



General Carter, General Crutcher and Frank Heller talk defense.

Air Defense Center Inspected by Group

By CLARDY McCULLAR
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COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.—Twenty-seven Dallas civic and business leaders got a good look here Friday at America's air attack defenses.

They learned that with the United States and Russia growing to be near equals in bomber strength, America's air defenses may spell the difference if war ever comes. They also learned that defense against missiles is difficult, but not impossible.

"I feel encouraged, but not complacent," said S. J. Hay of the Great National Life Insurance Company.

And the others seemed to feel that way, too.

They were briefed by a razor-sharp team from NORAD, North America Defense headquarters here. It is an integrated team, made up of Air Force, Navy, Marine and Royal Canadian Air Force officers.

They saw the nerve center of the air defenses of the entire North American continent, where information from hundreds of radar screens and thousands of watchers is fed into giant electronic brains. Here Gen. Earle E. Partridge, NORAD commander-in-chief, can take personal command of his far-flung units' efforts to stave off bomber attack in a matter of seconds. The room where all the information is displayed on clear plastic boards was under repair, however.

The weapons to beat off the bombers are integrated, too—fighter planes, Air Force missiles and Army missiles—the Nike Hercules such as will soon ring the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

And the Navy contributes one squadron of F4D fighters to the air defenses on a day-to-day basis.

But the Navy's most important role is to provide, with planes, radar picked ships and blimps, ocean extensions of the early-warning radar lines which stretch across the frozen far northern shores of Canada on the Arctic Ocean.

Canada contributes several squadrons of interceptor planes which would meet attackers long before American planes scrambled.

For the next four years—until the SAGE (semi-automatic ground environment, an electronic brain system which will tie all the parts of the air defense system together) is completed—NORAD will rely on "manual" (and in this case it really means the individual man in scattered radar sites) controls.

Maj. Gen. Marshall Carter, NORAD chief of staff, explained that the present system is not as effective as NORAD wants to make it—and won't be until it gets better and more radars, faster interceptor planes, better missiles.

Still, said General Carter, the defensive system is strong enough to deter attack—by bombers.

Missile attack is another matter, he said, but NORAD hopes to be capable of knocking down all the missiles thrown at North America by the time an all-out missile assault is possible.

Maj. Gen. Harry Crutcher of the Texas Air National Guard and the Mercantile National Bank headed the Dallas Airpower Council Inspection party.

Other members were Joe Agee, First National Bank; Layton W. Bailey Jr., MCA-TV; Richard J. Baker, United Fidelity Life Insurance Co.; Cedric Burgher, United Fidelity; Col. James H. Carlyle, TANG; W. D. DeSanders, Lone Star Cadillac Co.; Edward J. Drake Jr., County Democratic Chairman and attorney; Lt. Col. Joe E. Earle Jr., commander Air Force Flying Center at Grand Prairie; O. B. English, Red Ball Motor Freight, Inc.; L. E. Guillot, Southwest Savings Association; Frank H. Heller, Remington Rand; James S. Hudson, Hudson & Hudson; Ralph F. Loffland, the Loffland (steel) Co.; George L. Loving, Dallas Federal Savings & Loan Assn.; Ralph W. McCann, Continental Battery Co.; George D. McMorries, Dallas Squadron of the Air Force Association; Jim Ragsdale, Dallas Times Herald; Frank E. Rigney, Anderson Furniture Company; A. H. Thompson, Geo-Technical Corp.; James E. Wallace, Jim Wallace Agency; Earl E. Webb, Southwest Air-motive Co.; T. L. Wheeler, Dallas Lumber & Hardware Co.; A. B. Wright Jr., American Bank & Trust Co., and R. F. Zech, Arthur Anderson & Co.