

## Operation Dominic 1 1962

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### US Atomic Veterans

### Eddie Volson

**Eddie and Barbara Volson** sent the following email about Eddie's participation in Air Sampling during Operation Dominic.

"but when the airplanes for air sampling returned from flights and were washed down, so was I. I would get Ed home and we had to peel everything off from the smell and wash down immediately, I can still smell that awful stuff after 23 years." BV.

From: BeeVolson@aol.com  
Date: Sun, 5 Jul 1998  
To: pdxavets@aracnet.com  
Subject: radiation exposure - air sampling

My flights began in Alaska, Eilson AFB, fall of 1957-58.  
McChord AFB, Washington - 1958-59  
McClellan AFB 1959-62 [California]  
Andersen AFB, Guam 1962 thru September 1963  
Yokota AFB, Japan - 1965 thru December 1969.  
McClellan AFB, California 1969 thru December 2, 1971.

55th Weather Recon, McClellan AFB, Ca  
56th Weather Recon, Yokota AFB, Japan  
58th WR, Eielson AFB, Alaska  
also member Pole Vaulters!!

Dominic I & Dominic II, and 1957 -1958 stands out, our missions were long and detailed, flying from North Pole clear down the coast of Japan, Hawaii and back, you can see how the air would circulate with an atomic cloud and the damage it would do. Very dirty.

I started flying in 1957 at Eielson AF Base, Alaska. My duties were airborne weather equipment operator, which consisted of flying weather tracks to the North Pole and South to Hawaii, which also included borders of Russia.

In addition, primary duties switched to air sampling when Russia, China and France detonated their atomic devices. We flew and followed the cloud everywhere it went, we were continuously in the dirty air. These bombs were the dirtiest ever, all this continued until 1971 on my exit from the Air Force.

All of our flights were classified, therefore I have no idea if you will be able to

extract any further data from anyone. At times we were radiated quite heavily, our monitor told us to change dosimeters, and to continue duties. We have been unable to secure any dosimeter readings, everyone was so closed mouth because the flights were of a classified nature.

We did not wear any protective clothing or equipment, but we were decontaminated after flights, and had to launder our own flight clothing.

These flights continued to remain the same thru tours of duty in Guam and Japan.

Many times during WB-50 flights we would come in literally on a wing and a prayer, fire in engines could knock out one or two.

During a special mission out of Yokota AFB, Japan we flew in search of the Navy ship Pueblo, searching for same when the North Koreans hijacked it.

Many of our friends have refused to talk about their radiation exposures and medical problems of today, because of classified flights, they just flatly refuse to talk about any of this. It's sad, because many are ill and also we have lost many to early demise.

We did see a lot of the world, Alaska from the air is beautiful, flights to American Samoa were very nice, wonderful friendly people there, and beautiful islands.

**TSgt Eddie N. Volson, Retired**

[Email: BeeVolson@aol.com](mailto:BeeVolson@aol.com)

*Keith Whittle  
July 17, 1998*

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