HISTORY

of

MUROC AIR FORCE BASE

1 July 1948 to 31 December 1948

PRESENT ASSIGNMENT: Air Materiel Command

PRESENT STATION: Muroc, California

UNITS ATTACHED OR ASSIGNED: 2759th AFB
3208th Strato Bomb Sqdn.
Detachment 1901-1 AACS Sqdn.
Detachment 10/13L 10th Weather Sqdn.
9301st Aberdeen Bombing Mission

COMPILED:

W. B. Tetrault
W. B. TETRAULT
1st Lt., USAF
Historical Officer

APPROVED:

S. A. Gilkey
S. A. GILKEY
Colonel, USAF
Commanding

D I R E C T O R A T E E N G I N E E R I N G

At the beginning of this reporting period Colonel Collins was designated Chief of Projects and Captain Worthington was designated Technical Assistant to Colonel Smith, Chief of Technical Engineering. Total manpower was 23 officers, 234 enlisted men, and 99 civilians[1] as compared to 22 officers, 203 enlisted men, and 105 civilians at the end of this reporting period[2].

A true evaluation is believed to have been made on all projects completed and modification needs were proven thru research on Projects Hanging Fire. Some items of notable interest were:

Month of July

1. JATO Tests on the C-97[3].
2. Northrop's Night Fighter XF-89 arrived for flight tests[4].
3. Flight test of J-33-23 Engine with Bendix Fuel control and B-5 starter control installed.
4. McDonnell XF-85 Test, B-29 Mother Airplane flown for functional check of Trapeze which was extended and retracted during flight with parasite aircraft attached[5].
5. B-45A Research flight tests, Generals, Doolittle and Partridge observing.
6. Conversion of Jet aircraft to use 100/130 Octane Fuel, High Vapor Pressure Fuel and JP-1 Fuel.

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1. Period Report, July 1948, MAFB, Historical File.
2. Period Report, December 1948, MAFB, historical File.
3. App. #16.
4. App. #17.
5. App. #18.

Month of August

1. F-80C Performance Test, Long range mission to Fort Ord accomplished by Captain Yeager.
2. On XF-85 Project Hook-on attempts, Trapeze Bar Contacted the XF-85's canopy, shattering plexiglass, pilot escaped injury.
3. Initial flight of MX-806, material failure in sump tank reported.
4. D-558-1 airplane assembled and shake down flight accomplished[6].
5. Corporal "E" Light Heavy Weight Rocket motor fired.

Month of September

1. Major R. L. Johnson broke world's airplane speed record in F-86 over Muroc Course; attaining the speed of 670.95 m.p.h.
2. Thompson - Offner Electronic Control Tests completed.
3. Initial flight of XF-92.
4. Armament Lab MX-553 Personnel and equipment arrived.

Month of October

1. XF-87 tests completed[7].
2. Initial flight of XF-88 made[8].
3. B-29 bellied onto lake bed during test of Liquid ATO Rocket Engine.
4. F-80C Test Completed.

Month of November and December

1. Pit for the thrust stand completed[9].
2. Initial flight of Northrop X-4 accomplished.
3. Development and tests of Smoke generator for use on XB-47 airplane completed.

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6. App. #20.
7. App. #21.
8. App. #22.
9. App. #23.