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COL. PAUL CARROLL
— New commander

Air Guard command changes

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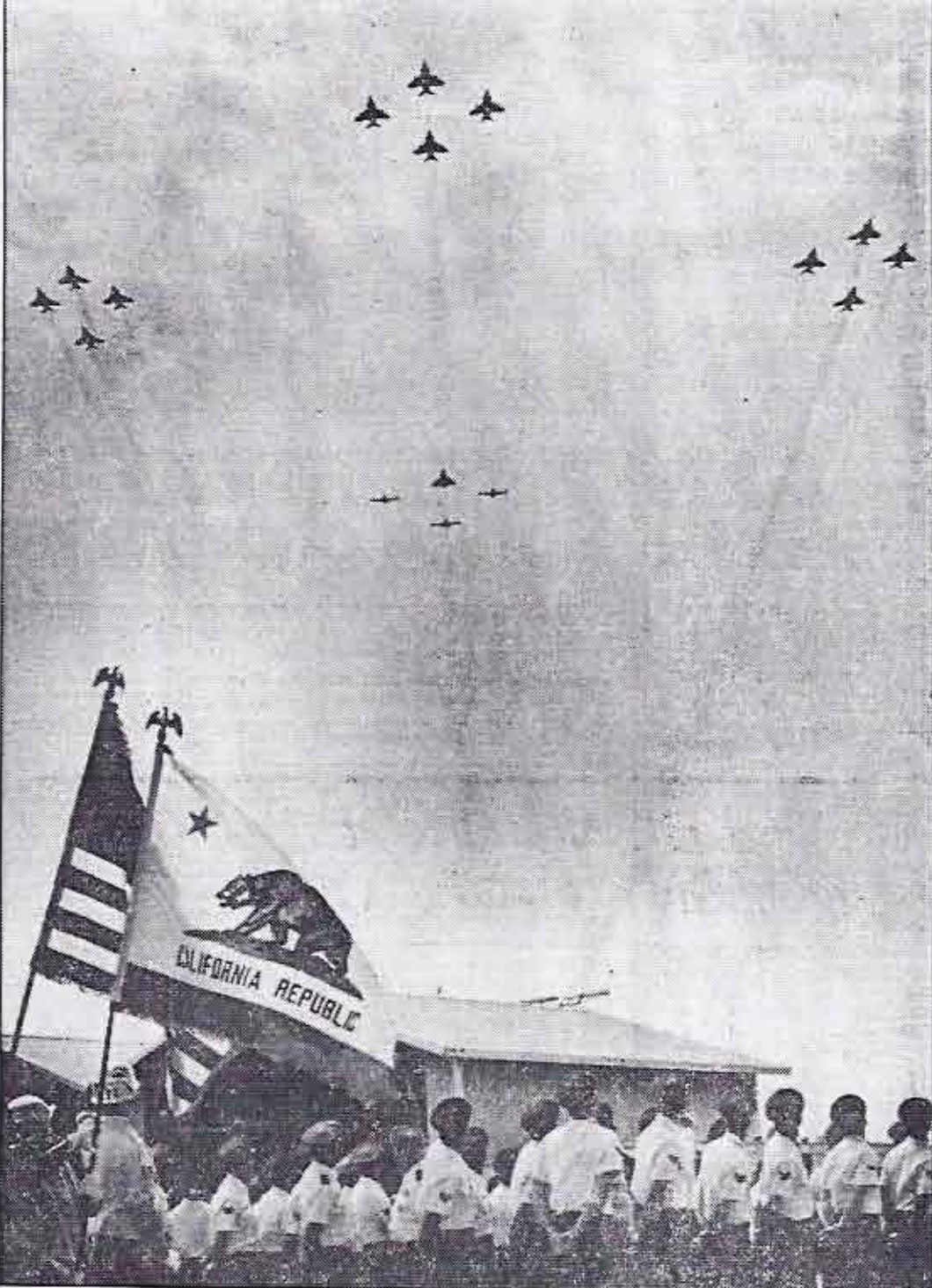
Twelve F-4D Phantom jets screamed low across the Fresno Air Terminal escorting three T-33 trainers and one F-106 Delta Dart fighter Saturday morning.

The fighter-interceptors, the most ever to fly over the air terminal at one time, were airborne for a change-of-command fly-by over the Fresno Air National Guard Base.

On the ramp in front of a hangar, Col. William D. Neville handed over command of the Fresno-based 144th Fighter-Interceptor Wing to Col. Paul Carroll. Neville will become deputy commander of the California Air National Guard.

Neville's civilian job is pilot for Pan American World Airways. Carroll captains passenger jets for Western Airlines.

Shortly before 9 a.m., the T-33s and the Montana Air National Guard F-106 from Great Falls soared off the runway to await the Phantoms, which roared aloft a few minutes later in a display of



Fresno Bee/Richard J. Darby

F-4D Phantom jets, T-33 trainers and an F-106 Delta Dart fly over Fresno Air Terminal.

sheer engine thrust. The supersonic F-4Ds soon vanished upward.

The T-birds and the lone Delta Dart represented planes Neville has flown during his Air Force and Air Guard career. The Phantoms replaced the obsolete F-106s in Fresno in a changeover completed during Neville's command. And Montana is Neville's native state.

Watching the show was Al Laquey, 50, from Fort Worth, Texas. A retired Wisconsin Air Guard squadron commander and American Airlines captain. Laquey first

met Neville in Air Force pilot training back in 1957.

"Just the salt of the earth," Laquey said about the outgoing Fresno commander.

Laquey knew Carroll too. He was Carroll's instructor in 1966 at Perrin Air Force Base, Texas, when the new Fresno commander was learning combat tactics in F-102 Delta Dagger fighter jets.

"He was a good student, too," Laquey said.

The troops on the ramp snapped from parade rest to attention shortly after Maj. Gen. Willard Shank and his California National

Guard command staff landed from Sacramento. Army and Air Force uniforms mixed with the civilian garb of families and visitors at the brief ceremony.

Neville addressed the troops: "Each of you is noticed and you are important."

He reminded them that 78 percent of the air defense of the United States, to which the Fresno-based wing has been dedicated, is now provided by Air Guard units. He told them that the Guard "takes a big notch out of your lives," but he assured them their efforts are appreciated.