

The B-47 Stratojet Association

EB-47E



The EB-47E TT

The B-47 shown on this page is not just an EB-47E....it is an "EB-47E Tell Two". There were three of these special models...53-2315, 53-2316, 53-2320....used for Telemetry (TELINT) collection against Russian missile and space launches at Kapustin-Yar and Tyura-Tam missile-drones in the early 1960s, flown by crews of the 55th SRW (Forbes AFB). There were usually 1 or 2 of the planes TDY to TUSLOG Det-50 (a SAC Detachment) at Incirlik AB, Turkey. They flew off of a "live Alert" status to collection areas in the Black Sea and/or eastern Iran near the Turkmenistan border. These missions were un-refueled, about 8½ hours long. The entire mission, from start engines was radio silent until returning from the collection area, at 100 miles out from Incirlik.

The Tell Twos were also used to collect telemetry from Russian long range ICBM missile tests to the mid-Pacific test range. The missions were flown from Hawaii, or Wake Island, unrefueled.

One of these aircraft crashed in 1965 at Incirlik, after post mission holding over Incirlik due to high crosswinds. After holding long enough not to have sufficient fuel to get to an alternate, and needing to land due to low fuel, the aircraft porpoised and crashed with the high crosswinds.

The above information was provided by Jack Kovacs a 55th SRW pilot (for 5 years) on the Tell Two for 4 years, flying three 90-day plus deployments to Turkey, as well as a deployment to Hawaii/Wake Island. After leaving Forbes he went to Turkey as an Ops Officer to manage the Tell Two missions from the SAC Detachment for 2 years.) Approximately 40 B-47Es were fitted with additional electronics countermeasures equipment, and re-designated as EB-47Es. This variant featured a two man crew located in a pod in the bomb bay, similar in design to the RB-47H. The EB-47E was primarily a jammer, and externally was identical to the B-47Es that they were expected to accompany. Several EB-47Es were fitted with a special electronics countermeasures package mounted in the bomb bay. Known as "Blue Cradle" EB-47Es, these aircraft did not require the additional crew members.

