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MCKAY

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MCKAY, COLONEL LAWRENCE

(OH-496)

54 pgs.

OPEN

Army pilot assigned to White House duty during the Eisenhower Administration

DESCRIPTION: Education and work experiences prior to World War II; military service, 1942-1946; rejoining service, 1950; assignments and further training; assignment to the White House (including Eisenhower's preference for an Army pilot; Col. [William] Bill Draper; being interviewed by Col. [Robert L.] Bob Schulz); flights to State College, Pennsylvania; the Aero Commander (including personal observations of plane; navigational equipment; the airfield at State College; headquarters at Davison Field; weather data; color and insignia of plane); the MATS terminal (Military Air Transport Service) at Washington National Airport; the support crew at Davison; scheduling from the White House; Dr. Milton Eisenhower as a passenger; Col. [William G.] Bill Rutherford; McKay's mission (including orders from Col. Schulz's office; flying objects to Abilene to the museum; the Russian Order of Victory; refueling the plane; Bill Lewis); flying Eisenhower (during and after the Presidency); McKay's flight records; Aero Commanders vs. Beech aircraft (differences between and preferences for); McKay's first introduction to President Eisenhower; conversations with Eisenhower; flying with Milton Eisenhower; last flight with D. Eisenhower; liaison to family for Eisenhower funeral; heart attacks and McKay's retirement; relationships between pilots and White House staff; Col. Bill Draper as a pilot.

[Dwight D. Eisenhower Library Oral History, interview by Dr. Maclyn Burg and Will Jones, July 1, 1976]