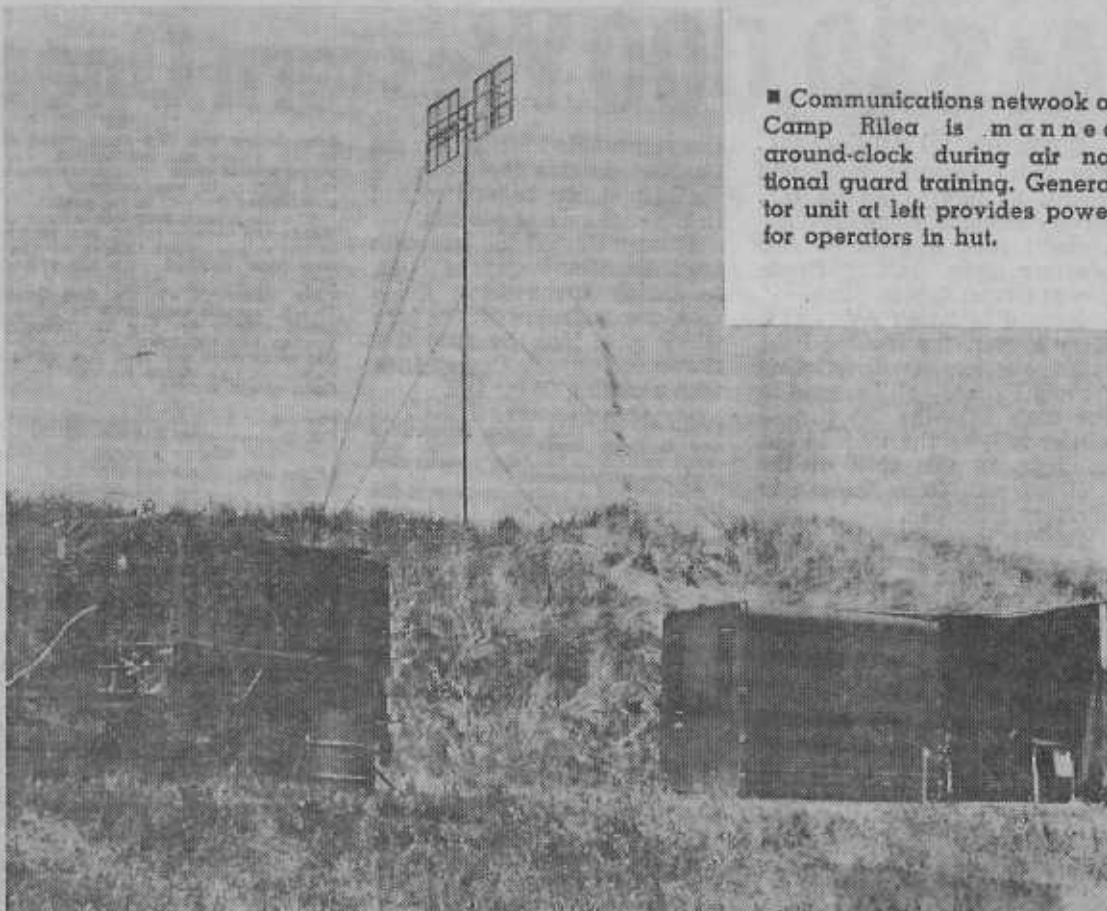


Guard Units Keep Electronic 'Watch'



■ Communications network at Camp Rilea is manned around-clock during air national guard training. Generator unit at left provides power for operators in hut.



■ A/3c Cal Callway, Portland, examines teletype tape in radio relay center. Messages are relayed as necessary.

Portland Reporter (31 June) 1961

Air Guardsmen in Training On 'Round Clock Operation

By ED BALLARD

About 500 Air National Guardsmen, mostly from Portland, are in training at Camp Rilea near Astoria, preparing themselves to take over military communications for this area if an enemy attack should "knock out" Portland.

The men at Camp Rilea are in continual contact with other squadron members who are camped on various mountain-sides and high ridges in northwestern Oregon and Washington. They maintain communication by voice radio and radio teletype.

Most of the groups must be located on high ground, because the radio frequency the

Guard units use requires transmission in a straight line. Any obstruction will block out the signals "such as it would the beam from a flashlight," according to Lt. Col. Albert E. Garvin of Portland.

Garvin commands the 244th Radio Relay Squadron. Because of this requirement imposed by the frequency, some of the outlying groups are stationed in pretty rugged territory. One group is operating in five feet of snow on Mt. Hood.

The main message center is at Camp Rilea. There the training messages are written and sent to a relay center. At the relay center the messages are reproduced as many times as

necessary, depending on the number of "addressees"—outlying groups. From the relay center the message destined for an addressee is transmitted to one of several small communications huts where the message is radioed by voice or teletype to the groups on the mountains.

The huts, where the long-distance radio transmitting and receiving is done, are dispersed around Camp Rilea. The Guardsmen are on a duty schedule that requires these huts, as well as the message center and relay station, to be occupied and communicating around the clock.

According to Col. Garvin, there are two reasons for maintaining around the clock operations. One reason is to provide realistic emergency-type training. The other is to keep watch over the very valuable equipment contained in the various buildings and huts.

These Air Guard units are not designed fully to replace the knocked-out civilian and military communications system of a metropolitan area. They are only supposed to provide the emergency equipment and manpower to see that military communications can continue despite such a disaster.

In theory, these units will eventually be able to take over in case present Air Force facilities, such as those recently dynamited in Utah and Idaho, were destroyed.

For the time being the units centered at Camp Rilea are designed only to compensate partially for a major disaster in which all communications in an area is destroyed.

The Guardsmen have been on duty since June 10 and will remain until June 24. During the remainder of the year, they meet one weekend a month.

THE OREGONIAN, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 1961

Communications Group Trains At Camp Rilea

ASTORIA (Special) — More than 350 men of the Air National Guard's 252nd Communications Group began two weeks summer training at Camp Rilea on Clatsop Plains during the weekend.

Lt. Col. Wallace Difford, Spokane, Wash., commanding officer, said another 350 men are in scattered detachments posted from Tillamook as far as Camp Murray, Wash.

There are only four units of this kind in the nation, Col. Difford said. The unit's primary function is transmission of messages by teletype, radio and other means. It carries its

own power plants so it can operate without dependence on other sources of power supply and so it can function in emergencies when normal communications break down.

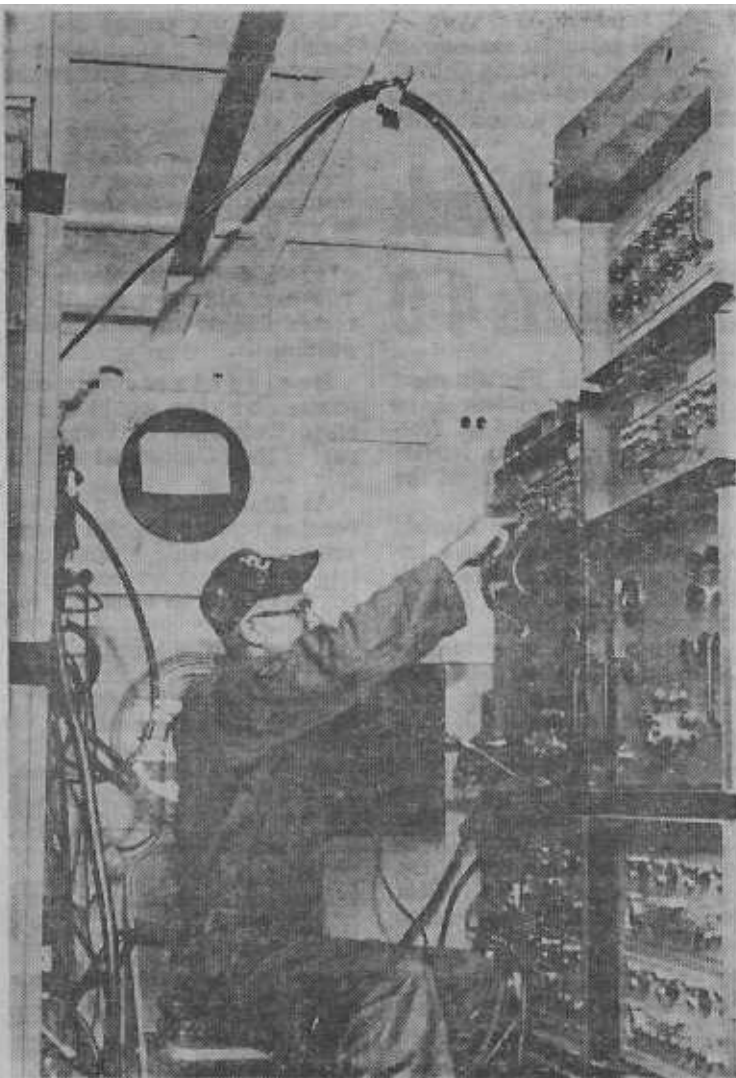
Unit Prepared

Difford said the unit must be prepared to pack up and be ready to go anywhere on earth within six hours.

The group has four subordinate organizations, including the 142nd Communications Squadron of Portland, commanded by Lt. Col. John G. Nelson; the 244th Radio Relay Squadron of Portland, commanded by Lt. Col. Albert E. Garvin; the 262nd Communications Squadron of Bellingham, Wash., commanded by Lt. Col. Samuel Peach, and a detachment of the 221st Radio Relay Squadron of Garland, Tex.

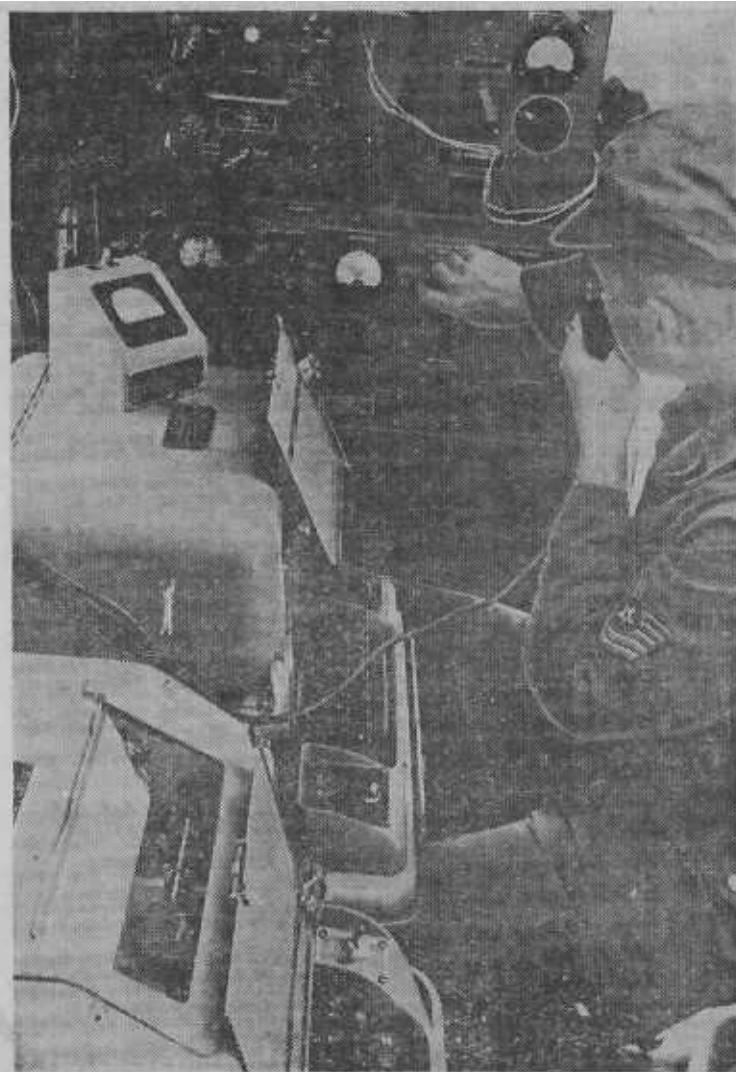
Difford said the group was organized only last January and that this is the first time it has trained as a unit. He said the group expects to return next summer and conduct more extensive training.

10/June/61
Reporter

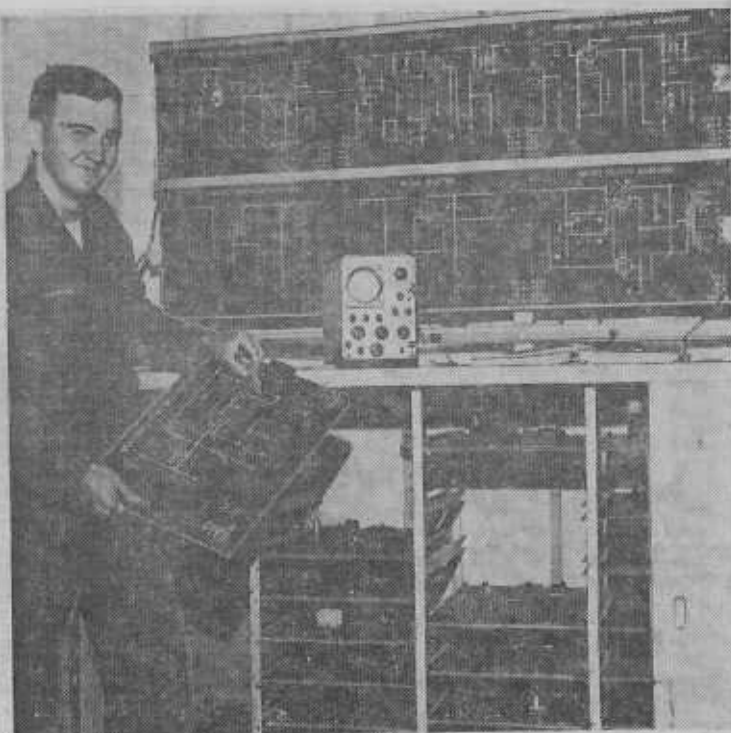


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■ A/1c Russell Gartrell, Portland, (left photo) talks by radio telephone with another guardsman many miles away at Naselle Ridge regarding the static easing on phones.

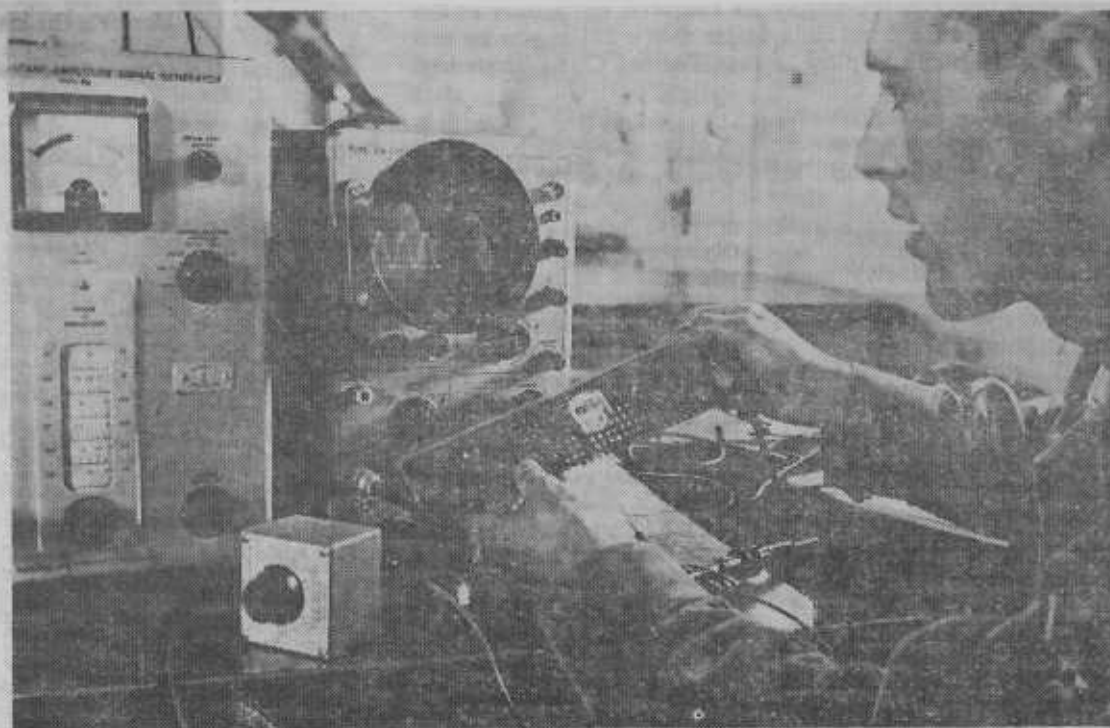
→
■ T/Sgt. Jerry Olson, Portland, (right photo) talks by radio with one of groups outside Camp Riley. Communication is carried on by either radio or teletype.



Report 19 June 61



■ A/3c Steven Grogan, Vancouver, Wash., displays training aid used to illustrate electrical circuits to new trainees.



RAY WING PHOTOS
■ A/3c H. D. Johnson, Portland, tests radio parts by examining pattern projected on oscilloscope. This equipment was loaned to air national guard by Tektronix Corp.