

(2-15)

1. Submitted by: HQ AFSPA/SPSS, Kirtland AFB NM

2. Operation/event name: Sabotage to A-7 Aircraft at Muniz ANGB, PR, Jan 81

3. Keywords: Security/Sabotage

4. Title: Sabotage to A-7 Aircraft at Muniz ANGB, PR

5. Observation: On 12 January 1981, shortly after midnight, the 156th Tactical Fighter Group, Muniz Air National Guard Base, located at the International Airport at San Juan, Puerto Rico, incurred approximately \$45,000,000 damage to ten A-7D aircraft and a single F-104 by eleven terrorists of the Popular Army of Puerto Rico, also known as "The Macheteros." The unit was equipped with eighteen A-7D and one F-104 aircraft. The unit, as it exists today, is ACC gained and has a home generation mission. The mission was the same at the time of the attack. Terrorists infiltrated the A-7 parking ramp through a hole cut in the perimeter chain link fence. Investigators believe that some, if not all, arrived near the ramp in a boat surreptitiously guided along a nearby channel. The operation occurred during SP shift changeover. Security was provided by contracted, operations and maintenance funded guards. The perpetrators exited using the reverse of their entry method. Choosing to strike at shift change indicates the possibility of prior surveillance or insider information. The terrorists placed approximately 25 explosive devices on the aircraft. The explosives consisted of satchels containing four sticks of Iremite with detonators and incendiary charges. They were time delayed using a simple but effective watch and battery combination. The explosives were stolen from a Puerto Rican explosives factory, with the theft traced to this terrorist group. AFOSI called the explosives "sophisticated". The entire operation took less than eight minutes and this group of semiskilled intruders was able to inflict severe damage to mission capability.

6. Discussion: Press coverage was substantial at the time of the incident but died down quickly. This was the first peacetime incident in which USAF aircraft were destroyed by a terrorist act and the first time terrorists had attacked a USAF installation on US soil. It was greatest material loss from any single act of terrorism perpetrated against the USAF anywhere in the world. The National Guard Bureau (NGB) was aware of the shortfalls in security at Muniz and of the threat, yet corrective actions had not been implemented at the time. Immediately after the incident the guard force at Muniz was doubled, and the force quickly grew from 10 to 60 on-duty guards. On 26 January 1981, SAF/IG and members from AFOSP, NGB, and AFOSI visited Muniz to review the threat and recommend security improvements. These recommendations included increasing the size of the day-to-day guard force, improving the fencing and lighting, using duress alarms, increasing the number of training man-days, and installing a closed circuit television system. The Air Force Chief of Staff sent a message to the MAJCOM Commanders asking them to review their security programs and to provide ideas for improvements. Emphasis was on immediate actions. AFOSP formed a study group to examine USAF security programs. The group's charter was to examine the threat, identify the most likely targets, and assess our current security capabilities. The group presented a minimum security posture to provide improved security capability. This posture included: 1) a greater role for owner-user personnel, 2) upgrading of wartime mobilization plan (WMP)-tasked reserve force aircraft, 3) greater use of sensors, 4) an increase in domestic intelligence capability, and 4) the addition of four-man fire teams.

7. Lessons Learned: As a result of the MAJCOM recommendations and AFOSP's study, a program decision package (PDP) called PDP W076, was developed and approved to reach the required level of funding and capability to properly secure priority A, B, C, and mission support resources. Security enhancements were funded at 44 high threat bases, including 15 bases overseas and 29 CONUS bases (both active and air reserve forces). Additionally, approximately \$71 million of security enhancements were provided across the Five Year Defense Plan (FYDP) beginning in FY 84. Security improvements included: additive manpower spaces to provide four-man fire teams, additional area and perimeter lighting at selected bases, and more vehicles, radios, and personal equipment sets. In FY 85, antiterrorism training was included in basic military training, Officer Training School, Reserve Officer Training Corps, technical schools, and professional military education courses. AFRs 125-37, 207-1, and 207-3 changed to reflect

new policy concerning protection of nonnuclear munitions, nonpriority aircraft, flight line industrial areas, and threat assessment.

8. Recommended Action: NONE

9. OPR Comments: NONE