1. INTRODUCTION
An organization, USAF Radar Station Veterans Monument Association, 501(c)(3), manned by all volunteers, has been created to design, fund and place a monument at the National Museum of the Air Force in Dayton, Ohio. The monument will forever honor the legacy of thousands of men and women who served at radar stations, some remote and isolated, in the United States and foreign countries in peace time (the so-called Cold War) and during hostilities in other parts of the world. This document provides a brief description of where they served and some of the many problems they had to overcome.

2. THE EARLY SITES
The most commonly noted site is the one at Ft. Shafter in Hawaii that picked up the Japanese planes approaching Pearl Harbor. Many of these same types of equipment were deployed in World War II.

Following WWII, the U.S. government determined that some radar sites were needed in Alaska to monitor Russian aircraft. In addition, sites were deemed necessary to protect defenseless Japan from Russian aircraft based on the Sakhalin and Kuril Islands, which the Russians had obtained by entering WWII against the Japanese at the close of the war. These early stations were at primitive and isolated sites that presented many problems in living and working conditions. The sites in Alaska, as well as the Northern sites in Japan, were snowbound most of the year. The men who lived and worked at these primitive locations suffered from isolation. There were few activities other than work to relieve the boredom.

The radar sites during the Korean War were primarily mobile radars that followed the troops into North Korea before the Chinese entered the war. When the battle line stabilized along the 38th parallel longer range trailer-mounted radars were used along with a few fixed search radar sites. The equipment was left over from WWII and was difficult to maintain due to a shortage of spare parts.

3. MANUAL SITES
In the 1940s and early 1950s, the Russians continued their political activities in hoping to achieve a communist domination of the Korean peninsulas and Vietnam. In Europe, the Russians also blockaded land routes to Berlin.

In the early 1950s, the Air Force concluded that the air defenses in northern Japan and Alaska needed to be improved to counter the effect of Russian over flights. Fixed radome covered equipment not affected by the weather was installed. The Air Force also made long range plans to install fixed sites along the northern border of the United States called the Pine Tree Line. Plans were also made for installing equipment along the Arctic Circle called the Dew Line. The Air Force was not sure they could obtain the qualified
personnel to maintain the ever increasing technical requirements. However, the Air Training Command increased not only its technical but operational training and met the ever increasing needs. Again, many of the sites were remote and isolated with many being on mountain tops.

4. TECHNICAL UPGRADES

As the number of fixed sites increased, the Air Force realized that a different approach was needed to meet communication requirements in conducting intercept operations. Plans were made to establish “Sectors” where the radar data would be fed from the individual sites to sectors and displayed for operational control. The system was called Semi-Automatic Ground Environment thus the name “SAGE.” Along with data from the fixed ground sites additional information was provided from offshore “Texas Towers,” Airborne Electronic Systems, Picket ships and Satellites. Some of the older equipment was no longer needed due the advances in technology and were retired. The so-called “Cold War” increased the need for more sophisticated systems.

In the middle of the Cold War hostilities erupted in Vietnam requiring reassignment of men, woman and equipment to Vietnam. Once again, the personnel assigned to man the many remote and isolated sites in Southeast Asia would be separated from their loved ones for a year at a time. Some of the sites, such as “Monkey Mountain,” in South Vietnam, were fixed sites while other mobile sites were used to meet the needs. In addition, many fixed sites around the world were added and improved with the 412L system in Germany, along with many mobile radar sites.

5. PHASEDOWN

Today, the Air Defense Command no longer exists. The 1st Air Force at Tyndall AFB, Florida, receives some input from existing Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) stations.

The personnel who served at remote and isolated sites and the companies that provided the technical equipment can look back proudly on their past as having a part in preventing World War III. They and their families endured many severe hardships as they maintained year round operations, missed holidays and family gatherings to support the mission. Many of the sites have been turned over to local communities for use as they see fit; many have been torn down; and several have been turned over to the FAA for airspace control.