

AFN-TV presented Election 74

by Danny V. Gates

For those brave souls who were ambitious enough to rise and shine at six o'clock Wednesday morning, AFN-TV, Berlin, presented Election 74. The news staff, production crew, and engineering section combined forces to bring the community up-to-the-minute election coverage.

According to Army Staff Sergeant Charles Rickard, AFN-TV News Director, the early sign-on time was chosen to coincide with the closing of the polls on the west coast. Throughout the two hours and forty-one minutes of election coverage, results from the various Senate, House of Representatives and Gubernatorial races continued to pour into the AFN-TV news room. With the help of a group of student volunteers from Berlin American High School, the results were broadcast to the community as soon as they came in.

Air Force Staff Sergeant Bruce Dortin, Senior News Editor for AFN-TV, Berlin, and Producer of Election 74,

explained the concept of the program. He said the idea was not only to present election results as fast and as accurately as possible, but at the same time, to provide some insight into the different races and some background on campaign issues and candidates.

SSG Dortin also praised the work of the volunteers from the High School. The students, who acted as assistants to the news staff, gathered election facts and results as they came in on the teletype machines. They also prepared tabulation boards used by the production staff in presenting the final election news. Dortin said that the students began work at four o'clock in the morning, and worked tirelessly throughout the coverage.

Master Sergeant John O'Connor, the AFN-TV Berlin Station Manager, said that the immediacy of the election results, and their final impact on the people in the community, prompted the station management to carry Election 74, another step forward in providing news and information to the Command and the community.



UP TO THE MINUTE election returns were received from U. S. wire services and telecast immediately by AFN-TV. Volunteers from the Berlin-American High School senior class reported at 4 a.m. to help tabulate

the results. Left to right are Jackie Strickland, Karen Martin, Karen Totman, Elisa Huston, Kevin Lindroth, Bryan Wallace, and Peter Walsh. (Photo by Danny Gates)