

**SUMMER 1969**

WESTACS ... Utah's Bonneville Salt Flats were the site for a mammoth tactical exercise called WESTACS... Western Tactical Air Control System.

Approximately 5,000 Air National Guardsmen converged on the Wendover Air Force Auxiliary Field to take part in the exercise.

Brig. Gen. William R. Sefton, commander of the Air Guard's 122nd Tactical Fighter Wing, Baer Field, Ind., supervised the activities of the participants from his command post at Wendover.

The purpose of WESTACS was to polish teamwork between the Air Guard's tactical air and ground forces utilizing the sophisticated communications networks of the modern tactical air control system.

Tactical fighter aircraft (F-4s) were provided by two of the wing's tactical fighter groups: the 122nd, also Baer Field, and the 180th from Toledo, Ohio. Air Guard KC-97 tanker aircraft were supplied by the 126th Air Refueling Wing from Chicago and the 136th Air Refueling Wing from Dallas, Tex. RF-84 reconnaissance planes from the 155th Tactical Reconnaissance Group, Lincoln, Neb., and F-102 interceptors from Idaho's 124th Air Guard Fighter Group also participated. Special forces type aircraft came from the 129th Special Operations Group at Hayward ANG Base, Calif.

The vital and complex radar and communications type systems for the exercise were furnished by the Air Guard's 157th Tactical Control Gp., Jefferson Barracks, Mo.

Two Air Guard mobile communications groups handled the general purpose joint user communications type support needed by the Air Force Command Post. In addition, they provided the necessary facilities for airbase terminal air traffic control, navigational aids and overall general communications type support. These groups are the 162nd Mobile Group from California, and the 252nd Mobile Communications Group from Washington state.

WESTACS