

# New Maintenance Control System

By Maj William D. Lewis

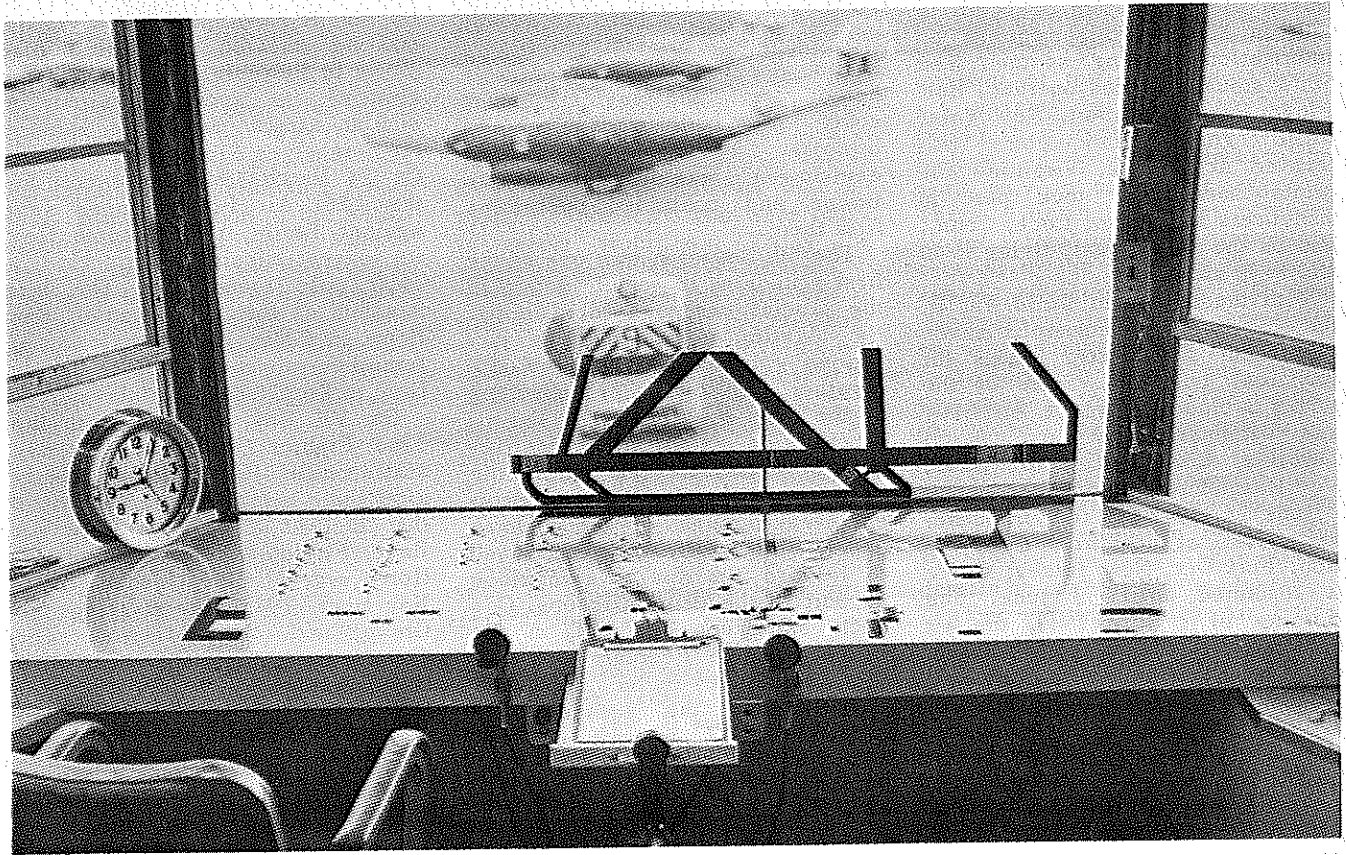
Maj Lewis was Senior Air Force Advisor to the Montana National Guard. The day after he wrote this article he was killed in a F89J takeoff. He had been attached to the Air National Guard for more than three years, and previously had been with the 29th Air Division. Maj Lewis was a capable and highly respected Air Force officer.

Personnel of the 120th CAMRON Squadron, Montana Air National Guard, have recently taken a giant step toward solving the problem of aircraft maintenance and production control. The new system of control based upon ideas outlined in AFM 66-1, was designed by Capt Rex W. Tanberg and his able assistants and incorporates an observation or control tower, an extensive inter-phone system, a public address system, UHF and VHF radio, the maintenance control board, and a magnetic display board where miniatures of aircraft, pieces of ground handling equipment and refueling units may be moved about

on a scale model of the parking ramp.

The advantages of the new system were summed up by Capt David Fox, Maintenance Officer of the Squadron; "If you can see and hear what is taking place on the line and if you can talk to mechanic, pilots and radar observers at all times, you can eliminate troubles before they become problems."

Setting up the new system required a great deal of ingenuity and know-how. There was no Tech Order kit and no E.C.L. authorization for equipment. The maintenance crews did the work themselves with materials from the scrap pile.



View from the observation tower, showing magnetic board representing ramp with miniatures of aircraft and equipment. Montana Air National Guard photo.