

Succeeds Gen. Richmond As 19th Chief

Gen. Burns Took Command Of Suitcase Air Force In '67

The year 1967 was one that saw a good deal of change for Seymour Johnson's Nineteenth Air Force. The most important event for the famed "Suitcase Air Force" was the change of command during the month of March.

Major General Robert W. Burns succeeded Major General Luther H. Richmond, who went to Headquarters U.S. Strike Command at MacDill AFB, Fla. in March. General Burns came to Tactical Air Command's Nineteenth Air Force from Pakistan where he was Chief, Military Assistance Advisory Group.

Assuming command of the Nineteenth April 1, the general deployed with his men two weeks later for Exercise Clove Hitch III in Puerto Rico. Involving some 1,700 Army, Air Force, Marine and Navy personnel Clove Hitch III was a Joint Chiefs of Staff directed Atlantic Command joint exercise. It was designed to test tactical concepts in joint operations. The exercise area was in eastern Puerto Rico and the neighboring islands of Vieques and Culebra. Air Force Forces operated from Ramey AFB in the western part of the island.

Exercise Short Count-Game Cock IV, a Tactical Air Command internal exercise for Nineteenth Air Force and 507th Tactical Control Group, Shaw AFB, S.C. personnel, was conducted March 16-18 in the southeastern United States.

The purpose was to orient and train newly assigned Nineteenth and Ninth Air Force personnel in operating with a deployed Tactical Air Control System and to assist the 507th Commander in evaluating the effectiveness of all elements of the system under field conditions. The Nineteenth deployed to Travis Air National Guard Field in Georgia for the duration of the exercise.

In September the Nineteenth Air Force deployed a small com-



ROBERT W. BURNS

mand force to MacDill AFB and Ft. Bliss, Tex. for Exercise Bold Shot 2-68. Working closely with the Army and Joint Task Force from Strike Command, the Air Force Forces under Col. William B. Westfall, Assistant Deputy for the Middle East - Africa - Southern Asia area of responsibility, executed a simulated evacuation of American citizens from a mythical coun-

try in the southwestern United States.

Following Bold Shot, the Nineteenth deployed to Incirlik AB, Turkey for Exercise Deep Furrow 1-67. The Air Force Forces were under the command of Col. William M. Bowden, Deputy for the Middle East-Africa-Southern Asia area. Deep Furrow was a joint field training exercise involving Turkish and American paratroops and the Air Forces of both countries. The exercise lasted from October 2-8. More than 2,400 U.S. personnel were airlifted to Turkey to participate in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization sponsored exercise.

A new function was added to the Nineteenth's unique structure during the past year. The office of the Director of Civil Engineers was transferred from Ninth Air Force Headquarters at Shaw AFB July 1. Under Col. Arthur F. George the four man office is responsible for the engineering portion of contingency and exercise plans.

During 1967, Nineteenth Air Force's world-wide combat readiness was enhanced by 33 personnel reporting here from overseas assignments, including 15 from Southeast Asia.

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