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DAILY ENTERPRISE

(U) HISTORY TODAY - 1 December 2014
Run Date(s): 12/01/2014

(U) On November 29, 1952, two C-121 *Constellation* aircraft flew out of Mitchell Field on Long Island. In the first plane was Dwight Eisenhower, President-elect of the United States, Charles Wilson, Secretary of Defense designate, and General Omar Bradley, current Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

(U) Their destination was Korea, where the war was stalemated after more than two years of fighting. The U.S., leading a coalition assembled by the United Nations, was in daily ground and aerial combat against North Korean and Chinese forces.

(U) During the 1952 presidential campaign, Eisenhower had made the dramatic statement that if elected, he would go to Korea. Many assumed that this meant the general who had led the forces that defeated Nazi Germany would take personal command to end the military stalemate on the peninsula. In actuality, Eisenhower meant he would spend a long weekend assessing the situation from close to the front.

(U) Even though the term "operations security" had not yet been coined, nor had its principles been codified, the Eisenhower party practiced good operations security (OPSEC). Arrangements were made to assemble the group of travelers from different locations in New York City. Dignitaries continued to visit Ike's residence and issue statements, just as if he were still at home.

(U) In communicating, the aircraft used false identifiers and serial numbers. All flight status reports, sent by radioprinter, were encrypted.

(U) The flight's transmissions were followed by communications security (COMSEC) monitors. Analyzing the data after the flight, the monitors still found some problems with the president's communications. The OPSEC practices had been good, but still had several serious flaws.

(U) Even though the radioprinter communications were encrypted, the routing indicators for the transmissions could easily be equated with the president's plane. The messages were sent at "FLASH" precedence, another tipoff about the unusual nature of the flight. If multiple messages had been intercepted, the list of recipients across the Pacific would have given away the aircraft's itinerary.

(U) Each message was signed with "DRAPER SENDS." Eisenhower's personal pilot, Colonel William Draper, had been profiled in the media.

(U) Eisenhower arrived safely in Korea. His first words after exiting the aircraft were misinterpreted. Many in the reception group thought he had asked where the "john" was. Actually, he was seeking the whereabouts of his son, an officer serving with U.S. forces in Korea.

(U) Eisenhower visiting the Second Division area in Korea

(U) After high-level briefings, courtesy calls, and carefully managed inspection tours, Eisenhower returned safely home.

(U) The final report of the COMSEC monitors revealed that presidential communications security while traveling needed great improvement.

(U) It is unclear whether it was these insecurities or other information leaks that led to an attempted attack on the president's plane: just after the president's plane departed Kimpo Airport outside Seoul for the return flight to the United States, 11 enemy aircraft attacked the airport. They were defeated by U.S. air forces. It could not be determined if the raid had been based on Intelligence gleaned from intercept.

(U) The photograph shows Eisenhower visiting the Second Division area in Korea.

NOTE: Because of the recent interest in Alan Turing, sparked by the new movie release, we have posted an anthology of History Today articles about Dr. Turing on the Center for Cryptologic History website.

(U) Share historical topics with interesting folks. Visit the Center for Cryptologic History's blog, *History Rocks* ("go history rocks").

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