

Maintenance Men In AF More Than Grease Monkey

OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, Neb. (UPI)—The Air Force maintenance man is no longer just a grease monkey, but an electronics technician who must prepare intercontinental rockets for instant firing.

Maj. W. H. Charlton, 43, chief of the procedural branch of the Strategic Air Command's missile maintenance division, said maintenance crews are now being trained by the Air Force and the rocket builders as well for the time—not far off—when SAC will have operational missiles.

Charlton, a 23-year service veteran from Washington, Pennsylvania, said preparation for the missile age requires a "tremendous management effort" because of the highly complex nature of the weapons.

At SAC headquarters here, Charlton and other officers make plans

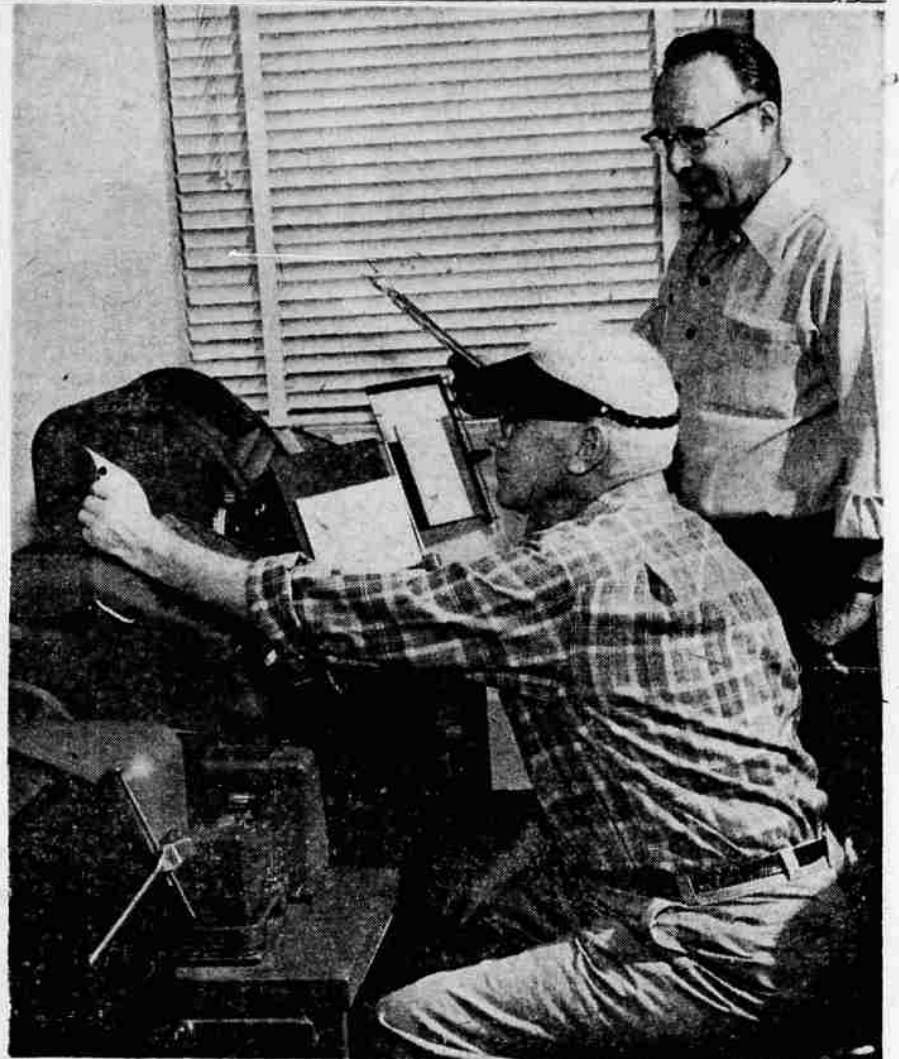
to keep the missile-men abreast of the latest developments in their ever-changing field.

"The state of the art is moving forward at such a pace," Charlton said, "that the electronic advances keep passing up the latest college textbooks."

He said missile maintenance is "very intriguing and perplexing" because the rocket that is going to be fired in anger cannot be tested in actual operation beforehand.

Aircraft, he pointed out, can be flown "with many things wrong," but the slightest equipment failure can make an intercontinental missile useless.

Charlton said the maintenance work is broken down into three levels—field maintenance for on-the-spot repairs, bench maintenance at the various missile squadron headquarters and depot maintenance either at a central point or at a contractor's plant.



THE TELETYPEWRITERS, left, directly link Great Northern and Western Pacific yard offices from Bend to San Francisco. A second line connects all Great Northern traffic offices on the West Coast. Connecting lines make wire communications between this office and Great Northern headquarters at St. Paul, Minnesota, a matter of minutes. Here, relay manager L. C. Shepler, right, checks a message with operator H. S. Cunningham.

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SPARE TIME MED STUDENT

MUNSAN-NI, Korea (UPI) — A South Korean Army rifleman serving with the U.S. First Cavalry Division here uses his spare time to continue his medical studies. Pfc. Kia In Kyu of Seoul goes to the company library whenever he can to read its scientific and medical journals. He reads English, Chinese and Japanese as well as Korean.

MAYAN CALENDARS

COPAN, Honduras (UPI) — Calendars devised by the Mayan Indians here more than 1,000 years before Columbus discovered America have been adjudged more exact than either the Gregorian or the Julian calendars. The Mayans, who plotted the movements of the sun, moon, Venus and other planets, devised a sidereal calendar (based on the rotation of the earth on its axis) that was only .000069 of a day off each year.

Automatic Communications System Goes Into Full Use At New Great Northern Yard

By LAMAR HOOVER

Now in full operation at the Great Northern's Klamath Falls yard office building, which was completed in March, 1958, is an automatic communication system especially designed by Remington-Rand, Inc., for the purpose.

This modern system is based on the teletypewriter communications which link this center directly with other principal Great Northern offices on the West Coast, and indirectly with all other system offices including headquarters in St. Paul, Minnesota.

A key punch card is made for every car entering the Klamath Division. Such cards may either be directly punched on the key punch machine in the Klamath Falls office, or may be made from tapes which are produced by attachments to the teletypewriter lines, which express the impulses sent over the lines from other points, by means of tiny

holes in a paper tape. Conversely, the information sent out of Klamath Falls over the communications lines may be specially typed, either directly on the line or onto a similar tape, or the tape can be produced from the punched cards.

The most common use of this system is that the consist of trains coming onto the division from either Bend or Beiber is sent by teletypewriter to Klamath Falls, where a punched card representing each car is produced. The progress of the car across the division is represented in this card, which finally, as one of many in a single pile, will represent one unit of the train taking it off the division, when it will become an accounting problem for someone else.

In addition to this elementary use, the system allows all Great Northern offices to have a daily report on cars which they originate; the yardmaster uses the same cards to direct the switching of cars through the Klamath Falls yards. Finally, the entire operation of the Great Northern is constantly being summarized in St. Paul by a Univac machine into which material gathered on punch cards and teletypewriters is fed. Headquarters receives a complete report on the consist on any train leaving here within one hour of its departure. "There has been no reduction in manpower locally because of this new system," Division Superintendent Paul Cruikshank says, "but we have more accurate accounts and reporting than before — and the operation is much more rapid, with resulting improvement in service to the shipper."

BY YOUR LEAVE

MERIDEN, Conn. (UPI) — A thief who broke into a firm here only took some leaves off a tree. The leaves were one-dollar bills which had been attached to the tree in honor of the firm's opening up for business.

FLYING FISH

BATON ROUGE, La. (UPI) — Louis Johnson says he was slowly paddling through a bayou looking for a quiet fishing spot when the water suddenly churned up and a green trout came flying through the air, landing in his boat. Johnson had the fish to prove it. It weighed two and a half pounds.



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