

Isolation-Minded Midwest Becomes Front Line of Missile Base Deterrent

By Ingrid Leader Kraus

In the threatening shadow of an atomic war, the formerly isolation-minded Midwest is no longer isolated, but is becoming the front line of defense for the United States.

With the build-up of bomber and missile bases in the Midwestern states, this segment of the country is fast becoming the primary deterrent of war, according to Maj. J. R. Ruehle, former information officer at Lincoln Air Force Base.

Five types of Air Force missiles, ranging in size from the 110-foot Titan intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) to the less than 15-foot Quail decoy missile, will be distributed to 10 Strategic Air Command stateside bases in Wyoming, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Colorado and Ohio.

They include Atlas and two

erational, a major proportion of these missiles will soon be housed in the Midwest.

Also, Army Nike missile sites will be located in the cattle, wheat and tall corn country, the "bread basket" of the nation.

Target

Omaha, Nebr., has often been mentioned as the first target in the United States in the next war. The reason for this assumption is that SAC headquarters are located a few miles south of Omaha, at Offutt Air Force Base. SAC headquarters is the control center or central targeting agency for assignment of targets to all armed forces.

Other evidences of this huge defense set-up in the Midwest, include a concentration of B-47, B-52 and B-58 jet bombers, Air Defense Command and Tactical Air Command

weapons become prime targets, too. Thus, the location of missile launching sites in the Midwest could turn that section into a major battle ground.

Why this concentration of defense power in the Midwest?

According to Maj. Ruehle, the United States no longer plans to reach the enemy over the ocean, but go over the poles instead.

"It's easier for us to reach the enemy over the poles, but it's harder for them to reach us in the Midwest because our country is so spread out," Maj. Ruehle said.

All of this build-up of military potential to refine and maintain the deterrent posture of the armed forces throughout the nation with concentration on the Midwest has occurred since the end of World War II.

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"Being close to the Atlas, a weapon that has the power to destroy the entire city of Moscow, has made people much more aware of international problems."

The missile and defense build-up in the Midwest has affected not only individuals but entire communities. Peaceful little towns have become boomtowns with the advent of missile site construction crews.

Take the little hamlet of Cortland—near Lincoln, Neb.—where an Atlas site is being constructed. This town has become a beehive of activity.

Strange faces are entering the town almost daily, searching for places to live. Base-ments that stored canned fruit and vegetables, now house workers that have come from as far as Canada and the northern part of Maine.

Boom Town

Cortland has felt the shock that many towns experienced in the famous gold rush of 1849. Its population has increased over 50 per cent within the past few months.

Carloads of rock, cement, steel brackets and tanks have been streaming in by rail daily, into a small rail yard that once had been used only for an occasional load of grain or coal.

Vernon Peterson, Union Pacific railway agent said he handled five cars of coal and

lumber in November of 1959. Turning his records to October, 1960, he observed that in that month he handled 107 cars, all containing materials destined for the 12 Atlas missile sites that will be constructed at strategic locations in southeast Nebraska.

Grocer Carl Bonebright commented upon the attitude of the community concerning the missile site construction:

"At first we were somewhat apprehensive of the missile and the out-of-towners coming in, but we have accepted them in a cordial way and in turn they have become part of us."

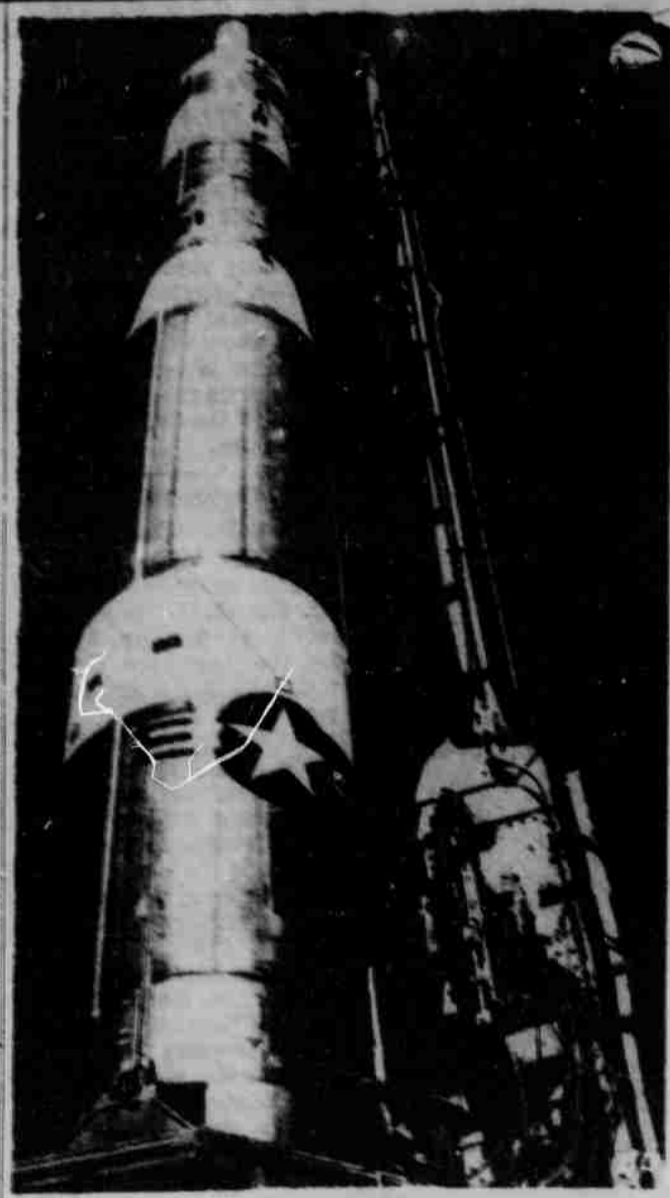
He continued, saying, "This sudden expansion in the town has affected the school program. The school was at full capacity prior to their coming and now approximately 35 or 40 additional students have enrolled. That old brick school building is literally bulging at the seams."

Effect Lessens

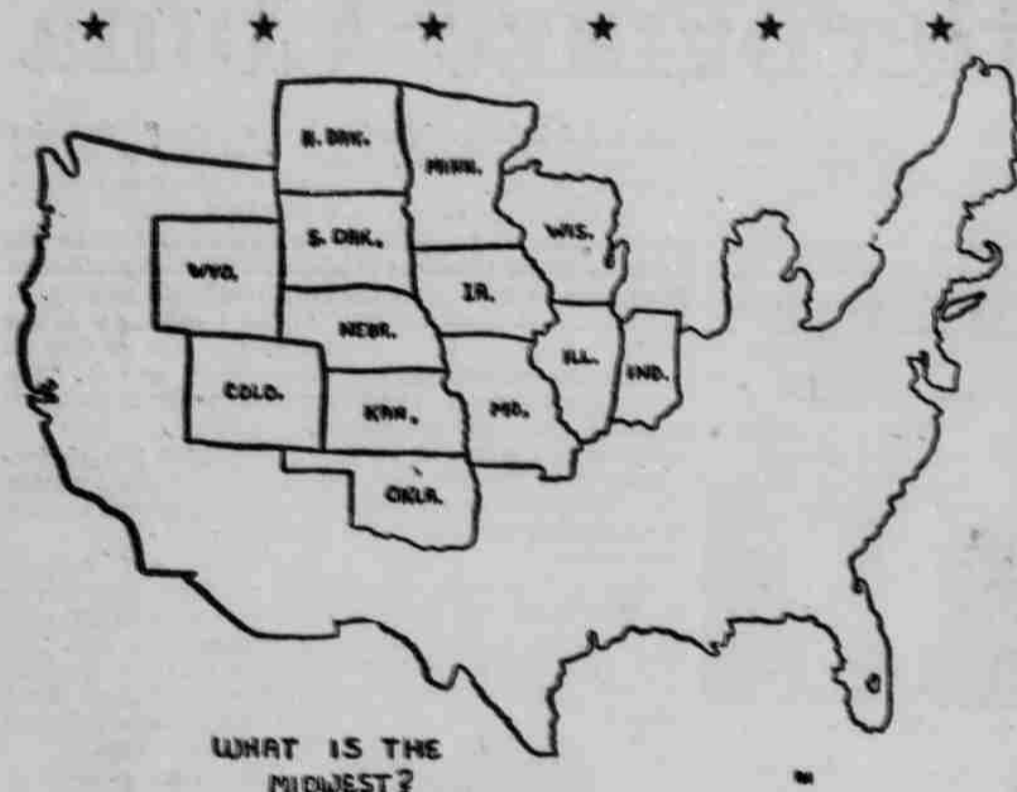
But like all boomtowns, the mushroom effect lessens as the work dwindles. And the village of Cortland is no different from any other place. Sometime this year, many phases of the missile sites will be complete. Some of the "hard hats" will be pulling out while other people wearing the colors of the United States Air Force will be moving in.

But like in the gold rush days, evidence will remain for a long time that there has been boomtown activity. For, out east of town, a vast hole 65 feet wide and 185 deep will house a deadly weapon, the Atlas missile, to be fired only in case of war.

After the crews move out, Cortland will be again a peaceful village, unchanged, except for one thing. It will



TITAN MISSILE



WHAT IS THE MIDWEST?

types of Titan ICBM's, the Round Dog and Quail missiles.

Atlas missiles will be housed near Francis E. Warren AFB, Cheyenne, Wyo.; Forbes AFB, Topeka, Kan.; Lincoln AFB, Lincoln, Nebr.; Offutt AFB, Omaha, Nebr.; and Schilling AFB, Salina, Kan.

Titan bases will be Ellsworth AFB, Rapid City, S.D.; Lowry AFB, Denver, Colo., and McConnell AFB, Wichita, Kan.

Minot AFB, Minot, N.D., a Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, O., have been designated for Hound Dogs and Quail Decoys.

Missile Train

In addition, railroads in the midwestern (also far western) United States are the testing grounds for a new national defense concept—the mobile missile train.

Strategic Air Command, co-operating with other military agencies and major civilian rail lines, is operating the test train designated to show how well a future fleet of actual missile trains could operate over existing tracks.

In a few years, SAC planners believe, several trains carrying Minuteman solid fuel ICBM's, will be moving almost constantly over the nation's rail networks.

Atlas ICBM complexes are already under construction in the Midwest. Now that one type of Titan has become op-

bases, in addition to SAC bases.

Backing up all of this with a protective screen of radar is the North American Defense Command (NORAD) at Colorado Springs, Colo.

According to Maj. Ruehle, NORAD can be called the pulse of the defense build-up in not only the Midwest but

Ingrid Leader Kraus was graduated from the University last January with majors in journalism and political science. She is married to another J-school graduate, Carroll Kraus, and is now living at Fort Benning, Georgia, where Carroll is stationed in the Army. While on the campus, Ingrid was active in many organizations. She was a columnist for the Daily Nebraskan, and president of Builders, and a member of Theta Sigma Phi and Mortar Board honoraries. She was also a reporter for the Lincoln Journal and the recipient of a journalism scholarship.

also in the United States. With its warning systems, NORAD will flash to SAC, ADC and Army bases, notification of hostile action in the form of aircraft or missiles penetrating the United States.

In war, the hunter is also the hunted—the best defensive

Prior to that time the Midwesterners seemed to heed more the advice of an isolationism given by George Washington than people on the coasts, for example.

Isolation Belt

Before World War II, Congressmen referred to the bread basket of the nation as the isolation belt. Senator George Norris from Nebraska voted against entrance into World War I.

Also, according to Dr. James Olson, chairman of the history department at the University of Nebraska, pressure which kept the U.S. out of the League of Nations was especially great in the Midwest.

Also, in the past, Midwesterners have been somewhat casual in their interest in international affairs.

Marvin Hatcher, formerly on the public information staff at Lincoln Air Force Base, believes that the tremendous build-up of defense power in the Midwest, has changed the former isolationistic outlook of its inhabitants.

In his talks explaining the missile program to persons living near missile sites, Hatcher has exchanged opinions with hundreds of people.

World Affairs

He noted that the farmer, watching a missile silo being built on his field or following the path of a B-47 from his backyard, is becoming in-

creasingly interested in world affairs.

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Anthropologists' Modern Tools Uncover Ancient Arikaran Culture

By Rod Hansen

Modern day machines are being used to uncover remnants of an age-old culture this summer, according to Dr. Preston Holder, University of Nebraska Anthropology instructor.

Last summer Holder and 15 anthropology majors began the excavation of an Arikara Indian village in the vicinity of Mohrbridge, South Dakota using only shovels and other hand tools.

This summer the work will continue; this time with the aid of road patrols, dirt scrapers, ditching machines and other large, power driven tools.

"Since the entire area will soon be covered by the waters of the Oahe River, we have to speed up the digging with machines," said Holder.

The entire village, which once was inhabited by about 2,000 people, is expected to be completely excavated by the end of next summer.

College Credit

Holder, accompanied by his wife, also an anthropologist, and 10 to 15 students will spend eight weeks at the village site. They will live in tents close to the excavation. The students earn up to nine college credit hours for their work.

"We are interested mainly with the outline and nature of the approximately 140 houses in the village," said Holder. "These and their related storage pits can tell us something of the manufactured goods of the culture."

"During last summer's work we found many interesting artifacts among the rubble and random garbage areas of the village. This summer we hope to fit these together to tell us more of a story."

"The houses are either very large or very small," said

ing to Maj. Ruehle, is to be prepared for an attack through civil defense.

"Although people in the Midwest have become more conscious of international problems, they still do not realize the importance of a fallout shelter and other precautionary measures which will insure their survival in an atomic war," Maj. Ruehle said.

He concluded:

"As long as people remain after an atomic war to crawl out of their shelters, the enemy cannot claim a victory."

This responsibility, accord-

Coaching School Hosts Lecturers

Two guest lecturers, Walter Hackett, chief assistant, and Chuck Purvis, coach of offense at Baylor University, will conduct the football clinic at the Nebraska Coaching School, August 17-19.

Elroy Brawner, basketball coach and assistant athletic director at Denver University, will conduct the basketball classes, and Louis Wewel, football coach at Bergan High School in Fremont, will lead three sessions in eight-man football.

Climax of the school will be the Shrine football game, Aug. 18. Registration for the session is \$5 and rooms will be available in Sedlock Quadrangle, according to Husker coach Bill Jennings.

Museum Displays 3 Rocket Models

Three National Aero Space Agency rocket models have been given to the University State Museum for permanent display, according to museum director Dr. C. Bertrand Schultz.

The gifts were made by the General Dynamics Astronautics and will be placed in a special case for viewing by the general public, Schultz said.

The models include the Atlas-Mercury with the man-shot capsule, the Centaur and the Agena. All three rockets are being used by the government for scientific space probes.

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