Flashback

Cold War Intercept



In the early days of the Cold War, aircraft such as these Northrop F-89D Scorpion all-weather, twin-jet interceptors flew round-the-clock combat air patrols. These six Air Defense Command fighters, armed with 104 high-explosive, air-to-air rockets, are flying over the Pacific Northwest from their home station at Portland, Ore. The Scorpions were designed to operate at high speeds and high altitudes to locate, intercept, and destroy enemy aircraft.

At right, an F-89D releases a salvo of 2.75-inch folding-fin "Mighty Mouse" rockets from its wingtips.

