

HEADQUARTERS
620 TROOP CARRIER WING (HEAVY)(TMC)
Larson Air Force Base, Washington

SUBJECT: Letter Order 1500

10 December 1956

TO: Personnel Concerned



Re of the FMCA, 7th TROPCARWING (H), this Sta, TAC, will PROCEED 11 Dec 56 to Smart AFB, Tenn to Donaldson AFB, SC on 12AF Msn Nr 12-11-2 and thence to Charleston AFB, SC to Mindley AFB, Bermuda to Lajes AFB, Azores to Nouasseur, French Morocco to Misalus Pld, Tripoli, Libya to Nouasseur, French Morocco CIPAF for 13 AF Msn Nr 12-7-6 Proj "Dark Eyes" on TDY for approx forty-eight (48) days for the purpose of trans pers, cargo and/or eqp (CMPO); and USAR Larson AFB, Wash. Pers cleared for access to clas mat up to and incl classification inde for the period of this duty. Pers will contact local priority issuing agency for rtm trans to CIUS. TMSA, mil and/or nav water carr is auth; Ann IAW APR 160-102 w/o accept immed. In the event the utilization of any avar quarters or messing fac would adversely affect the accomplishment of this msn, auth is granted for non-utilization of such fac. Diversions over routes not auth herein are subj to prior approval of this headquarters. Auth: AFM 35-11 and 12AF Sup-1 thereto. TTM, 5773400 070-3013 P458 02,03,07 S45-617. SAA 57-1221.

MAJ NORMAN C FLYNN, 12916A - TOP SECRET
1/LT HELL H FERRINGTON, A03040403 - TOP SECRET
1/LT GEORGE (HUB) WALSH, A02227996 - SECRET
1/LT GUYOPREY C BERTINGHAM, JR, A02208387 - TOP SECRET
1/LT LYNNWOOD D HENRY, A03040142 - TOP SECRET
M/SGT HENRY L METAGANT, AP18355684 - SECRET
S/SGT CECIL C SIMSCH, AP19216600 - TOP SECRET
A/2C WAYNE L WICKLER, AP18332074 - TOP SECRET
S/SGT HENRY C ALBRITTON, AP14412691 - TOP SECRET
A/2C STANFORD H BROWN, AP18316835 - SECRET
S/SGT ROBERT W BAKER, AP12419038 - TOP SECRET
A/2C GARY D OWAN, AP27309474 - SECRET
CAPT FRED R MATTHEWS, 28040A - TOP SECRET
CAPT GEORGE S ALLEN, A0753870 - TOP SECRET
1/LT GEORGE R LATTIN, A03040404 - TOP SECRET
1/LT GARY C SESSIONS, A02230020 - TOP SECRET
1/LT DAVID H REIDER, A03040164 - TOP SECRET
T/SGT LAWRENCE S TUCKER, AP12301226 - TOP SECRET
M/SGT GEORGE W BUCHHILL, JR., AP18044156 - SECRET
A/1C HENRY C MCKENNA, AP15533812 - SECRET
A/2C WILLIAM J EVANS, AP18465115 - SECRET
A/2C JIMMY C BARTHEMER, AP12554128 - TOP SECRET
A/2C DONALD B WHEEL, AP25780067 - TOP SECRET
A/2C DONALD B HUNT, AP17431630 - SECRET
A/1C ROBERT J WASHING, AP13478963 - TOP SECRET

BY ORDER OF THE COMMANDER:

DISTRIBUTION:

- 2 - COMPT, 2 - 62d TROPCARWING
- 2 - 7th TROPCARWING, 10 - Ba Indi
- 1 - SO CLK

John L. Cooney
JOHN L. COONEY, Major, USAF
Adjutant

Near Christmas time of 1956, I was assigned as a crewmember on a Top Secret (Dark Eyes) mission to the Middle East. Even though barely in the Air Force for a year, I was awarded a Top Secret clearance and set off with a very select crew to fly from Moses Lake, Washington; Charleston, South Carolina; Bermuda; Lajes Azores; Wheelus Tripoli; Khartoum French West Sudan; Saudi Arabia and points around the Gaza Strip. The mere fact that I mentioned the Gaza Strip should be sufficient to give the reader notice that these were, as has always been the history, trying times in the Gaza Strip. This mission coincided with the first Israeli occupation of the Strip in 1956-57. We were tasked to transport ammunition to and bodies from "hot" areas. The following also had something to do with our presence in the Middle East at the time.

The Suez Crisis, also referred to as the Tripartite Aggression, Suez Canal Crisis, Suez War, or Second Arab-Israeli War was a diplomatic and military confrontation in late 1956 between Egypt on one side, and Britain, France and Israel on the other, with the United States, the Soviet Union, and the United Nations playing major roles in forcing Britain, France and Israel to withdraw.

The attack followed the President of Egypt Gamal Abdel Nasser's decision of 26 July 1956 to nationalize the Suez Canal, after the withdrawal of an offer by Britain and the United States to fund the building of the Aswan Dam, which was in response to Egypt's new ties with the Soviet Union and recognizing the People's Republic of China during the height of tensions between China and Taiwan. The aims of the attack were primarily to regain Western control of the canal and to remove Nasser from power, and the crisis highlighted the danger that Arab nationalism posed to Western access to Middle East oil.

The three allies, especially Israel, were mainly successful in attaining their immediate military objectives, but pressure from the United States and the USSR at the United Nations and elsewhere forced them to withdraw. As a result of the outside pressure Britain and France failed in their political and strategic aims of controlling the canal and removing Nasser from power. Israel fulfilled some of its objectives, such as attaining freedom of navigation through the Straits of Tiran. As a result of the conflict, the UNEF would police the Egyptian-Israeli border to prevent both sides from recommencing hostilities.

DARK EYES