

Langdon, ND - The first of the major tactical buildings of the North Dakota Safeguard Ballistic Missile Defense System, the Perimeter Acquisition Radar building (PARb), was officially released today by the Corps of Engineers to the US Army Safeguard System Command.

The PARb, housing the long range eye of the Safeguard System, is a reinforced concrete building approximately 200 feet square and rising over 125 feet in the air. Three of its sides rise straight from the ground, while the face, which contains over 6800 radar penetrations, slopes back at a 25 degree angle. Construction on the PARb was started in April 1970 as part of a record \$137 million contract awarded to a joint venture of Morrison-Knudson Company and Associates (M-KA). Members of the joint venture include Morrison-Knudson Co., Inc.; Peter Kiewit Sons Co.; Fischbach and Moore, Inc.; and C.H. Leavell and Co.

Facilities for the North Dakota Safeguard System are being constructed under the supervision of Brigadier General Bates C. Burnell, Division Engineer, Huntsville Division, US Army Corps of Engineers; Col. John L. Lillibridge, Grand Forks Area Engineer; and A.D. "Doc" Poteat, Resident Manager for M-KA.

In accomplishing the turnover of building responsibility, control was passed to the Safeguard System Command (SAFSCOM) headed by Major General R.C. Marshall. SAFSCOM will supervise the installation and testing of tactical radar and data processing equipment through the Director of Site Activation, Brigadier General John E. Sterling, and the North Dakota Site Activation Commander, Col. Matthew W. Hoey, who is also the installation commander at the Safeguard complex. Col. Lillibridge transferred control of the PAR structure to Col. Hoey in today's working ceremony.

The Western Electric Company (WECO), 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 remainder of the Safeguard tactical facilities being constructed in North Dakota are scheduled for completion by the Corps of Engineers and released to the US Army Safeguard System Command during the period of fall 1972 to summer 1973.