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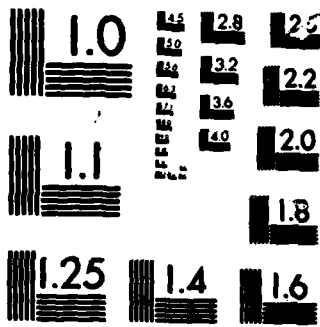
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GUNSMOKE '85

The U. S. Air Force's TAC-sponsored "GUNSMOKE" (Gunsmoke Worldwide Gunnery and Bombing Meet), which was revived in 1981, was held again this year at Nellis AFB, Nevada, using the gunnery and bombing range on the base. In the two weeks of competition, 6-19 October, 17 teams and 85 aircraft participated, the most in the history of the competition. Of course, there were the continental U. S. TAC units,



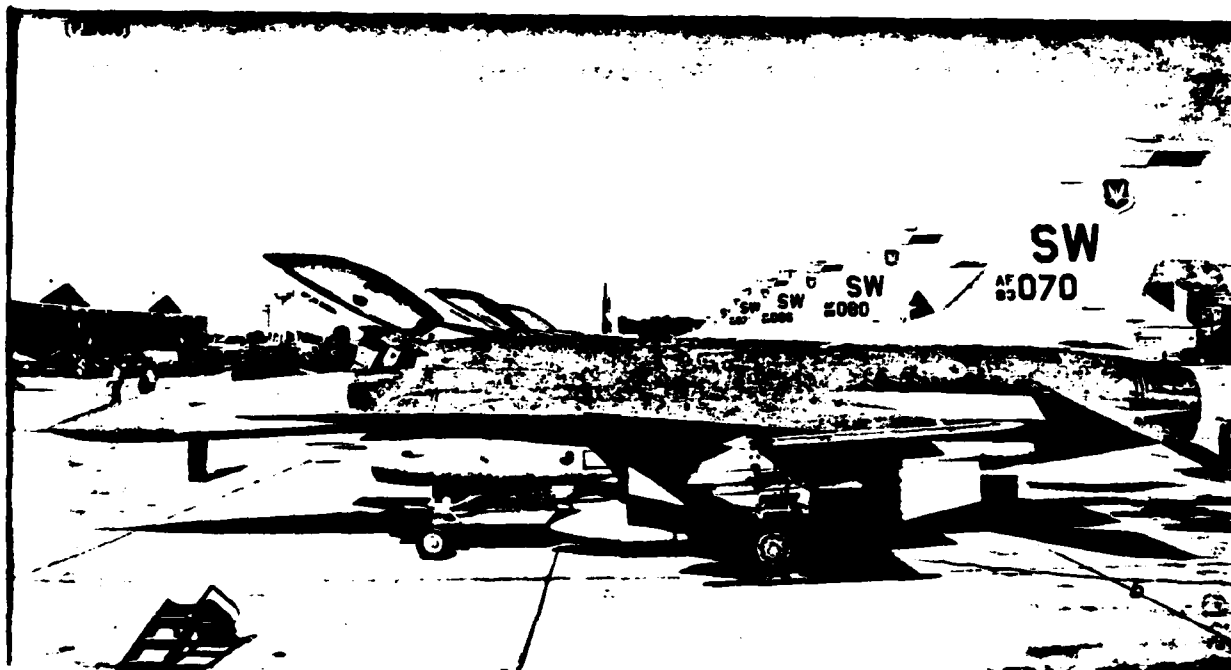
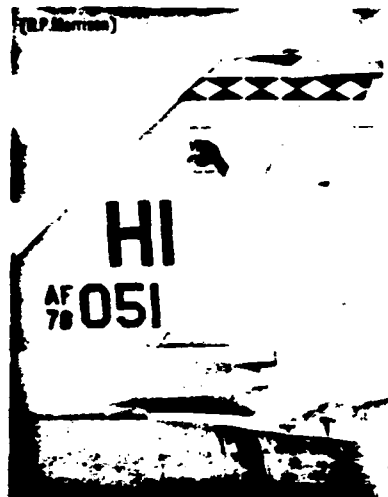
the Air National Guard TAC units, and the AFRES forces. There were also three teams from PACAF and USAFE. This competition, as the name implies, determines which is the most skilled of all the TAC offensive units deployed worldwide. And this year's winning team was AFRES' 419TFW (F-16), which reversed a mere two-point lead of the defending champions, the 50TFW (F-16).

The 1983 overall winning team, the 50TFW stationed at Hahn AB, West Germany, was very active again this year. The result was that they were beaten by two points by AFRES' 419TFW/466TFS (also flying the F-16) and ended up in second place. Captain Mark Bredenberg of the 50TFW was chosen for the individual award, "Top Gun".

No F-16 participated in GUNSMOKE at the first meet after reactivation. In 1983, F-16's participated for the first time with 3 teams. At this years "GUNSMOKE '85" there were 6 F-16 teams. They have become the stars of the show by taking not only top honors but also

the individual title. At right is an F-16 of the winning team from the 419 TFW/466TFS, an AFRES unit at Hill AFB, Utah.

Below is an aircraft of the 363TFW from Shaw AFB, South Carolina.



The A-10, which had 3 teams at GUNSMOKE '81 and 5 teams at GUNSMOKE '83, this year had one team each from TAC, USAFE, AAC (Alaskan Air Command), AFRES, and ANG for a total of 5 teams. In the gunnery and bombing categories, they missed out on both team and individual wins. In the competition by aircraft type every team made a good showing. In the maintenance category AFRES' 442TFW/303TFS won

The F-4, which for a long time was USAF's mainstay aircraft, more and more is being replaced by the next generation fighter aircraft in one country after another. Those that participated at GUNSMOKE '85 were 2 teams from TAC, F-4E's of the 4TFW from Seymour-Johnson AFB, South Carolina and F-4G's from George AFB, California. In addition, there were AFRES F-4D's of the 507TFG/465 TFS from Tinker AFB, Oklahoma and Arkansas ANG F-4C's of the 188TFG/184TFS. The F-4C/D/G's, which do not have fixed guns, finished in the last three places.



(R.P. Morrison)

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