

Guardsmen Test Defense From Post On Hog Ranch

YAKIMA, Wash. (Special)—On a wind-blown ridge named Hog Ranch, 23 miles from anything but sagebrush, dust and rattlesnakes, are 12 Oregon Air National Guardsmen helping to test the effectiveness of this nation's defense communications.

They are but one link in a four-state, 740-man network taking part in Exercise Joint Return, a 15-day test of the Air National Guard's readiness to take over should regular facilities be destroyed.

Providing the most men for the exercise is the 142nd Communications Squadron (Relay Center) of Portland. Its 180 men and 11 officers are stationed at Yakima Firing Center and atop Hog Ranch Ridge.

Units Relay Messages

The 142nd, led by Lt. Col. John G. Nelson, is joined in the operation by the 252nd Communications Group, Spokane; 244th Radio Relay Squadron, Seattle; the 143rd Communications Squadron, Seattle; the 262nd Communications Squadron, Bellingham, Wash., and the 221st Radio Relay Squadron, Garland, Tex.

Units are scattered throughout Oregon and Washington originating and relaying messages.

By the time the exercise ends Aug. 29, the men of the 142nd will have relayed more than 10,000 messages through

their mobile relay van, the heart of the operation.

The messages go to nine stations in the Northwest and to 11 more in California and Nevada via the relay facility at Lemoore Naval Air Station, Calif. The 142nd also has access to the worldwide Air Force teletype system through Sacramento, Calif.

The vast network is connected by both teletype and voice, but the latter is used only when the teletype network is not operable—which is rarely.

Ridges Bounce Signals

Using radio signals, the messages from originating stations are bounced from ridge to ridge to the 142nd at Yakima, where they are received in the relay van on perforated teletype tape. The tape is sent back out, converted to radio signals and bounced along the same "backbone" to the addressees.

The "backbone" has 20 units, some on such remote sites as Hog Ranch, Crawford Lookout, Gordon Butte and Satus Pass, all in Washington, and Popcorn Hill in Oregon. Six men are at most sites operating the radio relays.

The men on Hog Ridge pull 72-hour duty tours and sometimes are occupied with fighting a wind that gusts to 70 miles an hour. An antenna occasionally is blown down, but the "mail" still gets through.

Outfit Moves Quickly

It is their job to pick the radio signals from the air, convert them to understandable information and route them to the 142nd's complex at the firing center.

The 142nd is a mobile unit, designed to be sent anywhere a radio signal can be sent. Its equipment is carried in vans, which double as bases of operations at the site. This makes it possible for the entire squadron, including equipment, to be transported by air swiftly to any place it might be needed. The 142nd even has its own cooks, making it completely self-supporting.



BATTLING WINDS up to 70 miles an hour, two members of Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd Communication Squadron keep antenna from toppling on ridge 23 miles east of Yakima Firing Center in de-

fense communication exercise. They are S. Sgt. Norman A. Cooper, Lake Oswego (foreground), and Airman 2. C. Dean H. Greiner, 742 SW Vista Ave., Portland.



ANOTHER Oregonian participating in the defense communication exercise which will end Aug. 29 is Airman I. C. Bruce Kerr, Salem, who checks a monitor reel containing part of the more than 10,000 messages the 142nd Communication Squadron's van will handle during the 15-day test.

Radio Relay Squad To Make Tests At Peterson Butte This Weekend

Key Willamette Valley cities from Portland to Lebanon will be connected by FM voice radio communications by members of the 244th Radio Relay Squadron, Oregon Air National Guard, Saturday and Sunday Oct. 17 and 18.

The two day exercise is aimed at establishing high quality voice and teletype communications facilities through the use of FM radio relay and multi-plexing equipment. It will make available 11 voice circuits and eight full duplex teletype circuits. They would be used in event of a local, state or national emergency if civilian or government communications were out of service.

Forty-two men, nine mobile communications vans and several support vehicles will leave Portland early Saturday morning and will have communications established by mid-day.

Air National Guard communications units have a job to perform which does not duplicate the one now being handled by active duty Air Force organizations, but which is designed to provide, in some instances a kind of communications that would only be required in time of actual emergency. Because of this there is a challenging responsibility to provide the most realistic training possible for the men of the 244th Radio Relay Squadron, so that they will be ready, should they be called upon.

Two members of the 244th Radio Relay Squadron are from Lebanon. They are Master Sergeant Joseph Hellberg, a high school teacher who heads the units education and training section and Airman Second Class Flen Ufford, Rt. 2, Box 209, who is a radio relay equipment repairman. Hellberg lives at Rt. 2, Box 242A.

The full mission of the 244th is to augment and/or extend the United States Air Force Aerospace Communications Complex (AIRCUM). A further mission, as mentioned, is to assist the state of Oregon in event of a statewide or local disaster. The squadron is part of the western region of the Air Force com-

munications service.

Completely self-sufficient and mobile, relay sites for the weekend exercise will be located at Peterson Butte, Salem --two blocks from the Capitol Building --at Portland International Airport and Skyline Boulevard in Portland; in Corvallis a few blocks from the OSU campus; at Prospect Hill near Salem and at the Aurora Airport between Salem and Portland.

Guardsmen taking part in the exercise--several of whom are from the cities involved--are from many walks of life. They are business executives, professional men, ranchers, salesmen and others. They all lead normal lives, all but one weekend a month, and two weeks during the summer, when they fulfill their military obligations, while staying at home to pursue their chosen vocations.

Visitors at the sites are welcome, says the 244th's Commander Lt. Col. Albert E. Garvin.

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Air National Guard Schedules Weekend Communications Tryout

Key Willamette valley cities from Portland to Lebanon, including Corvallis, will be connected by FM voice radio communications by members of the 244th Radio Relay Squadron, Oregon Air National Guard, Saturday and Sunday. A member of the team from Corvallis is Airman Basic Larry W. Mills of 2660 Fillmore.

The two day exercise is aimed at establishing high quality voice and teletype communications facilities through use of FM radio relay and multi-plexing equipment. It will make available 11 voice circuits and eight full duplex teletype circuits. These would be used in event of a local, state or national emergency if civilian or government communications are out of service.

Forty-two men, nine mobile communications vans and several support vehicles will leave Portland early Saturday and will have communications established by mid-day.

Air National Guard communications units have a job to perform which does not duplicate the one now being handled by active duty Air Force organizations, but is designed to provide in some instances a type of communication that would function only in time of emergency.

The full mission of the 244th Squadron is to augment and extend the U. S. Air Force Aerospace Communications Complex (AIRCOM). A further mission, as mentioned, is to assist the State of Oregon in event of a state-wide or local disaster.

Completely self-sufficient and mobile, terminal sites for the weekend exercise in Corvallis will be at the National Guard Armory, 1315 E street. Other

sites will be at Pederson Butte, Lebanon, Aurora Hill and other places between here and Portland.

Visitors at the various sites will be welcome, reports Lt. Col. Albert E. Garvin, 244th Squadron commander.

Air Guard Schedules Exercise

Key Willamette Valley cities will be connected by FM voice radio communications by members of the 244th Radio Relay Squadron of the Oregon Air National Guard Saturday and Sunday.

Salem, Corvallis, Lebanon, and Portland are included in the two-day exercise, designed to establish high-quality voice and teletype communication facilities through the use of FM radio equipment.

The equipment will be located at the corner of Chemeketa and Summer Streets NE, on Prospect Hill south of Salem and Aurora Airport between Salem and Portland.

At Lebanon the equipment will be set up on Peterson Butte and at the National Guard Armory and in Corvallis near Oregon State University.

Visitors are welcome at the sites, said the 244th's commander Lt. Col. Albert E. Garvin.

Salemites Hold Radio Test Roles

Three Salem men, members of the Oregon Air National Guard 244th Radio Relay Squadron, will help connect key Willamette Valley cities between Portland and Lebanon during a two-day FM radio communications experiment.

First Sgt. Elbert L. Keller, 4191 Ivory Way NE, Airman 1.C Michael T. Bogdan, 104 Del Villa Drive, and Airman Gerald C. Ramey, 5120 Caplinger Road, will participate in the radio communications mission Saturday and Sunday. The training would be useful in the event of a statewide emergency or disaster.

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