

Radar removal: *ANG electronic technicians perform job with 'knowledge of skilled craftsmen'*

By CMSgt. Jerry Hansen
Jefferson Barracks, Mo.

Members of an engineering installation team advance party assigned to the 218th EI Sq., MoANG, Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, Mo., responded to an emergency antenna repair at Finley AFS, N.D.

Shortly after arriving on site to begin a radar removal scheme, SMSgt. Denver E. Baldwin, NCOIC Radar, received an urgent phone call from the 218th EI Sq. Production Controller identifying the emergency, it was agreed to accept the job.

The series of events preceding the request are a little vague, but we know that a request was initiated by the 24th Air Division at Malmstrom AFB, Mt., asking for "emergency maintenance assistance" at Finley AFS. The request was directed to the 1849th EI Gp. Work Force Control and processed through the Engineering Installa-

tion Center Workforce Control at Oklahoma City AFS, Okla.

After the late Friday afternoon request and approval, the radar team and contractor moved a crane with a man bucket into place for the necessary repairs of two antennas. The crane, one of two to be used for radar equipment removal, had arrived on site in preparation for the next week's radar removal. The one problem was the radar operation, Sgt. Baldwin was told that an ORI was in progress and that the radar could not be taken off the air. After some serious consideration the team was granted one hour of down time. With preplanning and equipment in position, when the radar stopped radiation, the team proceeded with repair on two antennas. A broken bracket and a bad connection was the prognosis. During the next 17 minutes electronic technicians performed with precision skill, with the confidence of a construction team and the knowledge of highly skilled craftsmen — the job was completed and the ORI was back in progress.

It's back to the routine of the day for Sergeant Baldwin

and the radar section of the 218th EI Sq. After completion of radar equipment removal at Finley the team will convoy with the five members of the 1849th EI Gp, to Fortuna, N.D., where they will also remove the heavy radar equipment.

Sergeant Baldwin's reputation precedes him and his crew, permanent party personnel have expressed amazement and the contractors have been complimentary that a part-time Air National Guard crew can accomplish such feats as a total removal of radar site as part of their annual training. Jamestown, Ohio, Almaden, Calif., and Cape Charles, Va., are only a few of the radar installations which have been deactivated and found the salvage yard through the efforts of Sergeant Baldwin and the 218th.

Not a routine day in the life of a Guardsman, but typical of the capability of ANG engineering installation teams that respond to emergency situations as matter of routine.