



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 wel-

come 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 fly-

ing, you can call it back—but you

can't retrieve a missile." How-

ever, 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 bald-

ing, 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., Har-

ry Crutcher Jr., Hans C. Glitsch,

Cecil M. Higginbotham, Dick Ritt,

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 San-

ger, Phil Scherps, 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 in-

clude 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 mak-

ing three times as much on civil-

ian 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. Other-

wise we spend 4 to 5 years train-

ing 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 Gris-

wold. "We are working to put

only one third of our people at

a time on constant alert, and let

the other two-thirds maintain reg-

ular operations," he said. "That

way, SAC personnel can antici-

cate in advance having a week-

end off and maybe not have to

tool off to Casablanca at the last

minute."