HISTORY

of

MUROC AIR FORCE BASE

1 January 1948 to 30 June 1948

PRESENT ASSIGNMENT: Air Materiel Command

PRESENT STATION: Muroc, California

UNITS ATTACHED OR ASSIGNED: 4144th AFBU
3206th Strato Bomb Sqdn.
101st AMS
101st Weather Group Detach. ~~0131~~
9301st ~~TSU Detachment~~ 9

COMPILED:

WILLIAM R CLARK
1st, USAF
Historical Officer

APPROVED:

Deputy
S.T. SMITH
Lt. Col. USAF
Commanding

evaluation and performance.

During January engine modification grounded D-558-II, Airplane #1. Instrumentation installation was refined while awaiting new engine from Westinghouse. Initial flight performed 4 February 1948 and familiarization flights continued. During March & April instrumentation installation was continued, and in April a parallel fuel system was installed in aircraft. In June high speed taxi tests were performed and Jato equipment installed. In March D-558-II, Airplane #2 was being assembled and instrumented. In April the plane was placed in work status, and in June instrumentation and Jato equipment were installed.

During January refining installation of instrumentation and calibration was performed on D-558-1, Airplane #2. Airplane was not in flying status during February. In March one flight for air speed calibration at 30,000 ft. altitude was unsuccessful when right main landing gear door would not close and lock. During April speed calibrations and longitudinal stability flights were performed to obtain research data. On 3 May Airplane #2 crashed shortly after takeoff, killing the pilot, Howard Lilly. Cause of crash was undetermined.

During February the XR-60 Constitution Airplane performed flight evaluation and gross load takeoff tests. In June takeoff and landing tests were performed.

During June the XF-85, Internally Stowed Fighter, assembly was completed, the trapeze reworked and cycled, and the engine ground run performed.

During January the North American XF-86 underwent Phase III test program consisting of high Mach number speed tests, position error calibration, stick force per "G" at forward and aft C. G. locations,