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Pinecastle BGR

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By Authority of the
Commanding General,
AAF Tactical Center
2/27/45 WBL
Date Initials



HISTORICAL DATA

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901ST AAF BASE UNIT (TACTICAL WING)
AAF TACTICAL CENTER
OPLANDC, FLORIDA

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1 JANUARY 1945 to 1 FEBRUARY 1945

Chem.
DBT

P.R.C.

DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 5200.9, 27 SEP 58

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Bertram S. Sherman
BERTRAM S. SHERMAN
Capt., Air Corps,
Historical Officer

(Historical Data 901st AAF Base Unit 1945b)





Base Unit ATSC, Dover, Delaware, concerning the use of Mark 8 sights in rocket projects. This information solved the problem of Squadron E and arrangements were made to modify reticles for use with rockets. On 2 January the Chief of Armament Branch instructed the personnel of the Armament Section of Squadron E in the use of rocket materiel. They were given a brief historical background of the use of airborne rockets and then were familiarized with all types of rockets which they will use in the near future. These will include the 2.25" practice round with its special adaptor rail. Special stress was laid on safety precautions.

It was brought to the attention of this Office that the A-20 aircraft of Squadron L were not carrying the desired sixteen clusters of parafrags in the 3-13 Demonstrations. Only seven clusters were carried in the last Demonstration. It was found that it was impossible to fit clusters in the bomb shackle of certain models of the A-20. This was due to the fact that the cluster carrying lug is too large. It is hoped to overcome this by grinding down the outside of the lugs and strengthening them internally. Clusters which are already packed will be modified to fit the racks by Squadron L. Clusters which have not been packed will be modified at the depot.

A-20 pilots were not firing toxic gas tanks simultaneously in the Chemical Demonstrations. It was found that in order to do this, four spring loaded switches situated in the lower right-hand corner of the cockpit must be flipped instantaneously at the moment of desired discharge. It was suggested that if double-throw switches could be installed

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they could be selected prior to the time of discharge and thus it would only be necessary to throw a master switch. This change is highly desirable due to the low level formation flying on these missions. It will improve the effect and also act as a safety measure. Permission has been obtained to perform this modification.

Complete technical data on the sixty pound training bombs was obtained for the Ordnance Officer at Kissimmee. The Small Arms Shop at this station was handicapped because of the lack of parts to repair automatic shotguns. Parts were obtained and five of the automatic models were turned in in exchange for serviceable pump models. A report was turned in by this office to the Chief of the Supply Branch, APTAC, on the use of M48 Practice Fragmentation bombs in M2A1 clusters. These bombs are equipped with standard fragmentation parachutes and used as practice parafrags rather than as practice stabilized frags. Spotting charges were used and functioned satisfactorily except when bombs equipped with M104 fuses were dropped from too low altitudes. Lieutenant Cannon of the 903rd AAF Base Unit and Lieutenant Purtell of the 904th AAF Base Unit were sent to a fuse rocket school and Captain Eisenberg has been in the hospital on quarters status from 7 January up to the present time.

Lieutenant Forney of the Chemical Warfare Branch was promoted to Captain on 18 January. Captain Forney has been working on AAF Board Project F-3735 which is dissemination of DDT from standard British equipment. Two field tests were conducted and frequent conferences were held with

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participating agencies and personnel. Other participating agencies in addition to the CWS Branch were the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine of the United States Department of Agriculture, the Dugway Proving Ground Detachment at Bushnell, Chemical Warfare Department of AFTAC, Weather Squadron, AAFSAT and Squadron L of Kissimmee. Considerable data has been gathered and a final report is being prepared. Captain Goodman has started preliminary work on Project F-4143 which concerns supplementary tests of tactics and techniques of Chemical opposition. This is the jungle phase of this project and will be run in Panama. Aircraft and personnel for this test plan to leave approximately 15 February for the test area.

The 903rd AAF Base Unit submitted their Chemical Defense Plan to this Office. This was checked and forwarded for approval to the AFTAC Chemical Officer. All units of this command have now submitted their plans. The monthly Chemical Activity Reports for December were received from all units and the results have been evaluated and recommendations and corrections made. Due to errors in filling out this report, a letter was sent to all units of this command indicating the errors and the corrections to be made. A spot check inspection was held in all units by an Officer of this Branch. Inspections were held to determine the proficiency of the individual soldier in basic chemical warfare. The results were turned in to the Training Branch and recommendations were made to correct the discrepancies noted.

Because of the numerous requests for chemical graphic training aids,

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reference cards and posters have been distributed to all units. A check list of chemical manuals was also sent to these units. Squadrons A and B have been put through the gas chamber for their first quarter exercise and rosters of the officers and enlisted men participating have been forwarded to these units. Letters of deficiency were sent to all units which had less than 100% participation in the fourth quarter 1944 gas chamber exercises.

The Wing Intelligence Section moved the office into Rooms 31 and 32 of Building 2024. In addition, the Air Room was completely remodeled. A case was built for map panels to be used for lectures and special displays. One wall of the room which had been unfinished brick and concrete was covered and the entire room was repainted. All of this work was done by personnel of this Section. Results were highly satisfactory. The Air Room has previously been restricted to the use of Officers only. However, arrangements have been made for the enlisted personnel of Squadron A to use this room from 1600 to 1700 on Wednesday for Orientation purposes (See, Appendix B-9 and B-10). Since the room is now arranged like a small theater, it is very well suited to these purposes. It also makes it much handier for the personnel to attend Orientation Classes without having to go out of the building as they previously did.

The Counter Intelligence activities of this Branch were mostly concerned with the clearance and coordination of visits to classified units under this command. This system is now functioning quite smoothly with the outlying units protected both from a security angle and also from the

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(See Appendix C-12). During the month, Captain Forney (See Appendix C-7) and Captain Curtis (See Appendix C-6) were promoted from First Lieutenant. As of 31 January, there were thirty-nine enlisted men, ten enlisted women and thirty officers assigned. Fourteen enlisted men and twelve officers were attached. This represented a drop of six enlisted men assigned and four attached. The total enlisted women assigned was increased by one, two additional officers were assigned and one attached.

SQUADRON B

Under the supervision of Captain W. N. Sullivan, AAF Board Project Number F-4095 was conducted at the Pinecastle Bombing Range on 3 and 4 January. This Project was a test of improved equipment and technique for dissemination of DDT by airplanes. The Squadron B Project Team with the portable VHF equipment mounted on a jeep provided the necessary ground-to-air communications with excellent results. The Squadron Project Team was again at Pinecastle Bombing Range on 5 January to furnish ground-to-air communications on Chemical and Ordnance Demonstrations.

The demand for more Infantry troops made it necessary to make up another shipment from this command. Six enlisted men from Squadron B were sent to Camp Gordon, Georgia, for advanced training and further reassignment to combat duty (See Appendix C-13).

The Air Inspectors made their regular monthly inspection throughout