

Missile Replaced

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Jets Get 'Gatling Guns' To Counter Cuba Migs

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Staff Reporter

MIAMI BEACH, Fla., May 28—Air Force F-104 interceptors in southern Florida are being equipped with "Gatling gun" cannon to meet the threat of Soviet-built Mig fighters in Cuba.

This was announced here today by the North American Air Defense Command's director of operations, Brig. Gen. Arthur G. Salisbury. He said the rapid-firing 20-millimeter Vulcan would be more effective against such hostile fighters than the sidewinder missiles now carried by the F-104.

Heat-seeking Sidewinders are able to lock onto bombers at some distance away and fly up their tail pipes, but in any close-in air fighting between two more maneuverable fighters, bursts of cannon fire would be more apt to achieve a kill, Salisbury told the Aviation-Space Writers Association here.

The M-61 "Gatling" is an older weapon in the Air Force

arsenal patterned after the world's first machine gun used in the U.S. Civil War. It has a cluster of electrically driven, rotating barrels that can fire 100 rounds a second.

The Air Force F-104 Starfighter squadron at nearby Homestead Air Force Base al-

Some Nike-Hercules anti-aircraft bases near cities and defense centers may be moved to new locations.

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ready has some of its 25 planes equipped with the cannon, which would be useful for gun-strafting attacks against Cuban missile sites as well as for destroying Mig-15 and Mig-17 fighters over Florida or Cuba.

It is now carried by F-104s maintained in the Tactical Air Command for ground support operations and on B-52 and B-58 bombers.