

## Bomber Buster



*In the 1950s, the Soviet bomber threat produced calls for a stronger North American air defense. USAF responded, in part, with BOMARC, the world's first long-range, supersonic, anti-aircraft missile. The pilotless BOMARC ("BO" from Boeing, "MARC" from the Michigan Aeronautical Research Center) was designated XF-99, then IM-99, and then CIM-10A. The system be-*

*came operational in 1960 and was retired from active service in 1972.*

*In the test pictured here, an IM-99 in Florida is launched by electronic impulse sent from Kingston, N.Y. A rocket booster would propel BOMARC to high speed, at which point ramjets would kick in. Ground control would guide the weapon to the vicinity of a target, but an internal target*

*seeker would carry out the final stage of the engagement. BOMARC could attack targets up to 400 miles distant, with nuclear or conventional warheads.*