

GAGAFAFOROHOHO

From SoCal to the Tularosa Basin – 20th FS, 1st GAF, arrives on June 5, 1992.

by 49FW/PA



t George AFB, California, on the morning of June 5, the 35th Fighter Wing will bid farewell to the 20th Fighter Squadron. That afternoon, the 20th FS will be welcomed to Holloman, some 800 miles away.

The last eight of the squadron's F-4E Phantom II jets make the trip from George to Holloman that same day. The first of the unit's F-4s arrived in early April. During May, the planes arrived at the rate of four each week. The F-4s will be under operational control of the 49th Fighter Wing.

A welcoming ceremony, which begins at 3 p.m., June 5, will take place on the aircraft parking ramp, some 200 yards northeast of the intersection of First Street and Delaware Avenue. The F-4s will arrive in two flights of four planes each, pitch out, land as an eight-ship and taxi two abreast. Four of the jets will park on each side of the stage. The ceremony is open to the public.

Reviewing officers will be Brig. Gen. Lloyd W. Newton, 49th commander, and Brig. Gen. Hermann Adam, who commands the German Air Force Command - United States, headquartered at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Along with the 20th FS comes the German Air Force's 1st Training

Squadron, consisting of four officers and three non-commissioned officers. Two of the officers will arrive at Holloman in July. The German squadron owns seven of the F-4s, and the 20th FS owns 17. The 20th is the only unit in the Air Force still flying the F-4E.

Lt. Col. Rick Rosborg commands the 20th FS. Oberstleutnant (lieutenant colonel equivalent) Kurt Hammann commands the 1st Training Squadron. Each will lead one of the two four-ships of F-4s arriving June 5.

"We are all looking forward to coming to Holloman and reintroducing the Phantom to the Holloman flight line," said Rosborg. "The 49th has done an excellent job of making our bed down at Holloman happen with class," he said.

Hammann's squadron will support the German students and their families while at Holloman. Married students will live off base, while single students will live on the installation. According to Hammann, there will be a community of between 60 and 70 German citizens living in the Alamogordo area at any given time.

There will be four basic courses each year, each class consisting of five pilots and five weapons systems officers. Also included in the program

are two classes per year for instructor pilots.

The 20th FS operates under the terms of an agreement between the German government and the U.S. Air Force to conduct basic F-4 and instructor training. "We pay the U.S. Air force around \$50 million a year to do this training for us," Hammann said. That figure, he added, represents the total cost of the program.

The first class of German students will be welcomed to Holloman June 9th.

Note – June 1992 49FW/PA article provided by LTC Jeff Ault (ret), Asst Ops Officer, 20th FS ADVON Officer at Holloman for the transfer of the 20th FS from GA to HO.



20th Fighter Squadron - Special Issue





F-4E 75-0628 was one of ten E-model Phantoms purchased by the German MoD in support of the Luftwaffe aircrew training at George AFB, California. With the disbandment of the E-model Phantom from US-service in 1997, the aircraft was flown to Jever AB in Germany.



F-4E 75-0632 seen departing George AFB laden with six practice Mk. 82 slick bombs en route to an air-to-ground training mission. The aircraft was phased out of service on May 15, 1997 and was transferred to JG 71 in Wittmund for ABDR training.

Luftwaffe F-4E Phantom II 75-0633 and 75-0636 seen rolling out at George AFB during the early 1990s...

F-4E 75-0633 is readied for an air-toground sortie in 1991. All Luftwaffe F-4Es featured the TISEO housing, however, the equipment was not installed.

Resplendent in the colours and markings of the 20th TFS, F-4E Phantom 75-0636 taxies at the ramp of its home base of George AFB during 1991. The aircraft was phased out of service in 1997 and was transferred to Technische Schule in Fassberg, Germany.



