

By Warren Strandell Herald Valley Editor

The high-power testing planned within the next 30 days at the Army Safeguard System's Perimeter Acquisition Radar (PAR) site near here may produce some electronic interference in the area, Glen Robertson, Safeguard information director, said here Tuesday.

The interference on other electronic equipment, he said, can be eliminated by improved maintenance of the equipment or by the installation of filters or shielding. "Most often, a single filter suffices and is obtainable from manufacturers, dealers or servicemen," he said.

PAR, a high-power or long-range radar, will be operated at full power for varying lengths of time during the testing period. The check out of the various elements of the PAR will be done, Robertson said, within established procedures and frequencies assigned by the President's Interdepartmental Radio Advisory Committee. "And," he said, "we will adhere to the safety criteria established to preclude radiation hazards to people and animals in the surrounding area."

Electronic interference occurrence can be reported by the general public by calling 933-8217, extension 421 or 949-2218, extension 557 anytime during the day or night or by writing: Commander, US Army Safeguard System Site Activation Command - Grand Forks, Box 631, Langdon, ND 58249. -be recorded as quickly as possible and a Safeguard representative will contact the person to identify the type of interference.

A report of interference will provide technical information on ways to eliminate it.

Reports of interference from users of frequencies controlled by the Federal Communications Commission will be coordinated with the FCC. The FCC will also coordinate all applications for frequency assignments within a 50-mile radius of the tactical site to minimize the possibility of mutual interference situations.

Robertson said the interference that may occur will not affect electric equipment, only electronic equipment.

"Our policy is that reports of interference are to receive the highest possible priority of attention commensurate with the demands of the ongoing Safeguard mission," Robertson said.

The Safeguard Ballistic Missile System being deployed by the United States here in North Dakota," Robertson said, "represents nearly two decades of research and development aimed at providing the nation with a defense against ballistic missile attack. The primary mission of the Safeguard installation here is to protect a portion of the nation's land-based retaliatory power - the Minuteman intercontinental ballistic missiles located hereabout."

The system consists of five basic components: two types of missiles, two types of radars and a complex, sophisticated data processing system. The Spartan missile is the long range defensive missile and the Sprint, a shorter range, backup missile. PAR is the long-range radar and the Missile Site Radar, at Nekoma, ND, both tracks incoming missiles and controls the defensive missiles.

Construction of Safeguard began in the spring of 1970 with construction of the PAR building completed in August 1972, and construction of the MSR building at the Nekoma site completed and turned over for installation and testing of tactical equipment in January 1973. The remaining facilities, including four remote sites for the Sprint missiles, are scheduled for completion and turnover this summer. The entire Safeguard system will be turned over to the Army Air Defense Command in October 1974 and be operational in 1975.