.

e. The Project Officer on the Banner Carrier definitely advises against adopting this rig for the F-100 due to lack of horizontal stabilizer clearance, weight and C.G. considerations. This system has been further discouraged by the Engineers at North American.

f. I brought copies of the new Air to Air and Air to Ground Gunnery Procedures Manuals. One copy was procured for each squadron and one for the Gunnery Team.

g. Publications on the A-4 Sight and MA-3 Fire Control System were also obtained which gives the very latest procedures for sight operation.

h. A copy of the R&D Section Post Flight and Daily Check Sheet for the A-4 sight was obtained. I plan to have this form locally reproduced if it is found to be better than our present Check Sheet.

i. I requested that the 36th Wing be placed on the direct mailing list for all completed R&D Projects and for any other pertinent gunnery information and publication.

j. Lt John Boyd, 3595th Combat Crew Training Group is project officer for developing a new manual and T.P.O. on Air Combat Maneuvers. He has just completed a very comprehensive set of instructions on the best recommended techniques and procedures for using the F-100 as an offensive Air to Air weapon. This is a radical departure from "No Guts - No Glory" and is very applicable to our operations here at bitberg. I brought a draft copy of this manual and also secured several hundred feet of tape on the subject. I gave all the information to Captain Creech to aid him in completing his present project. Colonel Hinton is anxious to send a briefing team to the 36th to fly with our squadrons and to brief us on the new techniques. He will push the project from that and if we will initiate the request through our Headquarters. I feel that this would be invaluable in getting our pilots combat ready and will greatly increase our combat effectiveness.

k. Everyone at Nellis was very cooperative and did everything possible in giving all available gunnery information.

CARL G. SCHNEIDER
Major USAF
Wing Gunnery Officer.