

Weapons Meet at Chaumont

Passing through Chaumont after a visit to Holland were these Italian A.F. F-86K Sabres of 22° and 23° Gruppi, 51^a Aerobrigata, based at Rimini (Photo: AIRCENT)



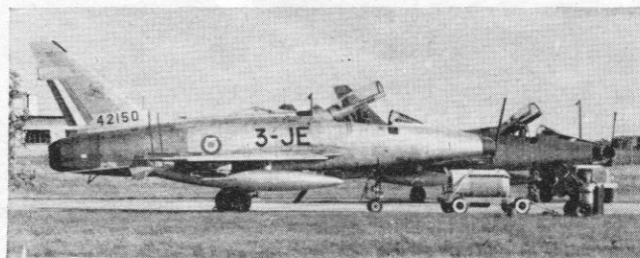
THIS YEAR'S TACTICAL Weapons Meet, the fourth in the series sponsored by Allied Air Forces Central Europe (AIRCENT), and held at Chaumont, France, from 12th to 25th June, ended in a victory for the 4th ATAF who, with a total of 1,753 points, beat the 2nd ATAF contingent by 123 points. This is their fourth successive victory.

The 4th ATAF team comprised pilots from the U.S.A.F., R.C.A.F., French Air Force, and West German Air Force (southern region), while 2nd ATAF contestants were drawn from the R.A.F., Belgian A.F., Dutch A.F., and West German A.F. (northern region). Many of the aircraft they flew are illustrated on this page; the Canadians flew CF-104Gs.

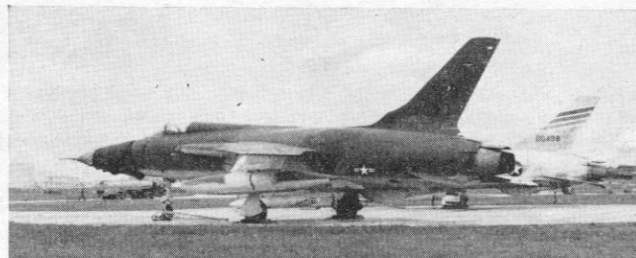
The purpose of the Tactical Weapons Meet is to test the degree of training and

operational capability of strike and attack squadrons in NATO's central region. This it certainly did do, as was borne out by the final scores. On one day, 23rd June, the almost impossible happened when Adj. Louis Boulanger of No. 1 Squadron, Belgian A.F., flying an F-84F, scored full marks by hitting a "bulls-eye" with his bombs, putting all his rockets on target, and riddling the strafing target panel to shreds with all his hundred rounds in one sortie.

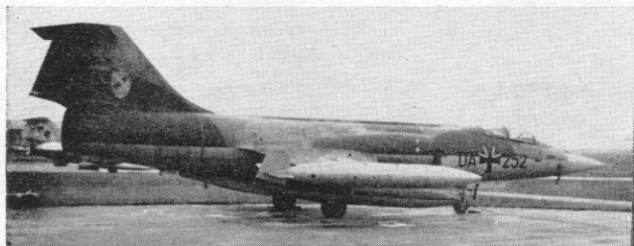
This annual contest also provides a unique opportunity for airmen of seven different nationalities to get together, compare notes, and so weld the separate national components of NATO into a unified force. Individual trophies were presented to winners of the following categories: *Strafing*—Adj. Louis Boulanger, Belgian A.F., who also won the *Skip-bombing* trophy; *Rocketry*—Capt. Pierre van Esse, Belgian A.F.; and *Strike*—F/Lt. Ernie Frioult, R.C.A.F.



French Air Force F-100D Super Sabres of Escadron 2/3 "Champagne" from Lahr (Photo: André van Haute)



Representing the U.S.A.F. were the F-105D Thunderchiefs of the 49th TFW, Spangdahlem (Photo: Guy Destrebecq)



ABOVE: A Luftwaffe F-104G of Jabo. Geschwader 31 "Boelcke" from Norvenich; note insignia on fin

BELOW: Canberra B(I).6 from Bruggen with 213 Sqn's hornet on its fin and 3 Sqn's cockatrice in the roundel



ABOVE: A Belgian Air Force F-84F Thunderstreak from No. 1 Squadron, No. 2 Wing, based at Florennes

BELOW: R. Netherlands A.F. participants included the F-84Fs of 315 Squadron (Photos: André van Haute)

