

Newest Army Division Packs Atomic Punch

By BEN PRICE

FT. CAMPBELL, Ky., July 20 (AP)—For the first time since the dawn of atomic warfare, the United States has a revolutionary new army division—fully trained and able to move into a nuclear war on four hours' notice.

In organization and battle tactics, the new pentomic army will be almost totally unrecognizable to Army veterans.

Although there is only one division trained now—the 101st Airborne—the Army plans to have all divisions converted to the new command and combat doctrine within two years. It has already begun with the 82nd Airborne at Ft. Bragg, N. C.

The 101st is a five-sided division of paratroopers, packing its own atomic punch. That's where the name pentomic comes from—"pent" for Pentagon or five-sided which is where the Defense Department headquarters also gets its name—"omic" from atomic.

Gone are the battalions and regiments of previous years. In their place is a new unit called the battle group. Five battle groups make up the division, each battle group has five companies. The same general outline will apply eventually to all divisions, airborne, infantry or armored.

Transportable by Air

The 101st, famed as the "Screaming Eagles" of World War II, was reactivated last September. It is totally transportable by air, ready to begin moving anywhere on the globe within four hours—assuming planes are available.

It will carry four Honest John rocket launchers, and rockets with atomic warheads. The payload of an Honest John is reported to be about 2,000 pounds of TNT, or an atomic warhead with a destructive capacity of between 10,000 and 30,000 tons of TNT.

In the 101st, the Army has designed a division which looks forward to the end of the air age and the beginning of the missile age.

Implicit in this is the employment of atomic weapons, missile-destroying rockets and the use of launching sites as far as 1,500 miles away from target. These missiles would be used as long:

1. range artillery and tactical aircraft.

Jupiter Not Perfected

Some of these weapons are still dreams on the drafting boards. Some, like the 1,500 mile Jupiter, exist but are not perfected.

The new battle groups call for distribution of 1,500 to 1,700 man formations over an area 30 to 35 miles in diameter. Two major combat techniques have evolved with this development.

1. Since wide dispersion invites enemy infiltration, the Army has a family of atomic warhead missiles of varied power which can be used relatively close to our own troops.

2. The Army has developed the air burst technique for its atomic shells and missiles. This minimizes the radioactivity in a blasted area, permitting our own troops to move into the area. Scientists are working on perfect atomic weapons with even less radioactive residue—the much discussed "clean" bombs.

3 Types of Wars

Right now the 101st is capable of fighting three types of wars.

The so-called brush-fire war of limited aggression, using conventional weapons as Indochina and Korea.

The limited war, calling for atomic weapons only in and around the battlefields.

The all-out war in which everything goes, including the hydrogen bomb.

Nobody here wants to become involved in a roles-and-missions argument with the Air Force over who is going to do what in the next war. But there is a tacit belief that although the 101st is airborne, the airborne attack is an interim weapon, that military aircraft shortly will be dated if not plain obsolete.

Even so, the tactics evolved by the 101st presumably could be tailored to the age of rockets, when men and supplies will be delivered and evacuated by missiles.

The man who put the 101st together with the aid of a couple of brigadier generals and several bright young colonels is Maj. Gen. Thomas L. Sherburne. He believes that the era of airborne attack employing parachute troops may last another 10 years or so.

In an interview, he said that he could foresee a not-so-distant day when troops involved in the Middle East could call for supporting fire from missile launching sites in, say, England.

Puget Sound Bridge Plans Authorized

OLYMPIA, July 20 (AP)—The most ambitious bridge construction project in state history was revived Friday when the State Toll Bridge Authority approved the Vashon island route for bridging Puget Sound.

The 103 million dollar four-lane network of bridges and roads will connect Seattle with Vashon island, Bremerton and Bainbridge island.

Some ferry lines now plying the sound would be replaced when the project was opened to traffic.

William A. Bugge, state director of highways, said the bridges and roads could be completed by 1963 or 1964 if no hitches develop and proper financing could be arranged.

The vast project in the talking and planning stage since 1948, involves four bridges, including the longest floating bridge in the world and one of the longest suspension bridges in America.

The floating bridge, sitting atop concrete pontoons as long as a football field and half as wide, would stretch two miles across salt water between the south end of Seattle and the northern tip of Vashon island.

The suspension bridge would connect Vashon island with the Kitsap peninsula. Two smaller bridges would carry traffic to Bremerton and Bainbridge island.

Professor Found Dead at Eugene

EUGENE, July 20 (AP)—An associate professor of voice at the University of Oregon, Herman Glenhausen, 59, was found dead Friday morning in his parked car.

A garden hose was connected with the car's exhaust and the motor was running. County Coroner Fred Buell said Glenhausen left a long note indicating family troubles, Buell said.

101st, which probably is the Army's only truly combat ready division.

It is capable of moving within four hours—a fact which is demonstrated over and over again in practice drills.

Since it was reactivated last September, the 101st has acted precisely as if war were going to break out tomorrow.

Ready for Overseas

Every man in the outfit has, or shortly will have, all the required shots and vaccinations for overseas duty. He has made out his will, signed a power of attorney for his next of kin and made arrangements for disposition of his personal property.

As Col. John S. Lekson, chief of personnel and administration, puts it: "We are trying to put the division in a state of constant readiness—365 days a year."

The battle groups within the division take turns at standing by on the alert. When a preliminary alert is sounded for a battle group all men who live off the

post must move back to barracks. Lekson is now in the process of setting up a warden system whereby military and local police in nearby Clarksville, Tenn., and Hopkinsville, Ky., can start rounding up off-post paratroopers any hour of the day or night.

Spot Troop Concentrations

The 101st is equipped with airborne television and radar to keep tabs on the enemy, including infra-red ray equipment to spot troop concentrations at night.

Further, it has a ground radar unit, easily carried by two men, which guards against enemy surprise attack.

During my visit to Ft. Campbell the battle group commanded by Col. George I. Forsythe was on standby alert when somebody hit the panic button just for practice.

It was an amazing demonstration of orderly confusion. Men out for physical training came racing into barracks to change into battle dress. Jeeps pulled up to the quarters. Live ammunition, machine guns and bazookas were loaded aboard.

Across the street, in the unit's vehicle area, radio-equipped jeeps kicked over to provide power and energy.

In Forsythe's words, the 101st is a fire brigade without fire engines.

Even without the engines, though, Forsythe and his men go through an almost constant fire drill.

Ready for Combat Quickly

In less than four hours the troops were ready for combat.

On the basis of one airplane taking off from one airport every 15 minutes, Forsythe figures the head and tail of his column would be separated by 13 hours.

This brings up a sore point: airlift. The Army wants the Troop Carrier Command planes of the Air Force ready for immediate use.

In this way, the Army contends, more than one airfield could be used and the time for transporting the battle groups shortened considerably.

The Army men here advance the argument. What good is it for

Portland Plans All-Out Drive On Gambling

PORTLAND, July 20 (AP)—Portland Mayor Terry Schunk and Police Chief William J. Hillbruner said this week they are launching an all-out drive against persons who use their business establishments to cover up gambling.

According to an investigation by Portland police, there are at least six persons who are paying federal wagering taxes and at the same time conducting business establishments.

Schunk said he will do everything in his power to see that city licenses are taken away from business establishments whose operators are paying federal wagering licenses fees.

'Hams' Plan Meeting

TILLAMOOK, July 20 (AP)—The annual picnic of the Oregon Emergency Net, an organization of amateur radio operators, will be held Sunday at Cape Lookout State Park south of here.

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