

12—Goldsboro News-Argus Friday, May 19, 1967

Gen. Burns Commands 19th At Seymour Johnson

Major General Robert W. Burns is Commander of the Tactical Air Command's (TAC) Nineteenth Air Force, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C. He is responsible for planning

for contingency operations in support of the U. S. Strike Command and the Atlantic Command. He is also responsible for commanding TAC's Composite Air Strike Force during contingency operations and exercises. The exact composition of this highly mobile, fast-reacting force of tactical fighter, airlift and reconnaissance aircraft is tailored to the requirements of the particular exercise or contingency.

General Burns was born in Nettleton, Miss., on Dec. 8, 1905. In 1928 he was graduated from Mississippi State Teachers College with a bachelor of science degree and in 1930 enlisted in the Army as an aviation cadet. He received his pilot wings at Kelly



GEN. ROBERT W. BURNS

Field, Tex., and was appointed a second lieutenant in November 1929.

The General's first assignment was to the 7th Reconnaissance Squadron in the Panama Canal Zone. In February 1942, he assumed command of Headquarters Squadron, 8th Bomb Group and the following July became Commander, 74th Bomb Squadron in Guatemala City, Guatemala.

He returned to the United States in November 1942 and was assigned as Deputy Commander of the 331st Bomb Group, Geiger Field, Wash. In April 1943, he went with the 331st to England as part of the Eighth Air Force, and in September 1944, he was named Group Commander. During his tour of duty with the 331st Bomb Group, he flew 24 combat missions in the B-17 Flying Fortress.

General Burns returned to the United States in May 1945, and later assumed command of the 63rd Air Base Unit, Colorado Springs, Colo. In April 1946, he was assigned to the 11th Fighter Group, Tennessee Air National Guard, in Nashville, Tenn., as Senior Flight Instructor.

In January 1949, General

Base Gym Popular

The Seymour Johnson base gym is available for use by all personnel. Operation schedule is: 9 a.m. - 9 p.m., Monday through Friday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday (winter months only).

This facility has basketball, volleyball, badminton and handball courts, apparatus, exercise and weight lifting room, steam room showers and lockers. Programs are also conducted in Judo, Karate and Physical Conditioning for both military and dependents.

18-Hole Golf Course At SJ

A beautiful eighteen hole Golf Course is located on Seymour Johnson AFB and is open to all assigned military, bona fide house guests and dependents over ten years old. It is considered to be one of the most interesting courses in eastern North Carolina.

Burns entered the Armed Forces Staff College and, upon graduation, was assigned to Headquarters U. S. Air Force for duty with the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel and later with the Deputy Chief of Staff for Development.

In June 1952, he was selected for assignment to the joint U. S. Military Advisory Group (JUSMAG) in Greece where he served as Deputy Chief and then as Chief of the Air Force Section.

He returned to the United States in December 1954 and became Deputy for Operations, 25th Air Division (Defense), McCord Air Force Base, Wash.

General Burns was selected to attend the National War College and, upon graduation in June 1956, became Director of Operations, Headquarters Air De-

fense Command (ADC) East Air Force Base, Colo. He was Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, ADC, from July 1959 to July 1962.

He was assigned as Commander of the 73d Air Division (ADC) Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., in July 1962, and became Chief, Military Assistance Advisory Group, Pakistan, in May 1966.

General Burns was assigned as Commander Nineteenth Air Force at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N. C., on Apr. 1, 1967.

General Burns' decorations include the Silver Star, Legion of Merit with one oak leaf cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross with one oak leaf cluster, Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Ribbon

and the French Croix de Guerre with Palm. He married the former Ruth Blackburn of Johnstown, Pa. They have three children: Andrew, Susan and Rebecca.



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