

ABM RADAR BUILDING GIVEN TO CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Nekoma, ND - The second major tactical building of the Safeguard Ballistic Missile Defense System, the Missile Site Control Building (MSCB), was officially released Wednesday by the Corps of Engineers to the US Army Safeguard System Command. This was an intermediate step toward completion of Safeguard facilities in North Dakota.

The MSCB, housing one of two radars in the Safeguard System, is a reinforced concrete building approximately 230 feet square. Half of the building is underground; only the pyramid-shaped portion housing the radar is above ground.

Construction was started in April 1970, as part of a record \$137 million contract awarded to a joint venture of Morrison Knudson Co., and Associates. Members of the joint venture include Morrison-Knudson Co., Inc.; Peter Kiewit Sons Co., Inc.; Fischbach and Moore, Inc.; and C.H. Leavell and Co.

Facilities for the North Dakota Safeguard System are being constructed under the supervision of Brig. Gen. Bates C. Burnell, division engineer, Huntsville Division, US Army Corps of Engineers; Col. John L. Lillebridge, Grand Forks area engineer; and A.D. "Doc" Poteat, resident manager for M-K.

In accomplishing the turnover of building responsibility, control was passed from the Huntsville Division to the Safeguard System Command (SAFECOM) headed by Maj. Gen. R.C. Marshall.

SAFECOM will supervise the installation and testing of tactical radar and data processing equipment through the director of site activation, Brig. Gen. John E. Sterling, and North Dakota site activation commander, Col. Matthew W. Hoey, who is also the installation commander at the Safeguard complex. Col. Lillebridge transferred control of the structure to Col. Hoey in the working ceremony.

The Western Electric Co., Greensboro, NC, the weapon system contractor to the Safeguard System Command will move into the building and immediately initiate the installation and testing of tactical equipment.

Completion of the tactical equipment installation is scheduled for the fall of 1974. At that time, control of the facility will be given to the US Army Air Defense Command for operation.

The first major tactical building transferred to SAFECOM was the Perimeter Acquisition Radar Building. That facility was transferred August 21, 1972. The remaining facilities are scheduled for completion by the Corps of Engineers and release to the US Army Safeguard System Command during the next six months.