## Flashback

## **Skyblazers**





The Skyblazers aerobatic team, part of US Air Forces in Europe, was formed in 1949 when a group of pilots from the 36th Fighter Wing at Furstenfeldbruck AB, Germany, began performing coordinated formation stunts in F-80 Shooting Stars. Soon, the Skyblazers were conducting aerial demonstrations throughout Europe and northern Africa. Original Skyblazer pilots were Capt. Harry Evans, Capt. Vincent Gordon, and brothers Lt. Cuthbert A. "Bill" Pattillo and Lt. Charles C. "Buck" Pattillo. The team pictured above, from the final years of Skyblazers, were (I-r) Lt. Charles R. Carney, alternate; Lt. Gordon Eells, right wing; Capt. W.L. Creech, leader; Lt. Gordon Scharnhorst, left wing; and Capt. Nevin Christensen, slot. The Skyblazers were deactivated in 1962.