

THE AIRBORNE SERVICES

Neptune Deliveries

The first Lockheed P2V-7 Neptunes to go into service with the RCAF arrived at RCAF Station Greenwood, N.S., at March's end. Two aircraft were involved in this initial delivery, which will be followed by others to East Coast maritime squadrons, and later to the West Coast unit.

The RCAF's P2V-7's differ from the U.S. version in that they do not have the two underwing jet pods with which the USN model is fitted to supplement the basic two Wright Turbo-Compound powerplants. The aircraft are designed for rapid conversion to use as bombers, mine-layers, or torpedo bombers. The long grotesque tailcone houses magnetic detection equipment for spotting underwater craft. Under the belly is a large radome for the antenna of powerful airborne radar equipment. A conspicuous feature of the P2V-7 is its 70 million candlepower searchlight for surface searching.

CF-100 Trio to U.K.

Three RCAF Avro CF-100's have gone overseas for a tour of service with the RAF's Central Fighter Establishment in England. The first CF-100's to cross the Atlantic, these aircraft are being used to check-out RAF crews for participation in normal air defence techniques being carried out by the Establishment.

Crew members for the ferry flight were: Flying Officer F. C. Black, Flying Officer W. B. Sterne, Flying Officer C. R. Stampe, Flying Officer C. R. Embury, Flight Lieutenant P. E. Etienne, and Flying Officer H. G. Meinert.

The three CF-100's made the crossing as a part of Operation Random Twelve, which involved some 27 other jet aircraft. Included were T-33AN Silver Stars and Mk. 2 Sabres, all of which are eventually destined for Turkey and Greece as part of Canada's Mutual Aid contribution. Already painted in the colors of these countries, the Sabres and T-33's first went to Manchester, England, for overhaul and installation of instruments and similar ancillary equipment, printed in the appropriate language.

The ferry flight was led by Squadron Leader R. G. Middlemiss, commanding officer of No. 1 Overseas

Ferry Unit. The unit, which is based at St. Hubert, P.Q., was formed last year to handle the ferrying overseas of all jet aircraft. Since its inception, No. 1 OFU has delivered well over 250 jet aircraft to Europe.

3 OTU on the Move

Now under way is the shift from North Bay, Ontario, to Cold Lake, Alberta, of the RCAF's No. 3 All-Weather Operational Training Unit. The move, which is in accordance with established RCAF plans according to AFHQ, is to be completed by about the end of June.

The shift is designed to enable the aircrews of CF-100 fighter aircraft, while undergoing their advanced training, to use the new air weapons range in the Cold Lake area, which is approximately 100 miles northeast of Edmonton.

The RCAF emphasizes that North Bay will not be closed down, but will continue as a base for all-weather fighter squadrons, in addition to technical training units related to servicing and maintenance of CF-100's.

Movement of the OTU from North Bay will mean an initial reduction of

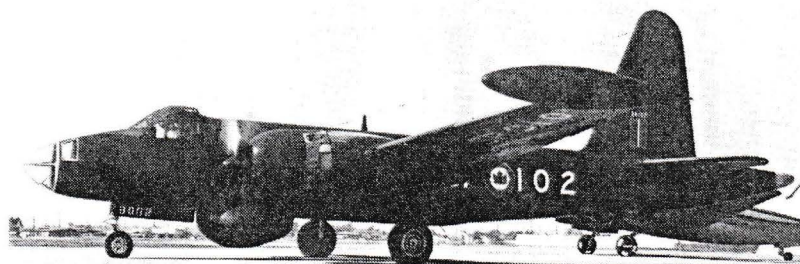
several hundred service personnel at the station. AFHQ points out, however, that this reduction will be largely offset as long-range plans for the station develop.

No. 3 All-Weather OTU is designed to train aircrew to operational standards in all-weather fighter interceptor operations necessary to meet aircraft build-up and aircrew requirements of newly-formed CF-100 squadrons. Pilots and radio-navigators convert to CF-100's at the Unit, and practice interceptions are carried out under all-weather conditions with the aid of radar, utilizing B-25K Mitchells, T-33AN Silver Stars, and CF-100's.

RCAF Station Cold Lake was officially opened on April 1, 1954. Described as being one of the most modern of its kind in North America, the station proper covers an area 1½ miles square. It is located on the fringe of the bombing & gunnery range, which covers approximately three million acres, leased from the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Velvet Glove

First in a continuing series of air tests on guided missiles is being carried out at the RCAF's new air weapons range at Cold Lake, Alberta, according to an AFHQ announcement.



RCAF NEPTUNES ON GUARD: Deliveries have recently commenced on the Lockheed P2V-7 Neptunes which the RCAF has purchased for service with its maritime reconnaissance squadrons on Canada's east and west coasts. The first machines are now in service at Greenwood, N.S. RCAF P2V-7 does not incorporate the two Westinghouse J-34 jet pods which are a feature of the U.S. Navy's version of this aircraft.

