

# Air Force, Alascom start Meteor Burst

Lt. Gen. David L. Nichols, Alaskan Air Command commander, and George Shaginaw, Alascom general manager, officially put AAC's Meteor Burst communications system into operation recently.

Meteor Burst will literally use star dust falling from the sky to fill a void in military communications in Alaska.

A commercial satellite system provides the bulk of AAC's command and control communications.

Radar data from AAC's 13 long-range radar sites, scattered throughout Alaska, is fed to the satellite positioned 23,000 miles above the equator. The data is beamed back to earth, to the Regional Operations Control Center at Elmendorf.

The system has provided excellent communications, according to officials of Elmendorf's 1931st Communications Wing. They said it had proved reliable and has had few outages.

However, the earth stations at the radar sites are subject to natural disasters, officials said.