



502D TACTICAL CONTROL GROUP



Colonel Frank L. Adams

Commander's Message

At this time I wish to express my appreciation to all members of this Group for their splendid cooperation. You have given unselfishly of your talents and time in a never ending effort to maintain the effectiveness of our organization.

For some units the Armistice Agreement meant home, however for the 502nd it meant even more responsibility—that of a never ending air surveillance over some of the most difficult terrain in the world. A major portion of the defense of free Korea has rested upon your shoulders and your acceptance of this responsibility has earned the respect of the world.

Our responsibilities have not ended with the providing of radar protection to the free people of Korea. We must render aid in the form of technical training and must make it possible for them to take their rightful place at our side in the mutual defense of the free world. This has presented many problems, but again your untiring efforts and patience has made it possible for us to assume this responsibility with full confidence that our efforts will prove successful.

Past achievements of our organization have borne the mark of success and victory however now is not the time to count our laurels for it is only a beginning in the never ending struggle for peace. There is much to be done and I am counting heavily on your continued support and cooperation.

Sincerely,

10 June 1955

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank L. Adams". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

FRANK L. ADAMS
Colonel, USAF
Commander

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502d GROUP STAFF OFFICERS



*Major Albert B. Hemmer
Communications & Electronics*



*Major Eugene Cole
Director of Operations*



*Major Grant E. Mann
Chaplain*



*Major Floyd E. McConnell
Adjutant*



*1st Lt. Nolan Resnick
Medical Officer*



*Lt. Colonel Russell H. Britton
Director of Materiel*

Surrounding every commander are his staff officers—the men responsible for keeping the group commander informed on the accomplishments and problems of their sections and carrying out his desires. Pictured on this page are the seven men who have aided Colonel Frank L. Adams in keeping up the high quality of work the 502d Tactical Control Group has performed.



*Major Robert E. Kauffman
Director of Personnel*

A Brief History of the 502d

One of the first Tactical Control Groups organized in the United States Air Force, the 502d Tactical Control Group saw service in the European Theater of Operations in the Second World War, and arrived in Korea during September, 1950—three months after the outbreak of hostilities.

During the Korean conflict, the 502d furnished the commander, Fifth Air Force, with communications control and warning facilities necessary to successfully deploy air power against the enemy.

Units of the 502d provided a huge radar-radio coverage that spanned the entire peninsula. This coverage was provided by heavy-weight, early warning and close support radar stations, along with VHF, UHF, and high frequency radio sets—all located strategically throughout South Korea.

Until late July, 1953, the 502d Tactical Control Group operated a tactical air direction center on the island of Chodo, located 125 miles behind the main line of resistance, and three miles from the Western coastline of North Korea. This detachment surveyed enemy skies from the western coastline up to the Yalu River area, and rendered radar assistance to allied airmen in locating the enemy aircraft. This detachment also proved of utmost value as a forward rescue station for downed allied airmen.

The peacetime mission of the Group calls for the constant surveillance of the skies over Korea for possible hostile aircraft and to provide navigational assistance for friendly aircraft.

Any unidentified aircraft picked up on radar screens is immediately relayed to the Air Control Center where the chief controller attempts the identification. If he fails, intercept aircraft are immediately dispersed to the area of the "hostile" aircraft. These unidentified tracks will be plotted and tracked on the radar screens to make interception possible.

Twenty-four hour shifts, seven-days a week are performed by the Group's radar detachments. These detachments are maintained by personnel from four of the Group's six squadrons. These squadrons are the 606th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron, the 607th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron, the 608th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron, and the 1st Shoran Beacon Squadron.

The remaining two squadrons are the Group Headquarters Squadron and the 605th Tactical Control Squadron. The mission of the 605th is the operation of the Air Control Center where all aircraft picked up on the radar screens are plotted on the Center's plotting board, which gives a complete picture of all aircraft in our area of responsibility.

The Air Control Center maintains an adequate movements identification section for the prompt and accurate identification on all air activity in our area of responsibility.

The Control Center also collects, evaluates, and presents graphically, an accurate and interpretable display of all aerea activity in the tactical area; maintains and displays current information on the status of allocated aircraft, airfields, weather, electronics and communications equipment, and other such intelligence that is necessary; maintains an identification subsection to review hostile identifications submitted and to confirm or cancel their identification; coordinates the employment of fighter aircraft units, and all other weapons allocated for air offensive action and/or active and passive defense; and to implement the commands, directives, and plans of the Joint Operations Center; supervises suspension of operations to subordinate installations for routine and emergency maintenance of organic equipment at such times as the tactical situation permits; maintains coordination between subordinate, lateral, and higher commands; and initiates or relays alert warning conditions to all agencies.

In addition the 502d Group is responsible to see that each unit under its direction maintains its facilities in a constant state of preparedness to re-deploy personnel and equipment when the tactical situation so dictates; integrates all sections into efficient teams and maintains continuous individual and team training to insure maximum professional qualification of personnel; maintains security of its units against hostile action, subversive activity and espionage; and coordinates plans for air and ground defense of its installations with other forces operating within its area.

In this manner, the 502d Tactical Control Group keeps the skies over Korea clear and the Air Defense of the peninsula complete. This day and night surveilling of the Korean area has earned the 502d the name, "The Eyes of Korea."

Group Headquarters



Adjutant's Section

Cutting special orders, handling distribution, processing classified matter, and screening correspondence adds up to a busy day for the men of the 502d Tactical Control Groups adjutant's section. However, this is not all these men have to do. There is always someone who wants to know why distribution is not accepted after 1600 hours or why his letter to higher headquarters was bounced with only one strike-over in it. But it is just another days work to the men of the adjutant's section.

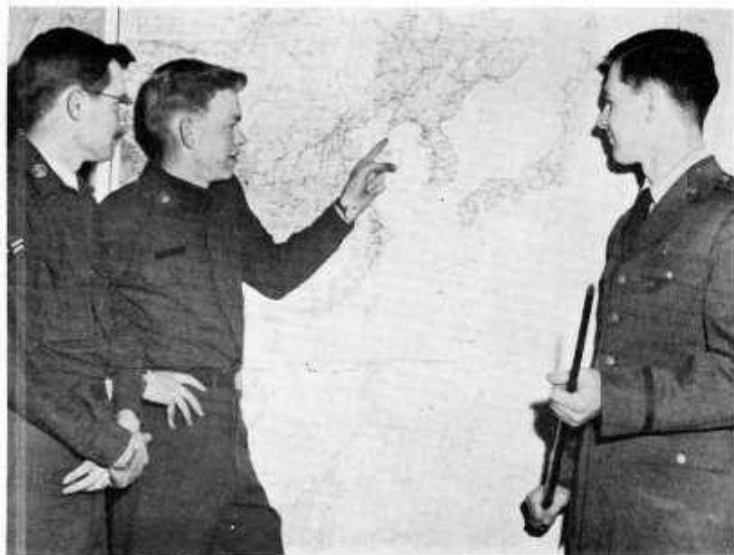
Personnel

"Hey, where's my assignment?" "Why didn't I make the first drop?" and "how come I'm not working in my career field?" To hear these clubhouse lawyers tell it, all personnel does is try to foul a guy up. But to be truthful the personnel section is working overtime to make sure everyone is assigned in the correct spot and that rotation is accomplished as smoothly and as rapidly as possible. And the fact is a lot of personnel men are also asking, "Where's my assignment?"



Operations

"Oh, no, not another RCS report!" As a man in operations will say, "When a new RCS report comes out, we'll get it." And it must seem that way to the 502d operations section, for higher headquarters is always interested in the combat readiness and status of combat equipment, and the method of securing this information is to have a new Reports Control Symbol report made out that will give them the information. And that's where the 502d operations section goes to work.



Intelligence

When it comes to having well-briefed men at the radar screens, and in the Air Control Center during practice alerts, the 502d Tactical Control Group has it, for our Intelligence men are intelligent. And if you don't think it's important that the Group's personnel know their jobs during the practice alerts and during "make-believe" intercepts, then remember what it will mean if enemy aircraft are actually spotted on the radar scopes. Some comfort, huh?

Communications & Electronics

"The Eyes of Korea," as the 502d Tactical Control Group is sometimes known, wouldn't be that way if the men in the Communications and Electronics section did not keep the radar and radio equipment in top shape. And leave it to the C&E men to find out all there is to know about the new communication equipment that comes out and to be prepared to let everyone in the squadron in on the method of operating these devices.



Materiel

It's really not too hard to keep a squadron or group in food, clothing, and housing at a base easily reached by aircraft, truck, or boat, but consider the problems that arise at a radar detachment situated on top of a mountain where there is no drinking water, roads are unpassable most of the year, and aircraft cannot land. This is one of the problems faced by the 502d Tactical Control Group's materiel section, but you can bet these men get their jobs done—no matter the hardships.

Statistical Services

Nothing causes Group sections more pain than to realize that another report must be prepared for higher headquarters. Most of the time each section believes it has all the reports in the Group. The truth is, one section does handle all reports and this section is Statistical Services, which is charged with the responsibility of suspending each section for its reports and making sure it forwards them to higher headquarters.



Base Supply

The job of keeping the officers and airmen of the 502d Tactical Control Group, with its six squadrons, supplied with the materials they need to perform their mission is charged to the men of base supply. The motto of these men is, "We can supply you with anything but a blond-haired and blue-eyed jason." And we believe them, too. They are working on eliminating that exception, also.

Orderly Room

The orderly room is the place where they foul up your pay record, add days to your MOT, lose your shot record, burn your mail and put you on guard duty long before your turn comes up—so say some people. But to a great majority, it is the place where a few men work for the benefit of many. They handle your records for you, and remember, they get short payed, lose their shot records, and have to pull guard duty just as the rest of us.



605TH TACTICAL CONTROL

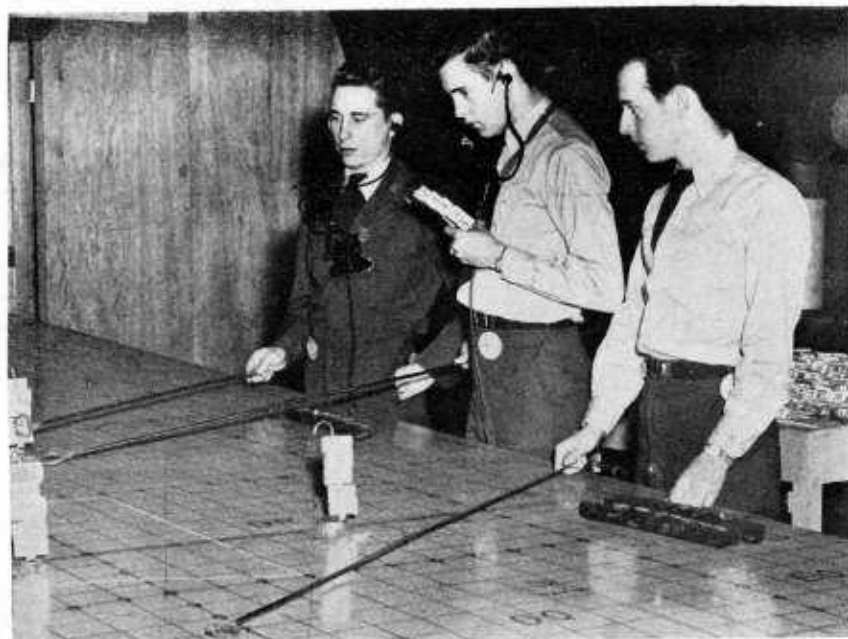


Major Buckley

The mission of the 605th Tactical Control Squadron of the 502d Tactical Control Group is to provide administrative and logistical support to subordinate installations and activities so that they can maintain and operate their facilities in support of the assigned mission of the 502d.

Installations of the 605th Tactical Control Squadron must have the capability to provide a Tactical Air Control Center with the necessary communications facilities, so that the Commander and his representatives can observe the aerial activity, coordinate and command their forces in the direction of offensive and defensive air action.

Key to the 605th is the operation of the Air Control Center. The Control Center is responsible to collect, evaluate, and present graphically, an accurate and interpretable display of all aerial activity in the tactical area; maintain and display current information on the status of allocated aircraft, airfields, weather, electronics and communications equipment, and such other intelligence that is necessary; maintains identifications submitted by TADC's and to confirm or cancel their identifications; coordinates the employment of fighter aircraft, anti-aircraft units, and all other weapons allocated for air offensive action and/or active and passive defense; disseminates tactical information of impending operations to subordinate agencies and delegates physical control, when applicable.



Plotting A Course

No that's not an overgrown checker board in the picture above nor a group of "ham" radio operators at left. These men are a vital part of the air defense of Korea; they are men of the 605th Tactical Control Squadron who help run the Air Control Center. In the picture above, the three men are plotting the course of aircraft picked up and relayed to them from the far reaching sites of the 502d Tactical Control Group. The men in the picture to the right are radio relay men who help supply the Center with the information needed to keep the plotting board up to date.





From the looks of these fancy insignias and titles, you might be led to believe that these men are on a national television show. But this is the table looking out on the plotting board at the Air Control Center.



AIR CONTROL CENTER AT WORK

A radar operator gazing at his scope on top of a lonely Korean hilltop picks up four aircraft.

The operator relays the message to his supervisor, who can not identify the aircraft.

The supervisor relays the message to the Air Control Center. A check of flight plans for the day shows that no aircraft should be in that area.

ACC's controller on duty is given the message.

When the controller is unable to identify the aircraft, it becomes a "bogie" and intercept aircraft are sent to the area where the airman at the radar scope has now plotted the "bogie."

With the aid of radar sites of the 502d Tactical Control Group, the intercept pilot is able to locate the "bogie" and a positive identification of the intruder is made.

In this highly efficient manner, the 502d Tactical Control Group is providing Korea with the vital air defense it needs to protect its country against possible aggressor aircraft.

This then, is the system that earned the 502d the name, "The Eyes of Korea" — keeping this country clear of enemy aircraft.

Some of these sites are on remote island and mountain sites where an air drop is sometimes the only method the personnel stationed there have of getting anything from drinking water to PX luxuries.

On these sites mail call is not a twice-a-day matter, but once a month, and on these sites, depends the air defense of Korea.



Another view of the controller's table at the Air Control Center. The telephones are constantly in use and flight plans are checked constantly so that the men at the plotting board receive accurate and up-to-date information.

'Bogie at Charley Sugar Five-Six..'

"Three bogies at charley sugar five-six-two-one, speed estimated at three hundred knots, altitude ten thousand, course Northwest....."

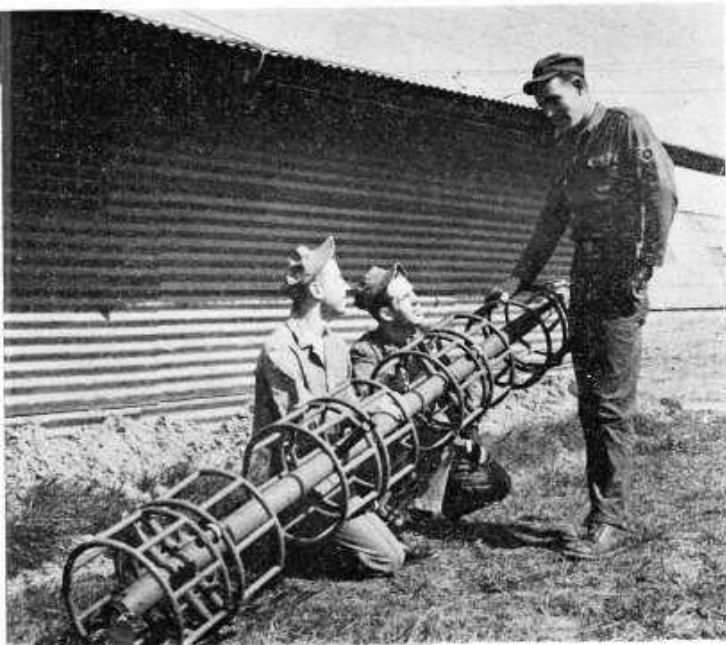
The dead silence is broken by the crisp warning from the airmen operating the long distance, height-finding radar set on the "Rock," an isolated island radar outpost three miles from the North Korean coast. The message of approaching enemy aircraft is swiftly relayed to the airmen at the vehicle plotting board, who plot the track in red crayon, on the transparent map of Korea. Simultaneously, the controller at his position on the dial relays information of the hostile track to the Air Control Center. "Scramble" alerts ready jet pilots, who down half full cups of warm coffee, grab their helmets and streak for their waiting fighters. Within a matter of three minutes after the track has been spotted on the radar scope, the jets are airborne to intercept the hostile aircraft. At the sound of the alert siren, the entire air base is instantly made ready for any impending attack.



When the lay-out man worked on this picture he cut it out, but you can take my word for it, a sign on the lieutenant's desk reads, "We have done so much for so long with so little—that now we can do anything with nothing."



You can tell the 605th Tactical Control Squadron orderly room is a happy place by the happy smiles on the faces of these three.



"An important piece of machinery you have their Sarge, but what is it?" Whatever it is you can bet the men of the 605th Tactical Control Squadron know its every function and get the best possible use from it.



Come now, men, nothing in the 605th Tactical Control Squadron could cause those worried looks. Maybe you are figuring your income tax?

606TH AC & W SQUADRON



Lt. Col. Goodhart

The mission of the 606th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron, 502d Tactical Control Group, is to establish, operate and maintain a Tactical Direction Control Center with the following capabilities.

1. Directing tactical air strikes by electronics means.
2. Effecting ground controlled intercepts.

In addition the 606th maintains and operates lightweight radar units with the capabilities of plotting aircraft moving in the area of coverage; operates and maintains communications required for effective squadron operations; provides navigational aids to friendly aircraft in distress; operates and maintains one Very High Frequency Direction Finding Station; and performs other missions as directed by higher headquarters.



"Aw right, youse guys," says the first sergeant as he gives his orderly room men their work—and a load of it he has, too. Never a dull moment when your working in the headquarters of the 606th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron.

Say, it must be a real problem that has the lieutenant and major worried here (at right). It has already sent the major thumbing through his book for the answer. You can bet this doesn't happen often in the efficient 606th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron, although the problems of keeping the radar detachments of the squadron operating efficiently can be quite complex.



Lightweight Radar Essential

In order to make interception easier for the pilots who take off after the unidentified tracks picked up on the radar sets of the sites, the lightweight radar sets pictured on the left are used.

With this smaller and more versatile set, the "bogie" may be followed easier and its exact location plotted to make interception by friendly aircraft a certainty.

The men who man these useful little sets must keep them in constant readiness, for they also might be needed in case of a breakdown by the larger set, or to cover up any "blind spot," the "heavyweight" set might develop.

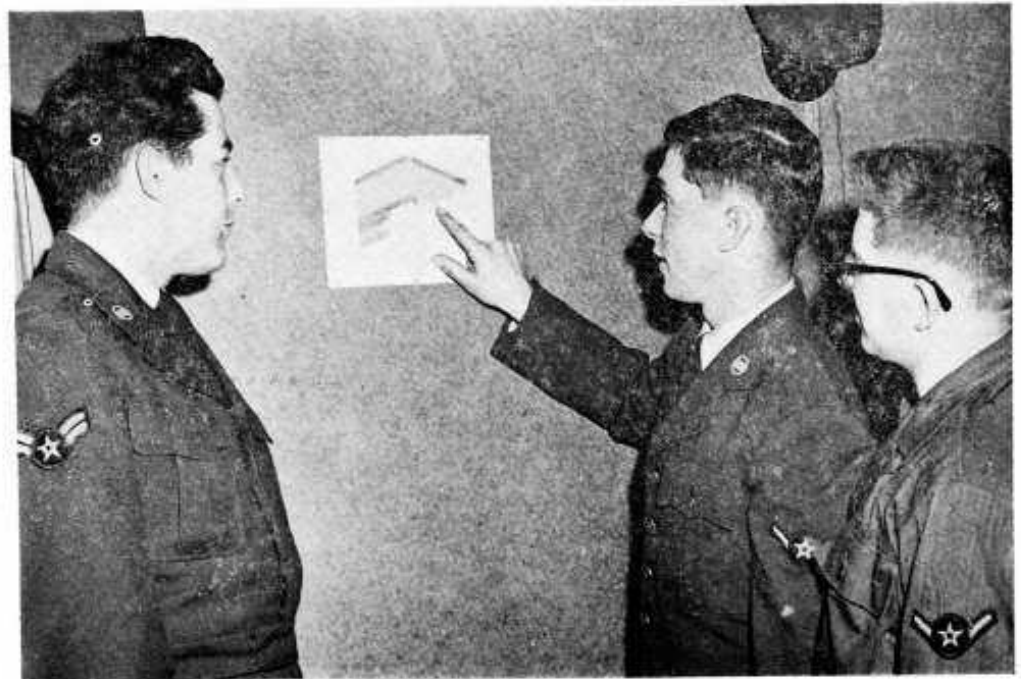


I'm 'Figmo' Mac--Are You!

We envy that man who's getting short.

The chart on the wall in the picture at the right doesn't have anything to do with the squadron's radar detachments. It's the figmo chart of the office.

Webster doesn't define "figmo," but every GI who has served in Korea knows it means, "You're going home soon."





No Time for Doodling

This is no place for "doodling." In reality this airman isn't wasting his time drawing pictures but is plotting aircraft on the vertical plotting board in the detachment's radar shack.

By this method the air activity in the area is displayed. All aircraft are plotted as they move through the area. Identification is also performed.

This information will be relayed into the horizontal plotting board at the Air Control Center, where the air traffic picked up by the radar sites of every squadron is displayed.

Air Defense From A Mountain Peak

How about that view? Situated on top of a lonely mountain peak in Korea, these men of the 606th go right on with their work on the "lightweight" radar sets pictured on the right.

Although the roads may be impassable in the winter and dangerous in the summer, and aircraft may not be able to land, these men perform their jobs the year around.

Supplying these mountain sites is a difficult job. Drinking water might have to be air-dropped over the mountain, and only the most essential items of supply may be dropped during hazardous weather, but the quality of work performed never suffers.

The men who perform their jobs in spite of these hardships are the ones who make the air defense of Korea complete.



607TH AC & W SQUADRON



Lt. Col. Casey

The mission of the 607th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron—502d Tactical Control Group—is to maintain and operate separate radar installations having the capability to perform air surveillance, identification, aerial interception of hostile or unidentified aircraft, and/or controlling aircraft for precision and all-weather bombing.

This squadron must also collect and display information on air activity within our area of responsibility and work in close conjunction with adjacent stations. It must also maintain an adequate movements identification section for the prompt and accurate identification on all air activity in our area of responsibility, disseminate specific air intelligence to the Air Control Center and other authorized agencies, direct combat forces in aerial combat to destroy enemy aircraft threatening friendly forces, and give all assistance possible to aircraft in distress.

Assist target direction posts by directing aircraft to predetermined rendezvous points for close support of ground forces and all-weather bombing.

Maintain all facilities in a constant state of preparedness to redeploy personnel and equipment when the tactical situation so dictates. Maintain security of equipment against hostile action, subversive activity and espionage.

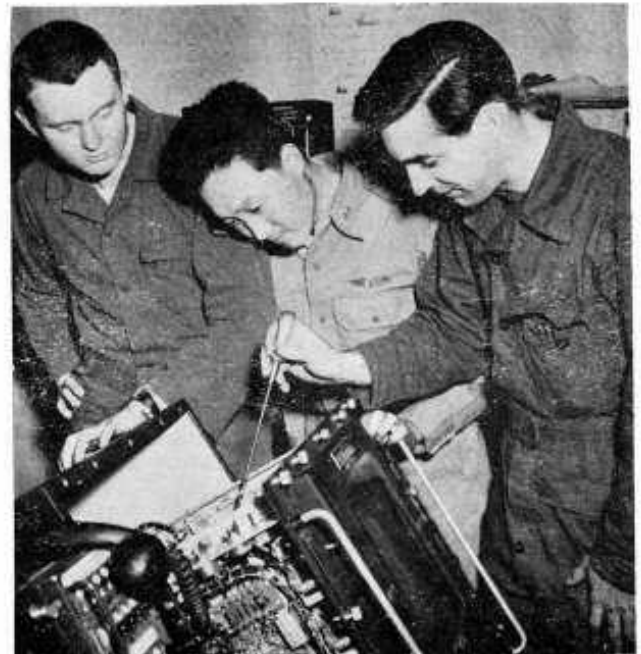
Maintain a continuous training program and integrate all sections into efficient teams to insure maximum efficiency of all personnel. To insure that all personnel are familiar with their Unit's mission.



"Moshi - Moshi"

"Moshi-moshi." Although its not a bad idea, you can bet these men are not calling their girl friends for a date Saturday night.

A safe bet is that they are checking their communications equipment to make sure that they can get their messages through to the Air Control Center accurately and on time, for they realize the Air Defense of Korea depends on keeping their equipment in top shape.





A PROGRAM FOR SKILL

In the 502d Tactical Control Group regulation that sets up the mission of the 607th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron, is a subparagraph stating, "Maintain continuous individual and team training to insure maximum professional qualification of personnel."

And the 607th takes the regulation at its word. An extensive and continuous training program is carried on at each detachment of the squadron and at the squadron headquarters.

As each new problem arises and is solved, the men of the squadron are acquainted with the method used so they will be familiar with this task should it occur again.

New equipment is continually being tested and personnel of the squadron must become familiar with its every function.

And also, old procedures and methods are practiced over and over again to insure that everyone is familiar with his equipment and duties.

Through this continuous training process, the men of the 607th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron are able to perform their duties better and do their share in keeping the skies over Korea clear of hostile aircraft.





This twice the speed of sound jet model being displayed here still wouldn't be able to escape the radar screens of the 607th.



You can tell by these happy faces how well everything is going with the 607th. And this is the way the well-trained, efficient men of the 607th are generally found—in a happy and carefree mood.

A Vital Link in Air Defense

Summoned to Korea by Fifth Air Force in August of 1950 to assist in directing flights and strikes of fighter aircraft in the conflict here, the 502d Tactical Control Group remained throughout the campaign and long afterwards to become a vital link in the defense of South Korea.

The primary function of the Group is to provide communications and electronic aid to Fifth Air Force units sending aircraft aloft on combat and training missions. These electronic aids include tactical control by radio and radar, early warning against the approach of enemy aircraft, as well as countering the effects of his electronic interference (jamming).

From strategically located radar sites on island outposts and hill tops, comes the vital information necessary for the air defense of South Korea. Word is relayed by the radio relay sites of each "blip" or track that appears on the radar scope to the Air Control Center, the "nerve center" of Korea. Here each track is plotted on the huge plotting board and evaluated as to its identity. In the event the aircraft is not identified within a certain period of time a scramble is made by our aircraft to intercept the "unknown."

608TH AC & W SQUADRON



Colonel Lawrence

The mission of the 608th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron is to maintain and operate separate radar installations having the capability to perform air surveillance, identification, aerial interception of hostile or unidentified aircraft and/or the assigned mission of the 502d Tactical Control Group.

The function of these detachments is to exercise close and precise control of aircraft on blind bombing missions during the hours of darkness or under all weather conditions; assist friendly aircraft in finding small and obscure targets near the frontlines; direct flare aircraft to permit proper illumination of targets; assist photo reconnaissance aircraft; maintain its facilities in a

constant state of preparedness to redeploy personnel and equipment when the tactical situation so dictates.

Also the detachment directs friendly aircraft in the interception of hostile or unidentified aircraft; directs friendly aircraft to the target area and assists them when possible in avoiding hazardous weather and terrain, restricted areas, concentrations of enemy ground fire and keeping the flight informed of enemy air activity; collects, evaluates and displays pertinent air information on air activity within its assigned area of responsibility; maintains the security of its unit against hostile action, subversive activity and espionage; and, coordinates with other forces operating within its area.

In addition the 608th operates Early Warning Limited GCI sites to supplement and extend the surveillance coverage of the radar net.



What Goes On Here?

"Now let's see, what goes here." As important as the men who operate the equipment are those behind the scenes who keep the equipment operating.

A radar set that goes out of commission for even a few minutes may give the enemy a chance to slip pass, or might mean the difference between life or death to pilots of friendly aircraft in distress.

So the maintenance men of the 608th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron are on a 24-hour call to keep the squadron's equipment in top shape.





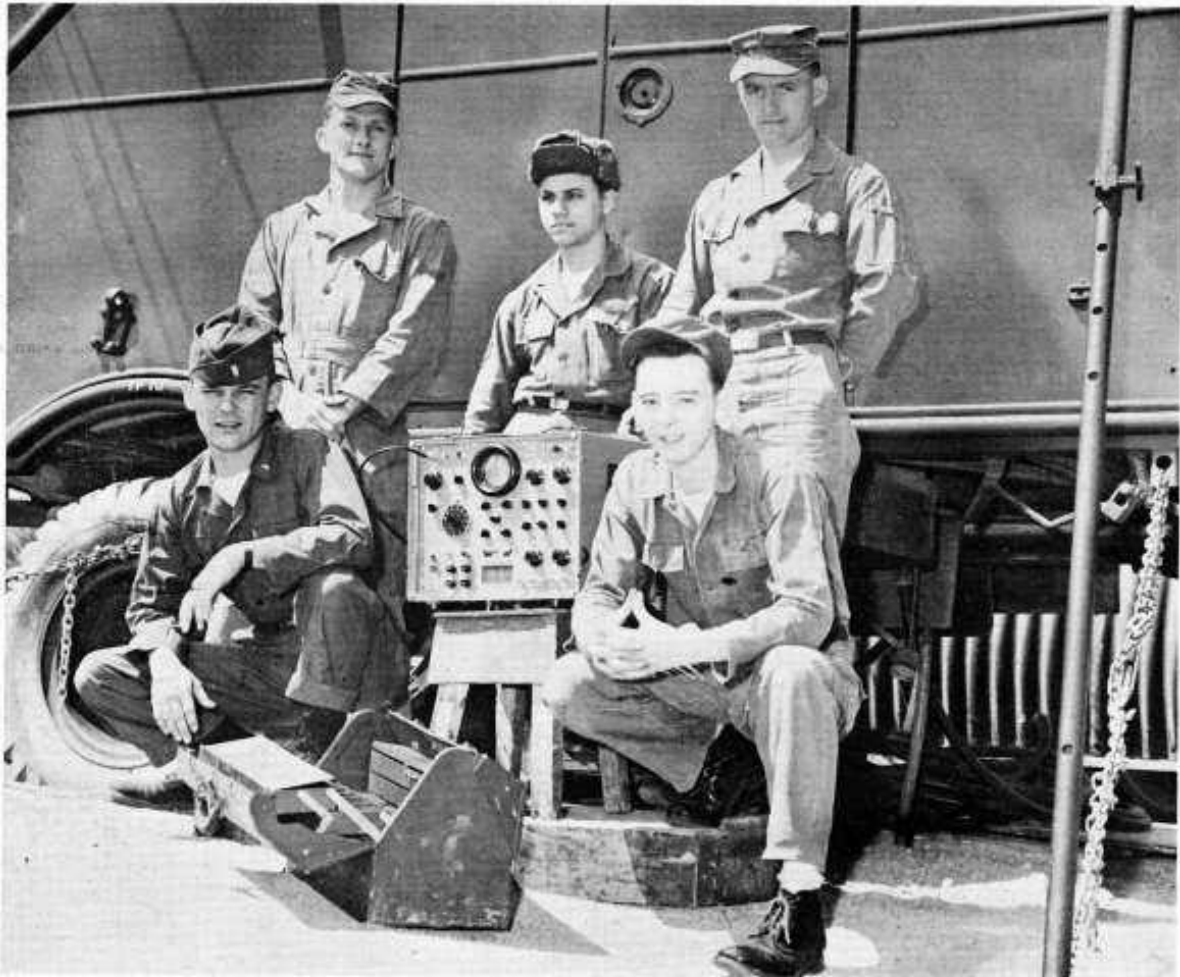
Watch That Screen --- It's Top Priority

A radar manufacturing company's technical representative explains the functions of one of its new radar screens to a controller of the 608th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron.

These field engineers, who work with our radar men at the sites and in the squadrons, lend invaluable assistance to the radar men of the 608th.

The tool case at the lieutenant's feet is the tip-off to who these four men are of the 608th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron. They are maintenance men for the squadron.

Keeping the radar and radio equipment in tip-top shape is of the utmost importance and the responsibility of this maintenance crew.



Cable Men-- Not Monkeys

Not all the men in the 608th spend their time working directly with the radar or radio sets.

The men in the two pictures on this page illustrate this point. In the picture at the left are the cable men, making sure the island site here has the power it need for its electronics equipment.

Climbing poles and working with electric cables may not be your idea of fun, but it is an essential job to keep the radar sites functioning.

And of course, each site must have its security measures. The four men in the picture below are checking out the sites' 50-calibre machine gun.

Any subversives had better think twice before trying to put this site out of commission. This also goes for the rest of the sites in the 608th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron.

Every man in the squadron or site is well acquainted with his weapon.





1ST SHORAN BEACON



Captain Holland

The mission of the 1st Shoran Beacon Squadron, 502d Tactical Control Group, is to maintain and operate separate Shoran Beacon units having the capability to provide accurate and precise computation of all distances, azimuths and Shoran data required for Shoran operations.

Other functions of the Shoran Beacon Squadron are to establish and maintain communications facilities for command and control

of outlying Shoran Beacon facilities; maintain its facilities in a constant state of preparedness to redeploy personnel and equipment as directed; integrate all sections into efficient teams and maintain continuous individual and team training to insure maximum professional qualification of personnel; and to perform such other tasks as may be directed by this or higher headquarters.

The commander, 1st Shoran Beacon Squadron is responsible to the commander, 502d Tactical Control Group for the accomplishment of the above mission in accordance with directives of the 502d Group commander, or higher headquarters. He reports without delay any incidents, information or requirements that substantially affect the capability of his organization and detachments to perform their assigned mission.



They Solve Problems

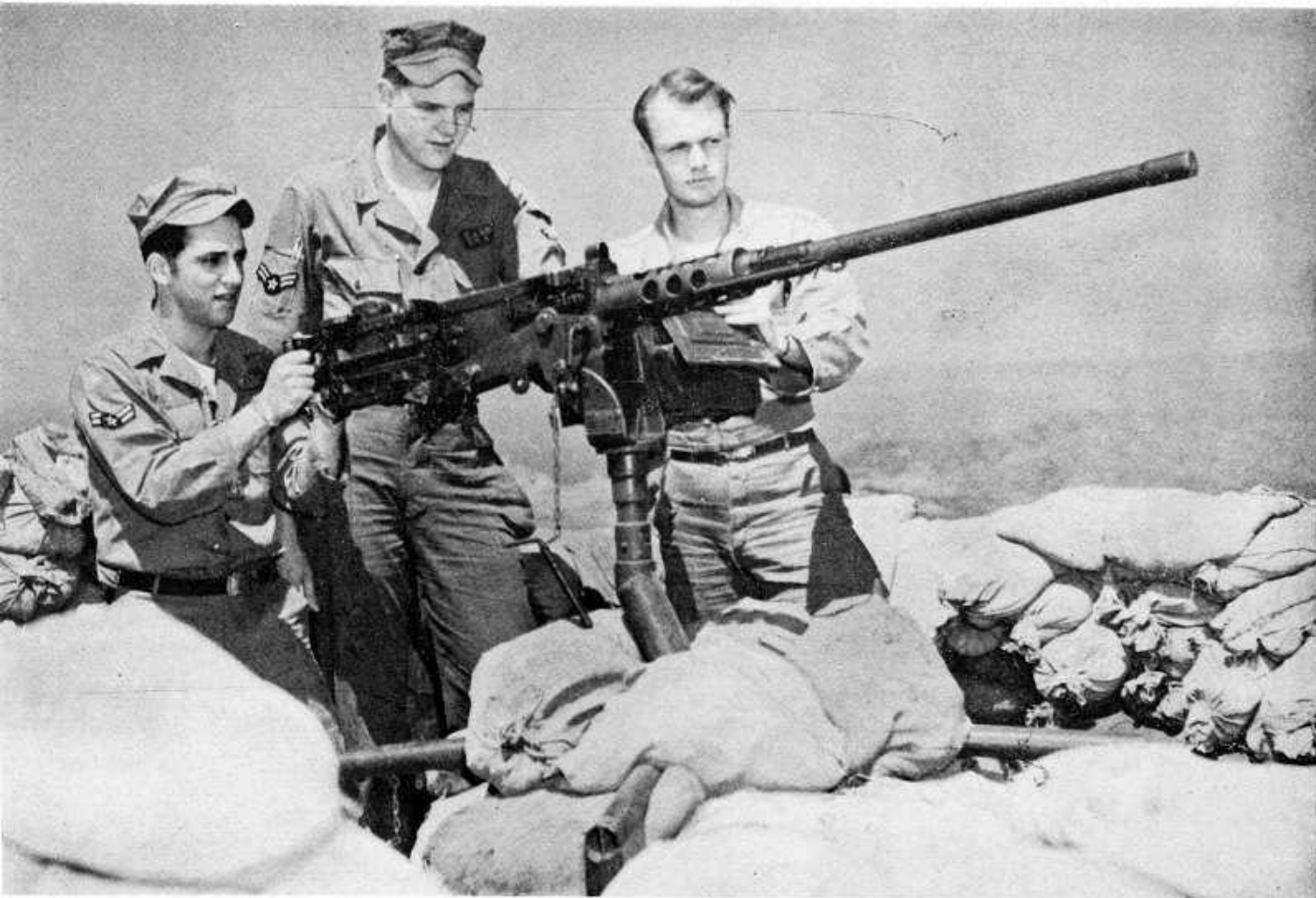
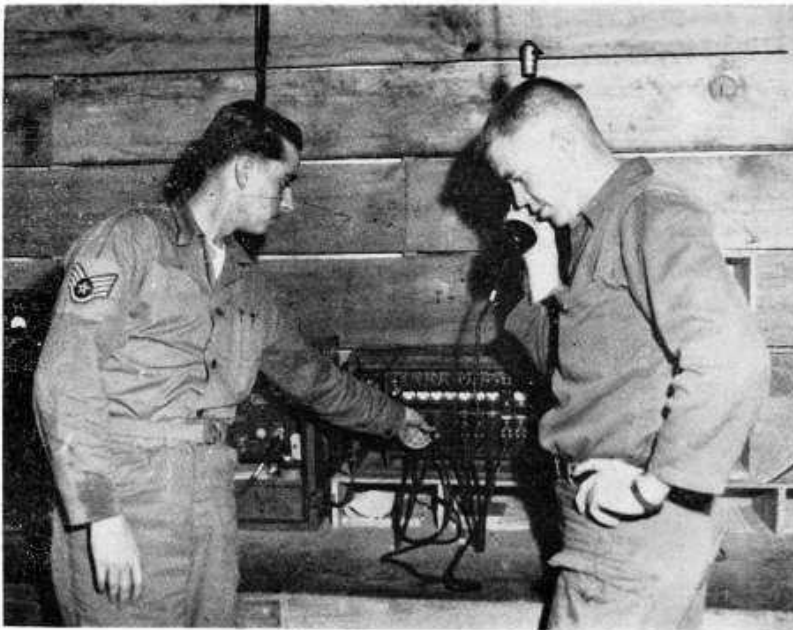
In the picture above and to the right, are the orderly room personnel of the 1st Shoran Beacon Squadron. These men take care of the squadron detachments "front office" needs, tending to the every need of the men in the squadron, taking care of their every problem, and pounding their typewriters all day.



'Number Please'...Or Is It 'Number, Sir?'

Any day, the telephone men in the picture at the right always give you quick and reliable service with a smile—well, almost always.

As in all other squadrons and detachments of the Group, the 1st Shoran Beacon Squadron must have its ground defense teams. The men in the picture below seem to be prepared for about any type of attack, and they don't look worried, either.



Short Range Navigational Aids

Shoran Beacon, in the layman's terms, means Short Range Navigational Aids. The radio men working at the Shoran Beacon detachments give readings continually to friendly aircraft in the area.

These readings allow the aircraft's navigator to make precision checks on his position as he travels toward his destination.

By computing the elapse of time between each reading he receives from the Shoran Beacon detachments, the navigator is able to keep a precision check on his course and position at all times.

Countless aircraft which might have become lost in adverse weather conditions have been able to keep on course by the friendly beam received from the radio sets at the Shoran Beacon detachments.



No! It's Not Two Jima!

No, this isn't a television antenna being raised by the men in the picture above, nor are they trying to capture some of the Marines' glory from the flag raising at Iwo Jima. It's a radio antenna that will give navigational aid to the pilots flying the area.

Plenty of spectators are handy to give advise but there are not many workers except for the man in the picture at the left. These men are working with a power unit at one of the Shoran Beacon's units. Supplying the power for the radio sets of the squadron's detachments is a big job.

AFROK TRAINING

Someday the United States Air Force hopes to be able to turn its radar detachments in Korea over to the Koreans. In keeping with this plan is the work going on at Detachment 1 of the 502d Tactical Control Group. At this detachment, members of the Korean Air Force are trained in radio and radar so they may soon be able to take over the air defense of their country.

