
NATIONAL DEFENSE AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

While the United States was not engaged in a declared war during the 1959-1962 period, the launching of Sputnik by the Soviet Union and the serious diplomatic and military situation resulting from the construction of the Berlin Wall created a climate of sharp awareness of the dangers of the "Cold War." The chief executive of Maryland was keenly aware of the role of the State in military affairs; he also directed remarks to the problems of national defense on appropriate occasions. These occasions were frequent, as each year there were facilities to dedicate and meetings of veterans organizations. The Governor consistently called for maintaining a strong national defense establishment and for citizen awareness of the dangers from communist aggressive acts.

ADDRESS, DEDICATION OF THE FACILITIES OF THE 104th TACTICAL FIGHTER SQUADRON MARYLAND AIR NATIONAL GUARD, MARTIN AIRPORT

BALTIMORE

May 17, 1959

I am here today to dedicate a hangar, but my thoughts are not of buildings and equipment and facilities. My mind, rather, is bent upon the achievements of a proud and distinguished military organization and upon the deeds of an illustrious soldier and gentleman.

After years of nomadic wanderings—from cow pasture to converted marsh—the 104th Fighter Squadron at last has found a suitable and comfortable home. And right here in the beginning, may I extend the thanks of the people of Maryland to the Martin Company for the part it has played in making possible these fine facilities for our Air National Guard. Their keen understanding of our needs and their public-spirited cooperation are to be commended highly.

Most of you here are quite familiar with the history of our National Guard Fighter Squadron which is based here. But in the interest of preserving this record, and in view of the solemnity of this occasion, I think it would be well if we review some of the events of its career. This history goes back nearly four decades—to 1921,