



Preparing to board the C-97 Skymaster which took them to Offutt AFB, Neb., Wednesday are, left to right: Maj. Gen. Chas. F. Born, Carr P. Collins Jr. and Maj. Gen. Harry Crutcher Jr.

SAC Official Sees Good From Sputnik

By FRANCIS RAFFETTO
News Staff Writer

OFFUTT AFB, Omaha, Neb., Dec. 4.—The vice-commander of Strategic Air Command—the free world's chief bulwark against Communist aggression — Wednesday called Sputniks one and two "the nicest thing that Russia ever did for us." He is host for 32 Dallas business and professional leaders here for a 2-day visit.

Lt. Gen. Francis H. Griswold, second in command to Gen. T. S. Power, said that SAC will welcome intercontinental missiles as an addition to their B-47's and B-52's in the Air Force arsenal. As for manned aircraft, the SAC vice-commander said we still see them as our primary weapon—they are flexible.

"When you have an aircraft flying, you can call it back—but you can't retrieve a missile." However, he quickly pointed out that SAC will soon include a missile component to be headed by Maj. Gen. David Wade, its former chief of staff.

General Griswold, 52, a balding, wiry Erie, Pa., native, led a contingent of high ranking SAC officers who welcomed the Dallas visitors as they landed at SAC headquarters Wednesday night in a big C-97 stratocruiser.

The 32 Dallas visitors were led by Eugene McElvaney, chairman of the Dallas Air Power Council, and Carr P. Collins Jr., head of the Dallas Air Force Association chapter.

Others making the trip are. T. E. Acord, Weldon Bateson, Maj. Gen. Charles F. Born, Edmond L. Brown, Leo F. Corrigan Sr., Harry Crutcher Jr., Hans C. Glitsch, Cecil M. Higginbotham, Dick Hitt, George W. Jalonick III, Alvin J. Lane, Frederick F. Murray, B. R. McLendon, Robert M. Nelson, and Chester Nimitz Jr.

Also Ralph B. Rogers, William B. Ruggles, Eugene Kahn Sanger, Phill Schepps, Gen. Luther Smith, Judge Lew Sterrett, Joe J. Synar, R. L. Thornton Jr., Harold F. Volk, Reagan N. Waskom, Dr. W. T. White, H. Harold Wineburg,

Lee V. Williams Jr. and James E. Lockhart.

Texans Thursday are due for a full scale SAC briefing by top staff officers. Their visit will include inspection of SAC's famed underground command post at this vital base 8 miles south of Omaha. The big current problem for the nation's chief striking force, said Griswold, is not Sputnik one or two but the retention of skilled personnel. "We have former SAC people coming back on the base-wearing civilian clothes and making three times as much on civilian jobs as we can pay. And they know for sure when they can have a weekend off."

The SAC No. 2 man said "we're not happy with our re-enlistment rate. We are running about 31 per cent of personnel re-enlisting, and we need about 75 per cent."

Military salaries should be put on a proficiency basis, claimed the 3-star general. "I mean that skilled personnel should be paid according to their ability. Otherwise we spend 4 to 5 years training them and lose them to private industry."

At present the strategic Air Command is trying to make life a little easier for its personnel—and still maintain a round the clock alert for enemy attack, said Griswold. "We are working to put only one third of our people at a time on constant alert, and let the other two-thirds maintain regular operations," he said. "That way, SAC personnel can anticipate in advance having a weekend off and maybe not have to tool off to Casablanca at the last minute."