



VF-56 Strategic Air Command – Operational Readiness Inspections



The USAF Strategic Air Command was established in March 1946 and was the USAF major Command for “Cold War” command and control of land-based strategic bombers and Inter Continental Ballistic Missiles. SAC also operated aerial refueling, strategic reconnaissance and Command Post aircraft.

Operations included regular operational readiness inspections (ORIs). The evaluators arrived unannounced on a KC-135 aircraft. When the aircraft was 15 minutes from landing, the pilot would contact the destination command post, announce his position, and then state, “The SAC IG is on board.”

Suggested Aircraft

KC-135

Mission Legs

Strategic Missile Wings

1. From Offutt AFB (KOFF) to Cheyenne (KCYS). 90th Strategic Missile Wing (SMW) ICBM Minuteman III - 402nm.
2. From Cheyenne (KYCS) to McConnell AFB (KIAB). 390th SMW ICBM Titan II - 409nm.
3. From McConnell (KIAB) to Little Rock AFB (KLRF). 308th SMW ICBM Titan II -296nm.

SAC Bombardment Wings

4. From Offutt AFB (KOFF) to Ellsworth AFB (KRCA). 28th Bombardment Wing, B-52 aircraft - 366nm.
5. From Ellsworth AFB (KRCA) to Grand Forks AFB (KRDR). 319th Bombardment Wing, B-52 aircraft - 330nm.
6. From Grand Forks (KRDR) to Plattsburgh Intl (KPBG). 2nd Bombardment Wing, FB-111 aircraft – 1,008nm.

NOTAMS:

Total mission distance 2,811nm.
6 flights required for ribbon credit.