

5<sup>th</sup> OMS Minot AFB ND  
 Courtesy of Fred Gunn

*GUNN*  
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5 OMS Helicopter Branch  
 Alert Recall Roster  
 15 September 1969

2ndLt Holcomb

SMSgt Clifton

MSGT McFarland

TSgt Robinson

TSgt Lundy

TSgt Gunn

SSgt Karis

SSgt Valk

SSgt Titter

SSgt Mulvany

SSgt Hernandez

SSgt Braaten

Sgt White

SSgt Peckens

SSgt Scott

Sgt Exline

Sgt Bell

SSgt Schwartz

A1C Winkle

Sgt Schmidt

Sgt Pochowski

A1C Prout

Sgt Everitt

SSgt Bottoms

SSgt Quinones

Sgt Worley

Sgt Farmer

NOTE: Each person will notify the person directly under his name. In case the person you are to contact is not available, you will contact the person directly under his name and notify him that the person who normally would notify him could not be contacted. After contact you will report to your section and await further instructions.

*BARRACKS*  
*Brown sanford SKillestad Minnichoff*  
*Turgeon curtis Ri vara Rhodes*

# 16 Chopper Pilots Support 10,000 Square Mile Area

By Amn. Howard Mack

The 5th Bombardment Wing (Heavy) helicopter operation section supports the 91st Strategic Missile Wing by transporting missile combat crews, maintenance personnel, security police and supplies to the missile launch facilities (LFs) and launch control facilities (LCFs).

The section supports 150 LFs and 150 LCFs of the 91st SMW encompassing 10,000 square miles.

Seven UH-1F "Iroquois" helicopters are assigned to carry out this unique mission. The UH-1F carries up to nine pas-

sengers in addition to two pilots plus up to 400 pounds of baggage.

Of the 16 pilots in the section, seven are Vietnam veterans. During a typical week, they fly over 60 missions and are on alert seven days a week but do not fly any alert exercises.

The pilots receive their initial "chopper" training at Sheppard AFB, Tex., where they get 140 hours of flight training. Upon their arrival here they receive an additional 20 hours of actual flying.

Besides this, they fly another 200 hours to get certified as passenger qualified.

The helicopter operation sec-

tion came into the bomb wing in January 1968. Before the unit was attached to the 862nd Combat Support Group.

Since it began to support the missile wing in the latter part of 1965, it has flown approximately 27,167 hours and had only one major accident.

In August 1967, the "birds" and their crews engaged in forest fire fighting in Montana and Idaho, getting Air Medals for their aerial feats.

Another unique aspect of the section is its flying range, 700 feet to a mile, the lowest-view flying range minimum of any aircraft in the Strategic Air Command.



**PRE-FLIGHT INSPECTION** — Maintenance personnel perform a pre-flight inspection on a Bell UH-1F Iroquois helicopter. The helicopter carries personnel and supplies to various missile sites. (U.S. Air Force Photo)



NCOIC - ECOM IV  
WAS TDY - Sheppard AFB

COMMITMENT COMPLETE - A helicopter of the 5th Organizational Maintenance Squadron lands after completing the squadron's 1,920 hours flying commitment for the quarter. This was the first time it has been done in 5th OMS history. Crew members were 1st Lt. Don Fralick, pilot, and Sgt. Mike Pochowski, crew chief. Waiting to greet them were Lt. Col. Daniel Hutchinson, squadron commander; 2nd Lt. Robert Holcomb, OIC of mission support; TSgt. Augustus Robinson, assistant NCOIC, helicopter section; SMSgt. Carl Clifton, NCOIC of mission support; and Sgt. Clifford Peckens, shift supervisor. Marshalling the helicopter is SSgt. Ronald Titter, also a shift supervisor. (USAF PHOTO BY SGT. DENNIS CLARK) 04/869