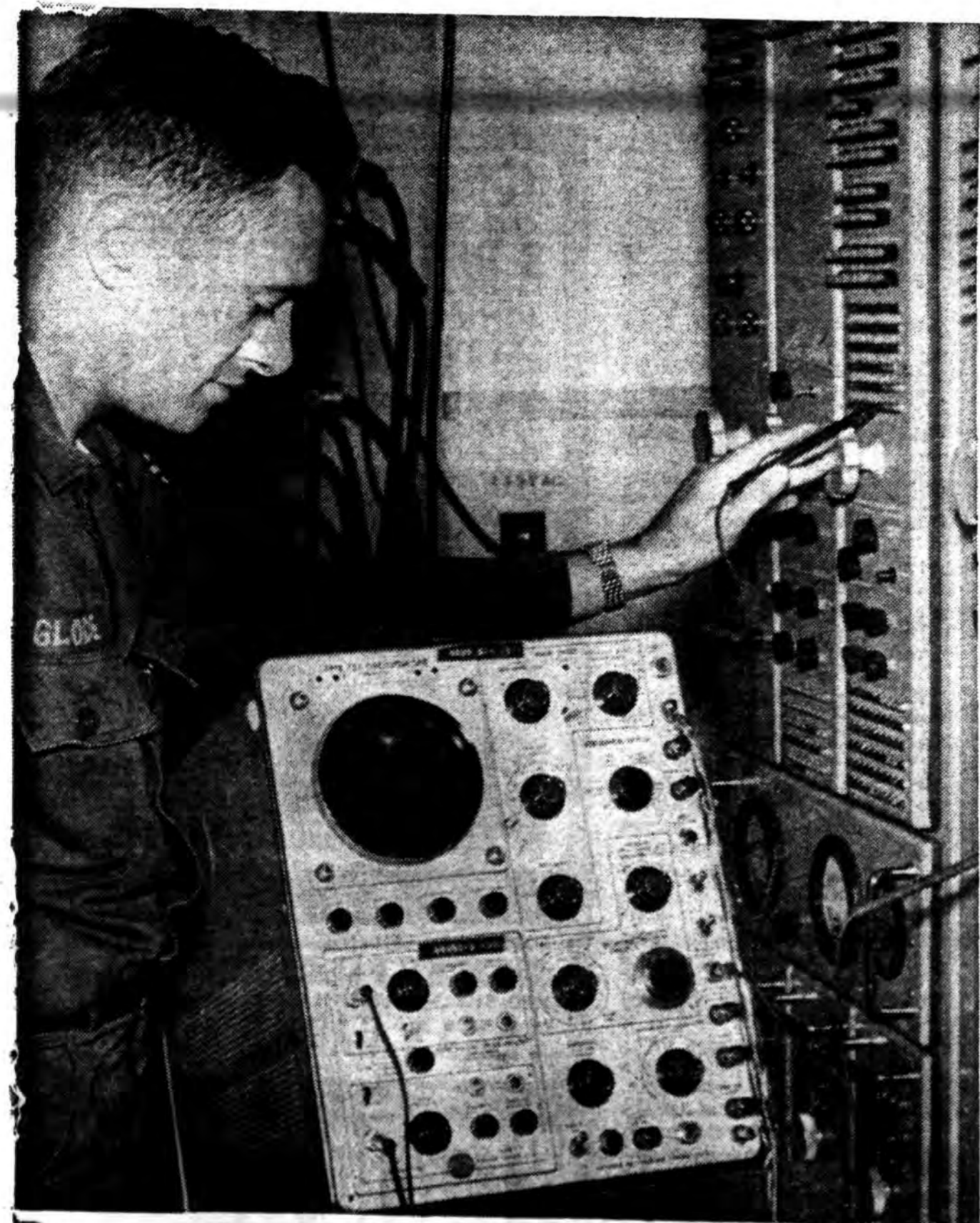




Maj. Paul Campion, site commander, inspects the base honor guard as Lt. Thomas Creegan and First Sgt. Ronald Drew observe.



A.I.C. William R. Glode compares waveforms as he checks out the highly complex data processing machine that feeds radar data to the director finder

Radar Station Keeps Watch On Air Lanes

It sounds like the ideal assignment:

An aircraft control and warning station situated on hills overlooking a lake and a stone's throw from a bustling resort area — not to mention mountains.

It's the Saratoga Air Force Station, occupied by the 656th Radar Squadron. The base is perched atop heights at Ketchum Corners on the east side of Saratoga Lake. In addition to a multitude of attractions offered by Saratoga Springs, there are the Adirondacks just a brief drive to the north.

Most of the base's personnel are on permanent assignment — and very few transfers are requested.

The unit collects data on all aircraft within range of its huge white radar bubbles and transmits the information by computer to Hancock Air Force Base in Syracuse.

The computers process such data on aircraft as height, speed and shape.

The base, constructed in 1951 is self-sufficient and is maintained by 160 regular Air Force personnel in addition to civilian employees.

It also has the only Civil Defense-approved nuclear shelter in this area.

*Saratogian
Staff Photos
by Jim Sargent*



First Sgt. Ronald Drew puts the finishing touches on another meal in the dining room as Roberts and S.Sgt. William S. Mitchell enjoy the food.