

MONTANA MISSILE HOUSING SLATED IN WHEAT FIELDS

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Helena, MT - The Army Corps of Engineers thursday announced a decision by Army Chief of Staff General William Westmoreland to locate missile housing and support facilities in the wheat fields of central Montana.

Conrad, Shelby and other nearby communities had tried to have the more than 650 housing units located within their confines, but the decision calls for construction to be at the sites of the missile installations.

Vern Hamilton of Conrad, corps spokesman, said the decision on site location was made by Westmoreland after study of all possible locations.

Hamilton said 417 homes, sufficient for a population of 1,625, will be constructed at a missile site radar installation nine miles east of Conrad. Another 240 units, housing 1,125 persons, will be constructed at a perimeter acquisition site 34 miles northeast of Conrad. Included at both sites will also be support facilities such as chapels and base exchanges, Hamilton said.

The housing construction is to be completed before the missile sites go into operation, and a target date for completion has been set for 1976. No starting date has been established, Hamilton said.