

Aleutian Chain Shelters Air Defense of Continent

By GORDON W. SCHULTZ
 United Press International
 Anchorage, Alaska (UPI)—A tiny island in a cluster around Attu at the tip of the Aleutian chain shelters an integral part of the air defense of the North American continent.

The island is Shemya. It houses gigantic Air Force radars and other technical equipment that military authorities regard as "top secret." It is one of the closest U. S. military installations on American soil to Russia.

Shemya is more than 1,300 miles from the nearest U. S. Air Force installation in the Alaskan Air Command at King Salmon. And it was from King Salmon that U. S. fighter planes streaked into the sky when a Russian plane flew over Alaska territory on March 15. Another Russian plane the same day flew over waters regarded "out of bounds" for Soviet planes.

Both Russian planes may have been scouting Shemya.

The Air Force says very little about Shemya. Officials of the Alaskan Command at Elmendorf Air Force base are touchy on the subject. Queries are greeted coldly.

No Women
 There is little on the island other than the Air Force station, its highly-secret equipment, Air Force and Army personnel and a dog or two. There are no women.

Although the strategic mechanisms on Shemya today are wrapped in military secrecy, the island has a history that started 20 years ago in the bitter Aleutian campaign of World War II.

Japanese surveyors had staked the island for a bomber base. A short distance away Japanese troops held the island of Attu for 11 months in what was the first enemy invasion on American soil since the war of 1812.

In January, 1943, the war councils on both sides pointed Shemya as strategic.

It was 1,800 miles from Anchorage in one direction and the same from Tokyo in the other.

The time of occupation was approaching on a collision course. Then suddenly it was averted.

See Task Force
 A few miles short of their destination a Japanese Shemya task force was discovered by a U. S. plane flying a scouting mission. The lone plane circled the convoy without a shot being fired from either side and observed an unaccountable about-face.

Apparently the Japanese wanted their Shemya move to be a surprise and, when it was discovered, they withdrew.

Meanwhile, the battle for Attu took place. After nearly every Japanese soldier was killed the American forces were sent to Shemya.

Battle-weary infantry men and engineers were to secure the island in the event enemy troops were present. Some Japanese survey stakes were found but the Japanese were not there.

Part of Shemya's value to

the military is in its level topography. There isn't a hill higher than 500 feet above sea level. Because of the relatively level terrain the island is called a stationary flattop. Planes can get on and off in a variety of foul weather without running the risk of smashing into unseen mountains.

Develop Base
 Using the Japanese survey stakes as guides Army engineers covered the landscape with buildings and roads for a modern airbase operation. Over 1,000 structures went up, linked by a road net 80

miles long. The island is about 4½ miles square.

Angry seas all but frustrated the best efforts of the Army engineers to build docks. Piling was ripped from the ocean floor in the coves and inlets and draped helter-skelter around the island. But the docks had to be replaced quickly so the island could be supplied.

V-J day and peace quickly eclipsed the importance of Shemya. The base was manned by troops in diminishing numbers for several years. Most military forces had

moved out in 1949 and Shemya was used as a refueling stop by Northwest Orient Airlines on flights between Anchorage and Tokyo. Shemya's strategic value was apparently gone.

But the military became interested in the old base in a relatively recent phase of the cold war.

In 1957, Shemya was re-surveyed for a listening post and a warning station. The advent of nuclear-tipped missiles spelled renewed significance under Russia's cold shoulder.

Army engineers came back to construct again and in the following year work was feverish. This time steel and concrete instead of wood was used to fashion a dock braced against the enraged Bering sea when it is whipped into frenzied whitecaps by 150-mile-an-hour gales.

Two heavily reinforced radars the size of outdoor movie screens were erected in podiums of concrete. Because of the winds, the roots of the antennas were twice the bulk of the superstructures.

Shemya has made the tran-

sition from the air age of World War II to the space age in five years. The airplane still is the workhorse for the island, however, and heavy transports roar in daily. They carry critical materials, much of which is classified secret. But they also carry fresh fruits and vegetables that can't be raised at Shemya because the temperature extremes range from 17 to 60 below zero.

Despite its supply problems, Shemya is once again a strategic pinpoint in the web of America's air defense.

Your Money's Worth
 By SYLVIA PORTER
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WHAT PUBLIC THINKS OF LAWYERS
 Almost four out of ten Americans have no legal protection or service whatsoever. Among us who are users, many think of lawyers only for the "must" services—accidents, damage suits, divorce. Few think of a lawyer as the guardian of the individual's rights and as offering services in the areas of taxes, real estate, business advice.

In general reputation, lawyers rate substantially below most other professions. The person who uses a lawyer actually has a lower opinion of the ethical standards of the profession than the person who does not use one.

A majority of lawyers themselves believe they overcharge us in certain fields—particularly when fees depend on results (contingent fees) and in personal injury cases. The public not only feels the same way about these fees but also is highly dissatisfied with the way most lawyers present bills for services rendered.

There's a shocking lack of confidence among large numbers about the possibility of getting a fair trial in the courts, opinion of traffic courts is abysmally low and the individual who has direct knowledge of the courts has less confidence in them than the person whose knowledge is restricted to TV, movies, newspapers, radio.

Most lawyers think the best way to build a practice is through extra-practice activities (getting around and meeting people), but the fact is two-thirds of us choose a lawyer strictly on the basis of his general reputation for capability and honesty.

Only 35 per cent of us believe lawyers are honest and truly dedicated to their profession. These are some of the startling findings of the most comprehensive, probing study ever undertaken of any profession—in this case, the legal profession. The survey was initiated by the Missouri Bar almost three years ago, was conducted among over 5,000 individuals in the population-balanced state of Missouri, was financed by the Pren-Hall Foundation, is released today by Prentice-Hall and will be the basis for a textbook in the future.

The legal profession will be pleased by few of the findings. Yet, the very criticism, based on so exhaustive a study, can make a major contribution to the legal profession's economic future and to the protection of the public.

The blunt truth is that for 25 years, the economic position of the legal profession has been declining in comparison with other professions. There has been growing awareness that this has been due to the fact that millions who should be using legal services are not doing so and the millions of us who do use lawyers do not use them to the extent we should. Now this survey pinpoints the reasons—the public's ignorance of services lawyers perform, distrust of fees and courts, etc.

Of course, the aim of the Missouri Bar-Prentice-Hall study is to prod the organized profession into corrective measures. Among its specific recommendations are these:

The Code of Ethics governing the profession must be clarified and the lawyer educated to the extent to which he may go in giving up a "complete legal check-up" and to which he may ethically volunteer advice.

Lawyers must recognize that when they criticize an opposing counsel, a judge or jury, they are downgrading their entire profession in a client's mind. This criticism explains why users of lawyers have less respect for the profession than non-users.

Lawyers should discuss fees with us at the earliest opportunity, should itemize their bills in detail. Fee schedules should be developed and encouraged and an effort should be made to achieve some degree of uniformity on fees on a state-wide basis.

The organized Bar should put strong emphasis on improvement of jury trial and court procedures and improvement of traffic courts should be a prime objective.

Many of this survey's conclusions will defy long-held assumptions of the legal profession, but say the authors, "That has been the purpose: to separate facts from assumptions so that action programs can be taken" to improve practices of and our attitude toward the profession, and thus to improve the profession's economic status.



NOSE TO NOSE—Scott Dunbar, 9, meets Rajah the panther nose to nose at the Baltimore, Md., zoo, after he won a contest to name the animal. Although the panther is yet a baby, it is separated from Scott by glass. (UPI)

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