



HANDLES EASILY — Maj. Gen. Thomas S. Power, deputy Strategic Air Command chief, is shown after he landed a B-36 from his first flight in it Friday, calling it, "A great ship."

IN FIRST FLIGHT

Gen. Power Finds B-36 Is 'A Fine Ship'

Putting a B-36 through its paces Friday on his first flight in one, Maj. Gen. Thomas S. Power, deputy chief of the Strategic Air Command, flew it in a wide circle around Texas, eluded mock fighter interception over Austin and bounced through a thunderhead at 40,000 feet en route back to Carswell Air Force Base.

"It's a great ship," he exclaimed, after bringing the huge craft in for a smooth landing. "It handles very easily."

Critique Later.

Power's flight was followed by a critique attached by Col. Cecil Combs, 8th Air Force deputy commander; Col. William P. Fisher, Carswell Air Force Base and 7th Bombardment Wing commander; Col. William H. Blanchard, 8th Air Force plans and operations officer; and officers and crewmen who accompanied the SAC deputy chief on the mission.

The mock interception attempt over Austin was flown by F-82 Twin Mustangs of the 27th Fighter Group, from Bergstrom Air Force Base there.

Power hurried from the critique to the Convair plant to confer with officials there and see the assembly line where the big bombers are in production.

Veteran of B-29s.

A veteran of many hours in B-29s during the war, Power flew a new B-50 Stratobomber for the first time Thursday on his way from SAC headquarters at Omaha to Fort Worth.

He confirmed that dispersal of B-36s now clustered closely around the ramp at Carswell to other bases in North America is under study but he added that "there are no details of this dispersal we can make public at this time."

The SAC deputy chief will return to Omaha Saturday.