

“Q POINT”

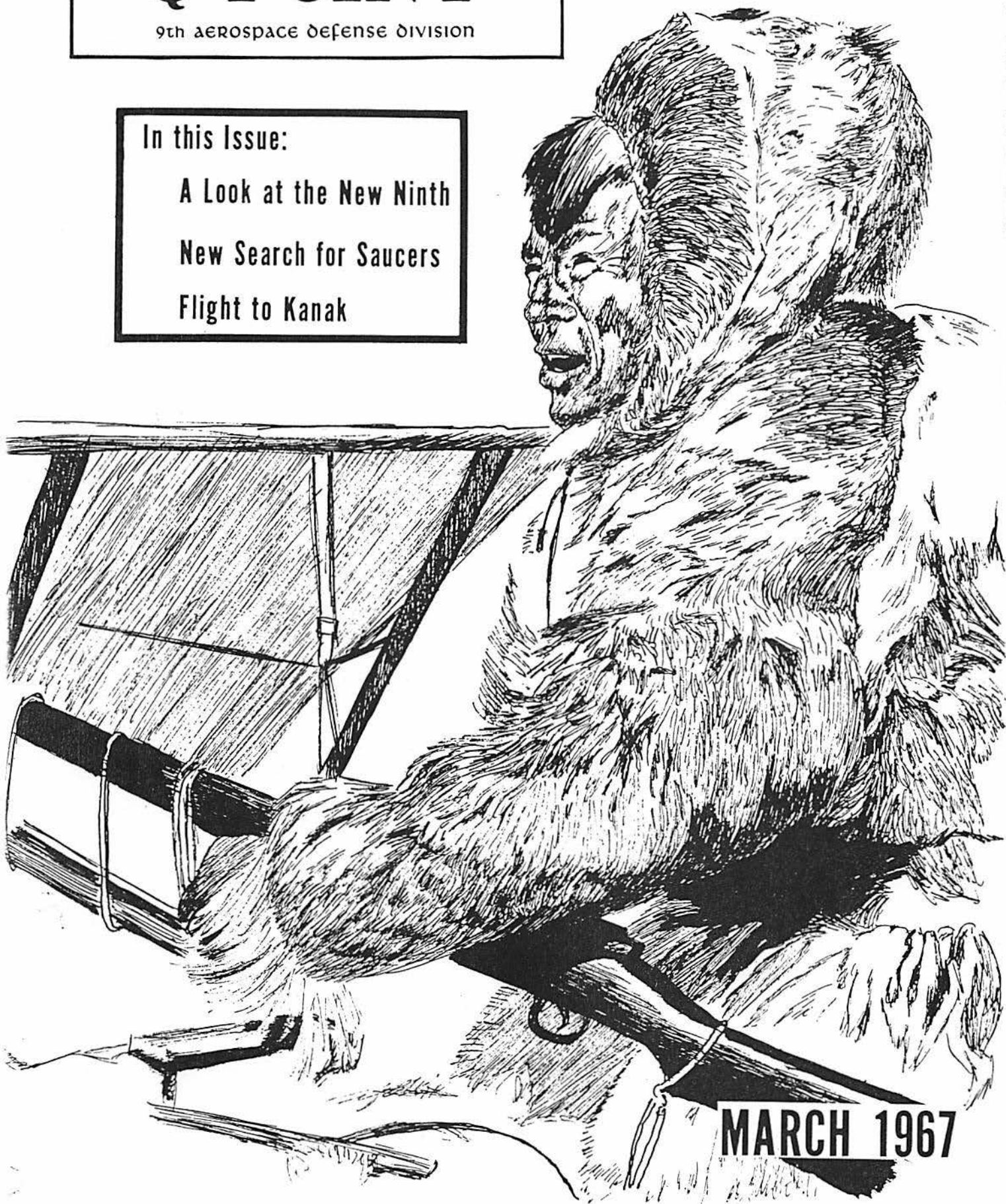
9th aerospace defense division

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MARCH 1967

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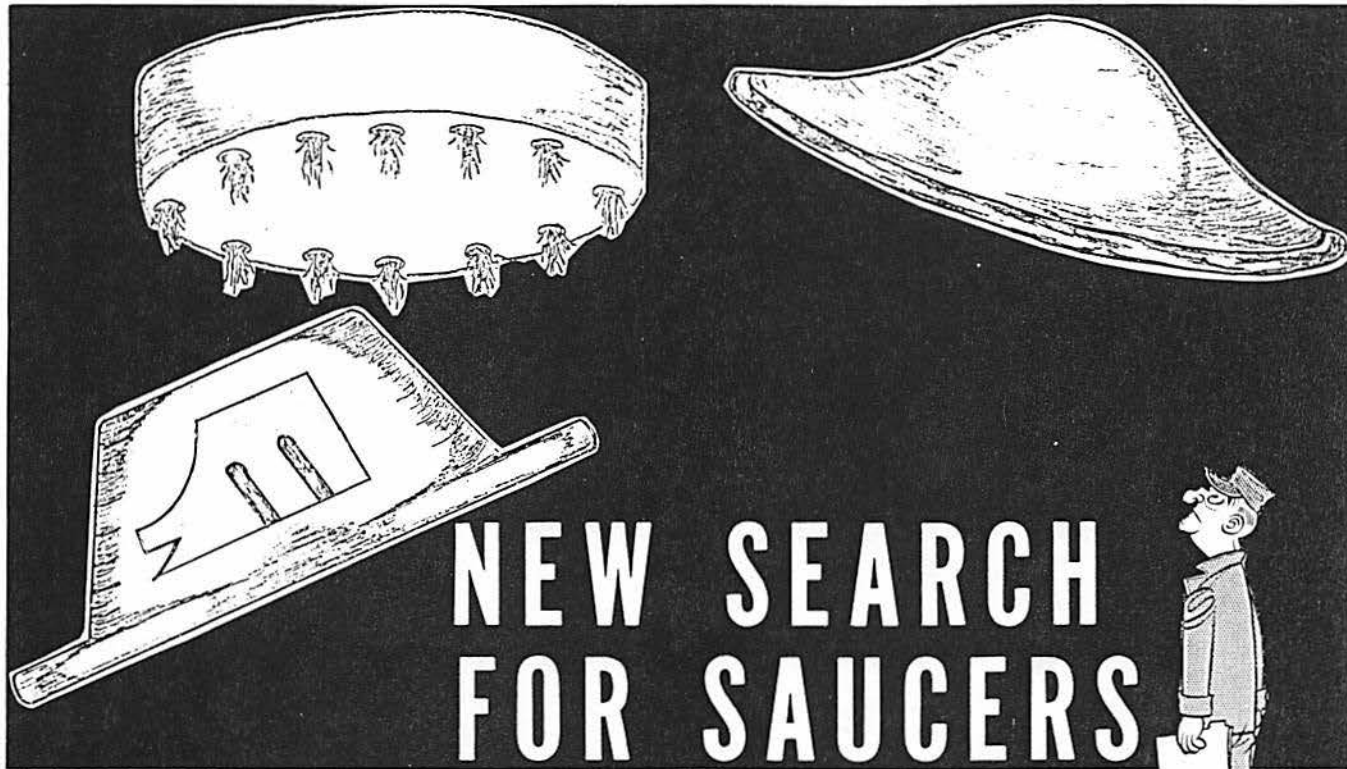
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The Q POINT is published monthly by the Directorate of Information, Headquarters, 9th Aerospace Defense Division. It is published for the personnel of the 9th Aerospace Defense Division and it is for information only. Articles are not to be construed as directive in nature. Contributions of articles, short subjects, art work and photographs are encouraged. Suggestions and criticisms are welcomed. Opinions expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the official viewpoint of the Department of the Air Force. We reserve the right to make editorial changes in manuscripts received. All photographs are official USAF photos unless otherwise indicated.

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Maj Gen O. B. Johnson	Commander
Maj R. H. Reed	Dir of Info
SSgt W. A. Brockmann	Editor
Miss Peggy Wyse	Secretary

COVER: This month's cover, which promotes the story on page 4, was drawn by former Q POINT editor, SSgt Jim Caldwell, before he left for his new assignment at DaNang AB, RVN. We hope Jim will remain our South Vietnam correspondent.



NEW SEARCH FOR SAUCERS

Dr. Edward U. Condon, a man keenly interested in "flying saucers," visited 9th Aero facilities at Colorado Springs Jan. 13 in preparation for a special University of Colorado study of unidentified flying objects.

Dr. Condon is professor of physics and astrophysics at U of C, which has been contracted by the Air Force to conduct the independent UFO investigation.

Along with other members of his UFO study team and representatives from the USAF Office of Aerospace Research (OAR), Dr. Condon was given a briefing at Ent and an orientation tour of the Cheyenne Mountain complex.

In letters to Maj. Gen. Oris B. Johnson, 9th Aero commander, both Dr. Condon and Mr. J. Thomas Ratchford of OAR expressed appreciation for the information gained during their visit.

"The excellent briefing at Ent and the orientation visit to Cheyenne Mountain will be invaluable to the Condon committee in its admittedly difficult study of such an elusive subject as UFOs," said Mr. Ratchford.

"Furthermore, the fine spirit of cooperation evidenced by all of your staff was helpful in demonstrating to the University of Colorado that operational commands such as yours can play an important role in furnishing the kind of information necessary for their study."

The decision to ask the University of Colorado to make an independent investigation of UFOs was based on a recommendation made last year by the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board, which was asked to evaluate the Air Force's UFO investigation program known as Project Blue Book.

The advisory board committee

felt that the Air Force program dealing with UFO sightings was well organized, but that the resources assigned to it (one officer, a sergeant and secretary) were "quite limited."

The committee members agreed that after 19 years and more than 10,000 sightings recorded and classified, "there appears to be no verified and fully satisfactory evidence of any case that is clearly outside the framework of presently known science and technology."

However, they felt that analysis of new sightings could possibly provide some valuable additional knowledge.

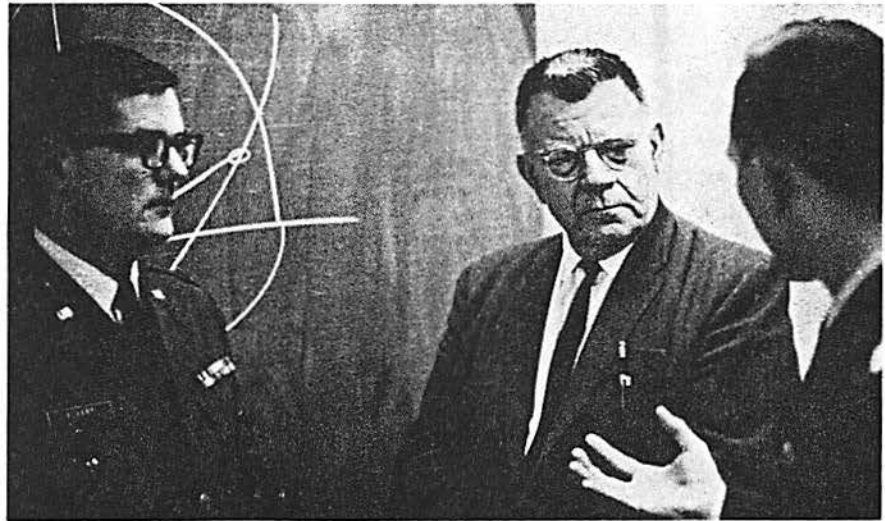
The committee members also thought that some of the cases listed as "identified" by the Air Force were sightings where the evidence collected was too meager or too indefinite to permit positive listing in the identified category. Because of this, they recommended that the

Blue Book program be strengthened to provide opportunity for scientific investigation of selected sightings in more detail and depth than before.

Dr. Condon pointed out that the University of Colorado investigators "will be free to follow whatever lines of study they decide are most important, using whatever means of study their judgments indicates is most suitable." He added that they also 'will be free to publish their findings without control of any kind by the Air Force.'

Previous UFO findings by the Air Force and other independent consultants can be summed up in five statements, according to the Library of Congress legislative reference service:

1. UFOs do not pose a threat to the nation;
2. UFOs do not represent developments or principles beyond present-day scientific knowledge;
3. There is no evidence of extraterrestrial vehicles under the control of an intelligent being;



Dr. Condon is briefed at the Cheyenne Mountain Complex by orbital analysts 1st Lt. Henry B. Eckert Jr. (left) and Capt. Dick A. Cable, both of 1st Aero.

4. There is no evidence of physical matter left behind by a reported UFO;

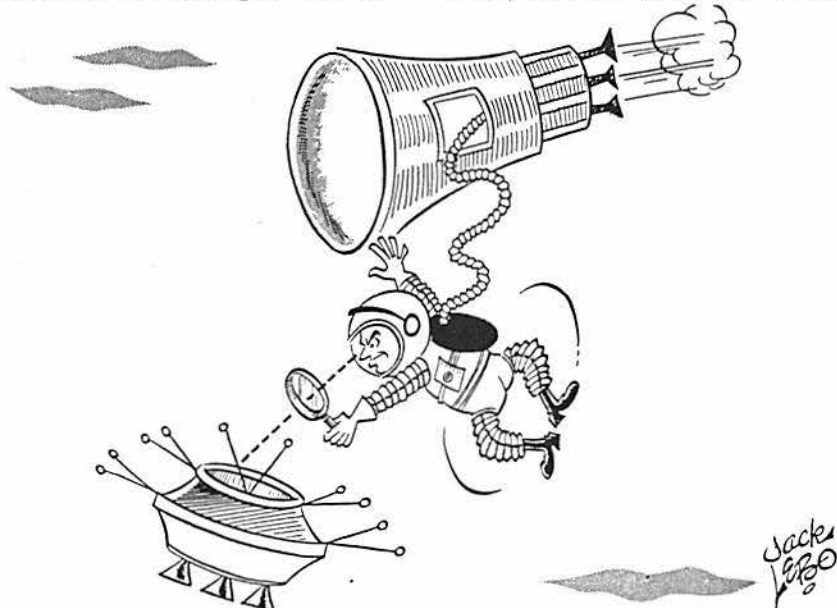
5. Some small fraction of total sightings remain "unidentified."

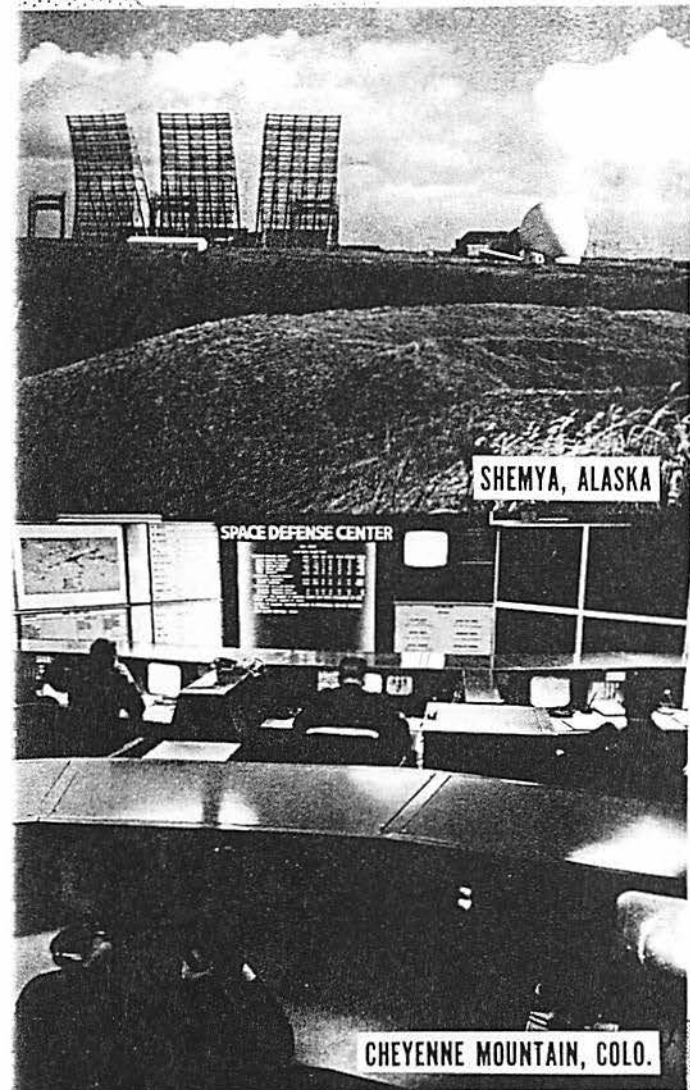
Of the 10,047 flying objects investigated by the Air Force from 1947 through 1965, most were identified officially as bright stars and planets, comets and meteors, satellites, balloons, aircraft and other known

causes. A number of other objects couldn't be identified because of insufficient data, but only about 6.4 per cent were classified as "unidentified."

Dr. Condon's group is expected to report on its findings early next year. They may reach the same conclusions as previous studies or may come up with something out of this world. Meanwhile, the Air Force is keeping an open mind.

"The Air Force does not deny the possibility that some form of life may exist on other planets in the universe," according to the Project Blue Book information pamphlet. "However, to date, the Air Force has neither received nor discovered any evidence which proves the existence and intra-space mobility of extraterrestrial life. The Air Force continues to extend an open invitation to anyone who feels that he possesses any evidence of extraterrestrial vehicles operating within the earth's near space envelope to submit his evidence for analysis."

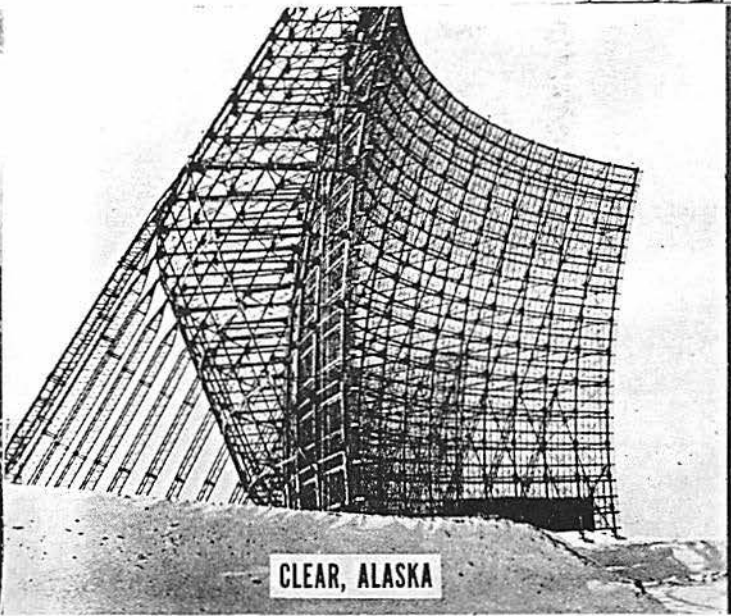




SHEMYA, ALASKA

SPACE DEFENSE CENTER

CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN, COLO.

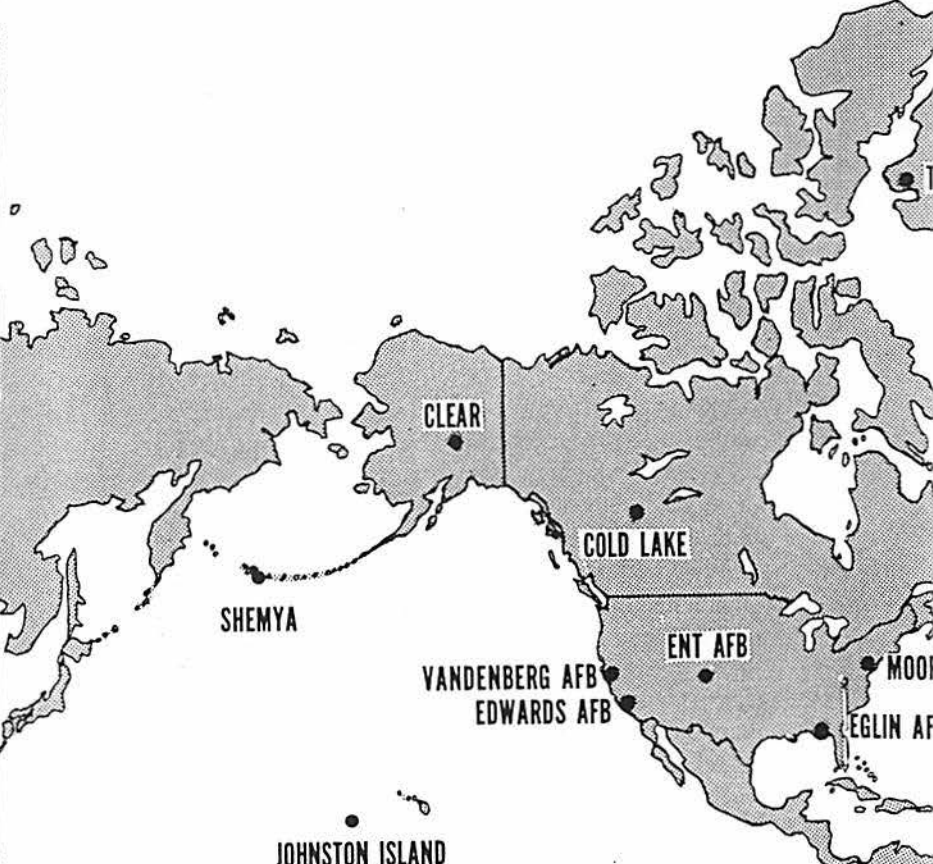


CLEAR, ALASKA



EDWARDS AFB, CALIF.

JOHNSTON ISLAND



A LOOK AT THE

The elevation and redesignation of subordinate units, and the opening of an underground Space Defense Center has given the 9th Aerospace Defense Division a new look for 1967.

The redesignation of 9th Aero units became effective Jan. 1. Of the division's four major sub units, only the Aerospace Control Squadron retained its former designation.

The 71st Surveillance Wing, headquartered at Ent, became the 71st Missile Warning Wing, and its Ballistic Missile Early Warning System detachments 1 and 2 at Thule, Greenland, and Clear, Alaska, were redesignated respectively as the 12th and 13th Mis-

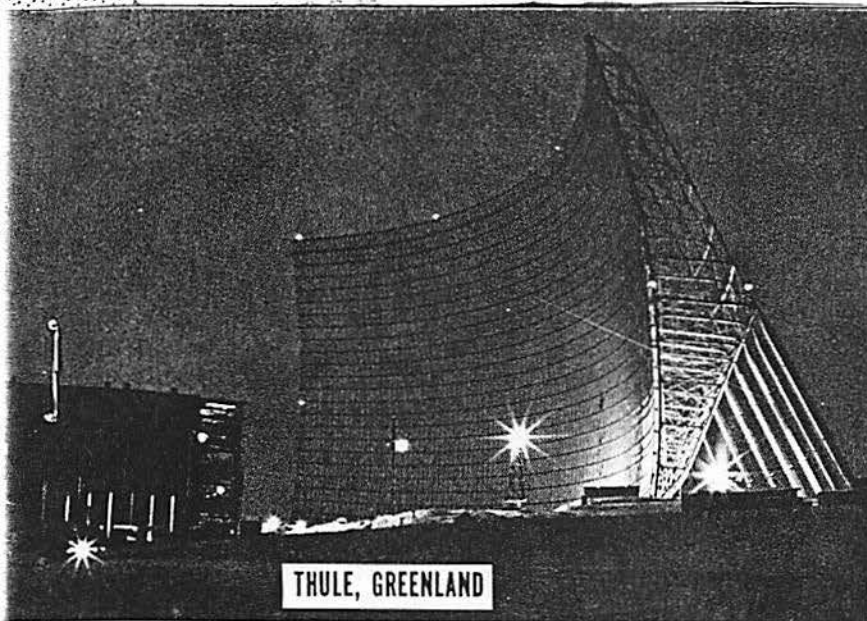
sile Warning Squadrons. The third BMEWS unit, at Fylingdales Moor, England, was redesignated Det. 1, 71st Missile Warning Wing.

The 2nd Surveillance Squadron, also at Ent, was upgraded and renamed the 73rd Aerospace Surveillance Wing.

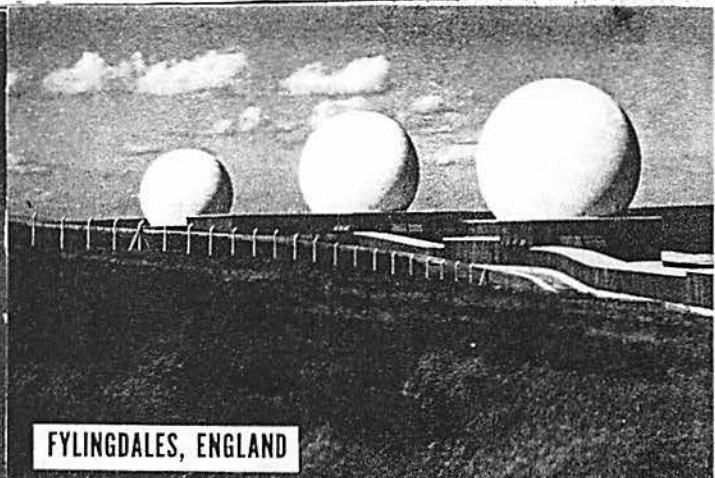
Spacetracking units under the 73rd are now the 16th Surveillance Squadron at Shemya, Alaska; 17th Survl. Sq. at Moorestown, N.J.; 18th Survl. Sq. at Edwards AFB, Calif.; Det. 2, 18th Survl. Sq. at Johnston Island; TUSLOG Det. 8 at Diyarbakir, Turkey; and 20th Survl. Sq. at Eglin AFB, Fla.

The 10th Aerospace Defense Squadron at Vandenberg AFB, Calif., became the

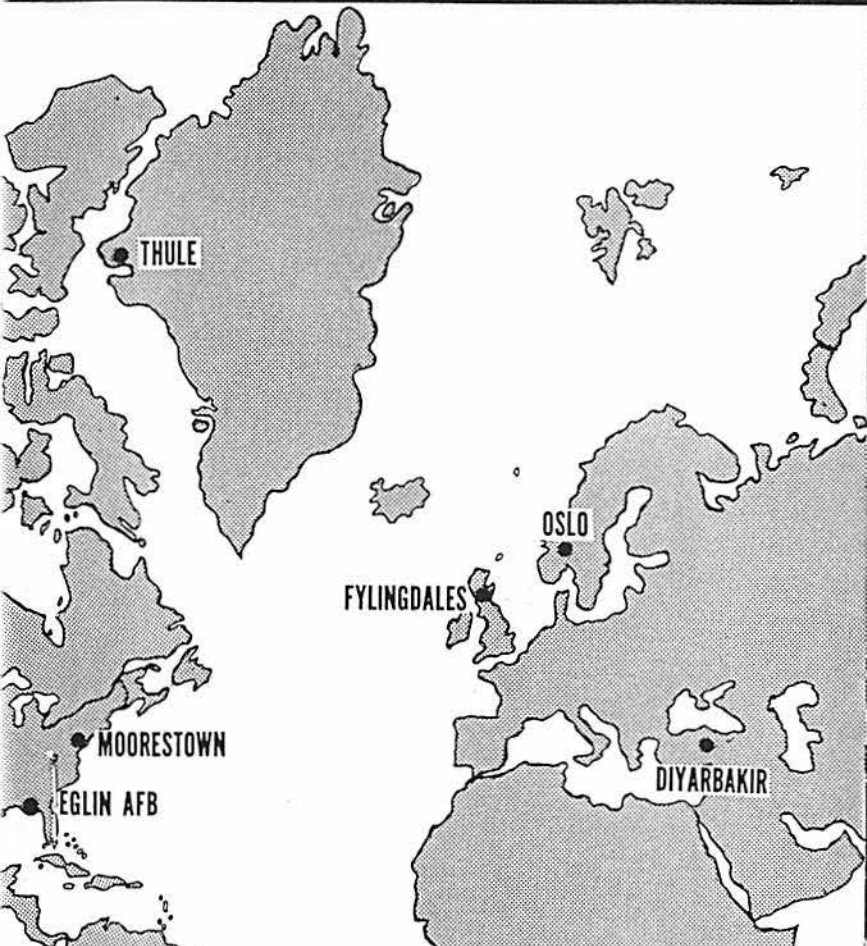
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THULE, GREENLAND



FYLINGDALES, ENGLAND



MOORESTOWN, N.J.



DIYARBAKIR, TURKEY

THE NEW NINTH

9th Aerospace Defense Group, and its detachments at Johnston Island and Vandenberg were redesignated the 24th Support Squadron and 25th Aerospace Defense Squadron respectively.

The 1st Aerospace Control Squadron kept its name, but made the biggest change of all on Feb. 6, when it completed its move from Ent to the new underground Space Defense Center in the NORAD Cheyenne Mountain Complex.

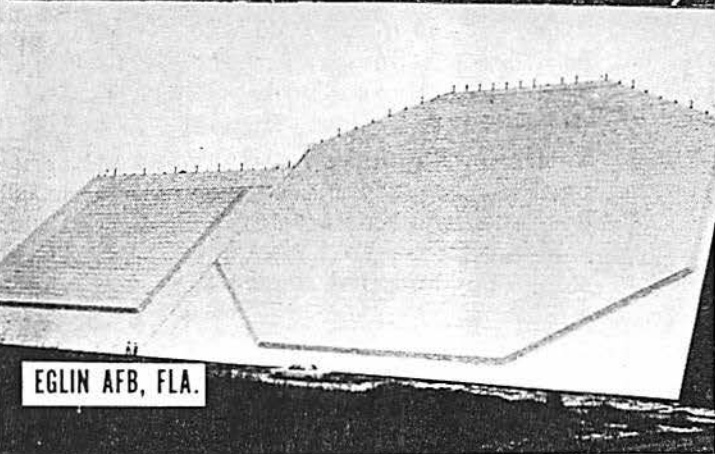
The Space Defense Center unifies the 9th's mission of detecting, identifying and tracking all man-made objects in space. Information from a globe-spanning network of electronic and optical sensors is fed to the cen-

ter's computer and interpreted by SDC personnel, whose job it is to spot and follow every object launched in space.

Primary space data reports come from 9th Aero SPACETRACK radar units at Shemya, Moorestown and Diyarbakir, and from BMEWS radar units at Thule, Clear and Fylingdales Moor.

Additional reports are provided by Baker-Nunn satellite tracking cameras at Edwards AFB; Johnston Island; Oslo, Norway; and Cold Lake, Canada.

Other primary sources of space data include radar and optical sensors operated by the Navy's Space Surveillance System (SPASUR), the Air Force Systems Command, and NASA.



EGLIN AFB, FLA.