

CAP Pilots To Take Part In Civil Defense Atomic Test

WASHINGTON (Special)—The atomic defense role which America's thousands of light planes can play will be demonstrated by a small group of select civilian pilots in mid April when they take part in "Operation Cue," the atomic test project of the Federal Civil Defense Administration.

The honor of being the first civilian pilots selected for such participation falls to personnel of the Civil Air Patrol's Nevada Wing, commanded by Lt. Col. Raymond A. Smith. Approximately 40 CAP members will take part in the test scheduled for the Atomic Energy Commission's Nevada test site in mid April.

In planning "Operation Cue," the FCDA called on the Civil Air Patrol for air support. Through headquarters CAP, in Washington, the Nevada Wing was assigned to the operation.

Air support missions to be performed by the Nevada Wing are similar to those the Civil Air Patrol would be expected to provide Civil Defense in the event of an actual emergency.

These missions will include measuring radiation from the air over the site of a nuclear explosion, aerial photography, aerial ambulance service, courier service and mobile communications support. Air support activities in general will be coordinated through the Nevada Wing's own communications system.

CAP personnel with communications jeeps will be located at test headquarters in La Vegas, at Sky Haven Airport (a private field north of La Vegas chosen as a staging base), at the Camp Desert Rock airstrip just outside the Nevada test site, at field exercise forward headquarters within the Nevada test site and at Yucca airstrip.

CAP planes will provide shuttle service from the Nevada test site to La Vegas for newsmen, photographers and radio and television commentators carrying pouches of press copy, films and tapes to be redistributed according to instructions from media representatives. In the event of an actual attack these same flights might carry doctors and nurses, uncontaminat-

ed food and water and medical supplies.

On all missions CAP planes will be flying on a split-second schedule through a cleared air-corridor from Camp Desert Rock to the Yucca airstrip. Pilots will be required to make good their estimated time of arrival over each check point in less than a minute to facilitate control of aircraft over or near the Nevada test site. The project will be a difficult test of CAP's operational capabilities.

In announcing the CAP participation in "Operation Cue," Harold L. Goodwin, Federal Civil Defense atomic test director, said:

"This aerial support provided by light planes operated by civilian volunteers is typical of the support the American people could expect from the Civil Air Patrol in the event of an actual emergency."