

The period between November 1974 and December 1975 saw the 10<sup>th</sup> SPS complete a Defense Nuclear Agency Capability Inspection with no answerable discrepancies, a major accomplishment reflecting the high standards and hard work of the men and women of the squadron. The morale, courtesy, and appearance of squadron personnel was praised by the USAFE/IG during an LORI. During the same time frame, Major General Tom Sadler, USAF/SP, dubbed the unit as “Sierra Hotel” and told base officials that the 10<sup>th</sup> SPS was one of the top three units within a group of 21 USAFE units that he had visited. The NATO Tac Eval Team rated the Weapons Recapture Exercise as Exceptional during their evaluation. This is especially noteworthy as the NATO TAC EVAL Team is comprised of mostly foreign nationals. But perhaps the biggest real world accomplishment was providing security and safety for some 65,000 British visitors to an Open House and Air Show. Everything went well and comments were received from visitors about the courtesy and efficiency of the troops as they directed traffic and exercised crowd control.

The period between January 1976 and December 1976 was equally rewarding. The USAFE/IG report for an ORI listed 12 Commendable items in the report. And the NATO TAC EVAL Team Chief stated the Base Defense Plan and its execution was the best that he had evaluated. The Team Chief was a German Lieutenant Colonel. During this period, the squadron trained with a local TAVR (Territorial Army Volunteer Regiment) and formed many close relationships, as well as honing their professional skills. The squadron also hosted the Nottingham Constabulary for a weekend visit and tour of the base, and were subsequently the guests of the Constabulary for a two-day stay in Lincolnshire.

As my tour drew near an end between December 1976 and October 1977, the hardened aircraft shelter project was underway, and a new CSC had been designed and was under construction. Plans were in effect to significantly reduce the size of the Weapons Storage Area and a Small Arms Range had been constructed. Much to our Base Civil Engineer’s chagrin, it did not solve our problem of not having a suitable range for weapons qualification. What we needed was a Small Bore Range, which would accommodate weapons up to and including 30 calibre. As it was, we were relegated to firing at small targets at close range. The Wing was in transition. Two of the RF4C squadrons had been deactivated and a DACT (Dissimilar Aircraft Combat Training Squadron) with F5Es had moved in.

I cannot let pass my deep respect for the officers and enlisted men and women who worked so hard to achieve such high honors. It was an honor to have led and served with each and every one of them. The leadership portion was made easier due to their outstanding attitudes, approach to work, and desire to excel.