

U.S. Air Force in Europe Stands Ready To Assist in Major Disasters

By WELLINGTON LONG

Wiesbaden, Germany—U.S. Some Europeans call the U.S. Air Force in Europe (USAFE) "Samaritans with wings" because of the help it brings whenever disaster strikes in its area of operation.

The people of Skopje, Yugoslavia, learned this week just how true that description is, as more than a score of other nations already know.

USAFE's main job in Europe is defense, and with today's nuclear weapons, it has the capability of inflicting destruction more awesome than any of the 26 disasters to which it has flown aid. But this destructive power is something USAFE hopes will never be needed. Its relief work is on constant call.

The USAFE specialties are flood and earthquake relief,

which usually require large quantities of aid material quickly, and often it is needed in inaccessible places.

Helped 21 Countries

Since USAFE started keeping track of its emergency aid operations in January, 1953, it has been involved in helping the victims of 26 disasters in 21 countries, and scores of other events less serious.

The backbone of the disaster relief operation is the 322nd Air Division, functioning from Evreux, France.

Its pot-bellied C130 "Hercules" aircraft are familiar wherever disaster strikes. The turbo-prop planes have helped relieve the distress of floods in Britain, Holland, Syria, Iraq, Germany, Iran, Jordan, Libya, Kenya, Somalia, and Morocco, and of earthquakes in Turkey,

Greece, Algeria, Morocco and Iran.

USAFE was there helping the victims of the Agadir, Morocco, earthquake which took 12,000 lives in 1960 and the earthquake in Iran which took 10,000 lives in 1962. It was at the Hamburg, Germany, flood in 1962 and Holland in 1953 when the angry sea destroyed the dikes.

Helped Many Victims

It has helped the victims of snow storms in Italy and Sicily, of a collapsed dam in France, avalanches in Austria, cyclones in Pakistan, and fire in Yemen.

USAFE usually flies and sometimes air drops emergency supplies to a stricken area a few hours after the disaster. Planes often return with refugees. Sometimes, a whole army field hospital, with all its staff and trucks,

Among the more spectacular efforts, USAFE also air-

lifts medicines to prevent epidemics, and sprays wide areas against locusts.

The men of USAFE are

anxious to go when the SOS comes in.

The Skopje earthquake struck Friday morning. As

soon as the extent of the disaster became apparent,

USAFE figured out what it ought to do to best help, and informed the Yugoslav government this was what the Americans could do if Belgrade asked for it.

Pilots Were Ready

The American planes gathered at Ramstein, West Germany, one of the major nuclear bases, and loaded the

army field hospital. Pilots began straining at the leash.

The precise sequence is uncertain, but at one point, the lead plane took off before diplomatic clearance for the flight over Yugoslavia had been given.

Remembering the time several years ago when nervous Yugoslavia gunners knocked an American Air Force plane out of the sky, control officers called

this plane back, and told him to land until things were straightened out.

The planes, when they finally got the go-ahead, flew directly to Belgrade, where they unloaded.

The mercy convoy immediately drove south to the disaster area. The U.S. Army trucks bearing gleaming white stars were escorted by Yugoslav military police wearing shiny red stars.

As the Americans drove past, Yugoslavs applauded and yelled "Ziveli Amerikanci" (Long Live the Americans).

McGinty Leaves on Hawaii Training Cruise

Portland—UPI—The Naval Reserve training ship USS McGinty was to sail today on a three-week summer training cruise to Hawaii.

The ship will carry a reserve crew of eight officers and 130 enlisted men plus a regular Navy crew of three officers and 45 enlisted men.

NAMES DEL'GATE

Washington—UPI—Joseph D. Tydings, U.S. attorney for the district of Maryland, will be the Justice Department's delegate to the 1963 general assembly of Interpol, the International Police Organization.



TO FACE CHARGES—Mrs. Lynne Swisher, who robbed a bank to finance a vacation in Hawaii, is shown upon her return to San Francisco to face charges. She surrendered to Honolulu police when she ran out of funds and waived extradition. Accompanying her is United States Marshal Yee, who escorted her from Honolulu. (UPI)

The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, three editors and a women's editor. Each article is a summary of a family disagreement presented to the Council. The Council deals with problems, major and minor, encountered by guidance counselors and social workers. Edited by Mrs. Alma Denny. (Copyright by General Features Corp.)

for her to have her own apartment.

Noreen N.—I'd like a taste of being in charge of myself.

Mrs. L. N.—What sense can there be in a young girl moving to separate quarters when her parents have a sumptuous home a mile away? Noreen is 22, holding down her first job as a trainee in a department store. To live alone in a presentable place would take her whole salary. Besides, it may give young men she entertains the wrong idea.

Noreen N.—I don't want to be like some of my friends who take out-of-town jobs or even jump at the first marriage proposal just for a chance to set up housekeeping on their own. Why can't an unmarried girl try it? My parents are more concerned with what "people" will say than with whether I can swing this change. It's a natural step for me.

The Council: The unspoken fear of this mother leaps from between the lines: "How will Noreen ever get a nice husband? She'll look like a substantial catch with us and our lovely house as a background." And insofar as a suitor wonders why she left her home (a big family fight? horrible parents? quest for dates and social adventure?) Noreen must be very clear herself as to her reasons. As

stated, they are valid. The success of her move will depend upon her maturity. It is this which will dictate how she conducts herself with no one around to remind, censure, or censor. All birds, Mrs. N., must fly the coop. Yours isn't being pushed out, or plucked out. Instead she's taking a deep breath and lifting off solo. And since there'll be a continuing friendship, she'll certainly touch home base frequently—especially with a heavy (and hungry) date. . . . Of course remember, Noreen, independence is a two-way stretch. You make all decisions alone, but you cry alone, too!

Simpson Participates In Strategy Seminar

Maj. Hugh G. Simpson, Ashland, was a recent participant in the Defense Strategy seminar-63 at the National War college in Washington, D.C.

Simpson, public relations director of Southern Oregon college, attended the seminar with about 200 other reserve officers.

APPROVED AWARD

Vale—UPI—The General Services Administration has approved award of a contract to Ore-Ida Foods, Inc. to build additional office space for the Bureau of Land Management here.

Looper Spraying Called Successful

Olympia, Wash.—UPI—The DDT attack on hemlock looper, menacing 14,000 acres of privately owned Pacific county timber land has been pronounced an "unqualified success" by an official of the Weyerhaeuser Co.

C. Montgomery Johnson said that the insecticide killed at least 95 per cent of the loopers but "there was absolutely no fish kill."

Johnson said that more than 400 water samples were taken from creeks in the spraying area. He called it the "most intensive water monitoring program in the world."

The project, which was sponsored by Weyerhaeuser and Crown Zellerbach, was completed Monday night.

It was the final phase of a massive program involving both the state and private timber companies, to eradicate the looper on almost 70,000 acres of forest lands.

New Weyerhaeuser Plant Unveiled

Coos Bay—UPI—Weyerhaeuser Co. Tuesday gave community leaders and news media representatives a preview of what it billed as the nation's newest high-speed, automated forest products plant.

Manager Howard Hunt said the plant here will begin production early next month with 150 employees. He said the plant cost more than \$5 million and will produce 100 million square feet of 3-8 inch plywood annually.

Ultimate plans call for 300 employees and a production of more than 200 million square feet, he said.

Plywood superintendent Bert Hammond said the main features of the plant are improved lathe design, an automatic grading line, high speed packaging, a combination high speed sawing and sanding line and a 36-opening hot press, the largest in the industry.

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