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in October 1956, the Skyblazers aerobatic team returned to the 36th Fighter Defense Wing at Bitburg, West Germany. They were previously assigned to the 48th Fighter Bomber Wing. Capt Wilber L. "Bill" Creech was assigned to lead the team. Capt. Creech had previously been a part of the first "all-jet" air battle over Korea and had previously flown with the US based Thunderbirds demo team.

Team members took their spare aircraft o Morocco in 1956 to train in their F-100C aircraft while their paint scheme was being applied to their aircraft in Germany. The first tail marking scheme featured a zig-zag red white and blue pattern which Capt. Creech was not impressed with and he requested something more in line with the starts and stripes pattern that you see to the right.

The first official season was 1957 and the team performed 40 shows in Europe, England and North Africa.

Being the first supersonic team in Europe, the team quickly gained a reputation for their very powerful displays. They routinely performed very low and noisy passes in full afterburner and there were reports that their sonic booms routinely shattered windows over areas they performed.

A new maneuver was added at this time that was a slow, gear-down pass that suddenly climbed out at 45 degrees in full afterburner. At that time fuel was dumped into the afterburner plume which resulted in a long trail of flame behind each aircraft. When conditions allowed, another aircraft would fly in from the opposite direction trailing his own long flame.

The Skyblazers were disbanded in January 1962 as the 36th TFW transitioned into the F-105 Thunderchief. The team attempted to continue on with the Thunderchief but were denied by the USAFE Commander and the team ceased to exist.

Very special thanks to Don Landolt, the USAF Museum and Richard Caruana for their reference help on this sheet. Don is the nephew of Capt. Pat Kramer who was the team leader in 1962 and provided many of the photographs you see on this instruction sheet.





