

Mobile American Forces In Pacific Can Strike On Hour's Notice

By C. YATES McDANIEL
WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States commands the Pacific approaches to the Chinese mainland with mobile power, including atomic, that can be applied on an hour's notice and reinforced with little fear of enemy interruption.

Unlike the American forces in Europe, which are largely tied to specific area operations, most members of the all-service team in the western Pacific are moving or ready to move all of the time. Washington ordered "precautionary defensive measures" for this mobile force after the Communists launched their heaviest bombardment of Quemoy, Nationalist-

can reinforce each other or fly at supersonic speed to the Asian mainland in less time than it takes many Americans to get to and from work each day.

The 7th Fleet, commanded by Vice Adm. Wallace Beakley, is formed around five aircraft carriers, one of which is equipped for anti-submarine work. The carriers are backed by two cruisers, 40 destroyers, four submarines and 20 auxiliaries. This fleet is being reinforced by ships and units of the over-all Pacific fleet.

The 7th Fleet boasts that it has no home base. But it does have the benefit of a complex of shore stations and supply points extending from the Philippine-Okinawa-

including five fighter bomber wings, more than three interceptor wings and a number of reconnaissance, troop carrier and light bomber wings.

The Air Force unit nearest the Communist-held mainland is the 17th Tactical Missile Squadron on Formosa. This squadron's Matador missiles, with a 600-mile range, could cross the Formosa Strait and hit most of the Red airfields that would be used in the event of an assault on the Nationalist island.

Formosa can rapidly be reinforced, and has been in the past, with fighters and fighter bombers of the 13th Air Force from Clark Field on Luzon and from the 18th

have in the past flown on to Okinawa, but are not regularly based there although ample supplies, fuel and munitions are on hand for their use.

The Air Force has its largest number of modern fighter type jets stationed in Japan. Some of these would remain there in spite of a shooting scrape farther south in Asia. But additional air power for the Formosa area could be derived from Japan by drawing on the 3rd Marine Air Wing which is still stationed there.

The 7th Fleet carriers regularly operate nearly 300 aircraft ranging from supersonic fighters to A3D atomic bomb carriers with ample range to cover any main-

Smaller Army units are on Okinawa where with the Air Force and the Marines they share the use of military facilities that have already cost more than 600 million dollars since World War II.

The American striking forces in the western Pacific are long on firepower and mobility, but they are not manned or intended for sustained, large scale ground fighting. The United States possesses power aplenty to hold Formosa for the Nationalists as long as Chiang Kai-shek's forces are determined and willing to fight for their island stronghold.

The United States has declared its obligation to protect Formosa. American policy has been deliberately fuzzy about its intentions toward the offshore islands held by the Nationalists and against which the Communists have been hurling their heaviest bombardment since the remnants of Generalissimo Chiang's forces fled the mainland.

The Nationalist army numbers about 400,000, of which 300,000 are combat troops. Nearly 80,000 Nationalist soldiers garrison their offshore islands. On Quemoy alone there are 60,000 Nationalist troops. The Nationalist Air Force numbers about 300 aircraft, little more than half of them jets — F86 Sabrejets and F84 Thunderjet fighter bombers similar to those used by the U.S. Air Force in

Korea.

The Nationalist navy has some 70 vessels, including 14 small destroyers.

The Chinese Communist army now numbers 2½ million after completion of a recent reorganization which emphasizes mobility and increased firepower. Red Chinese forces on the mainland coast of the Formosa Strait and at inland garrison points within three or four days of the coast number about 200,000.

The Chinese Red Air Force numbers about 2,500 aircraft, including some 1,800 jets.

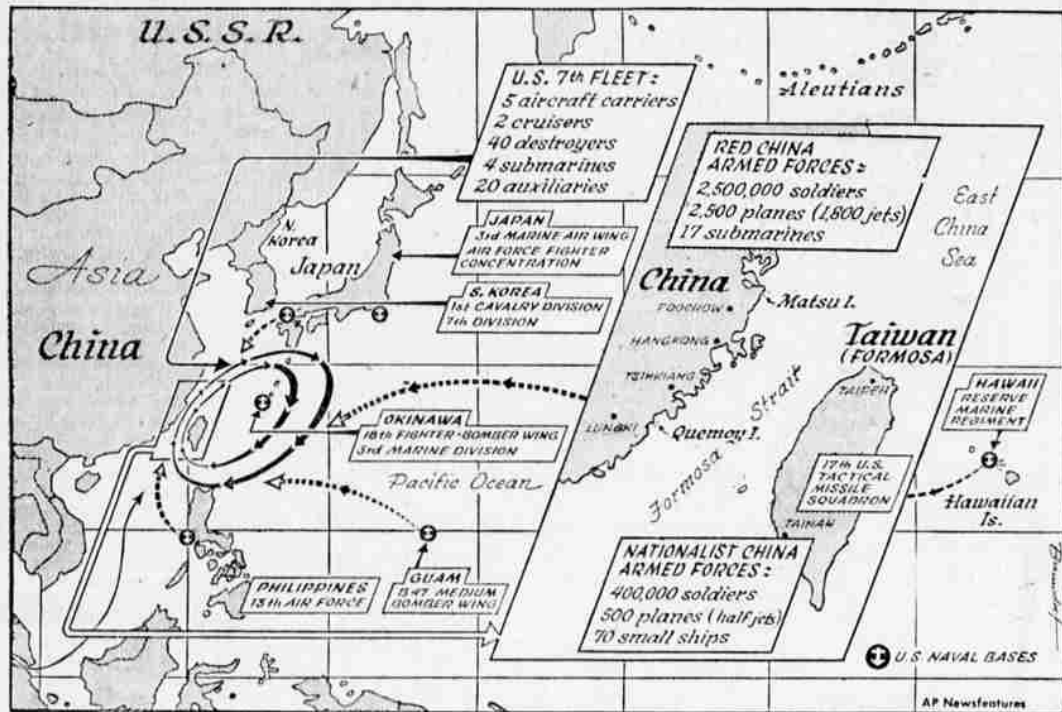
The Chinese Red navy is largely a small ship navy. It includes destroyer types, quite a few motor torpedo boats and patrol craft.

The most significant recent development in the Chinese Communist navy, however, is its acquisition of 17 submarines. These were assembled in China from components and equipment brought from Russia.

Most of these Chinese Communist submarines are short range coastal defense types.

But the Reds are known to have

assembled one or two longer range ocean-going submarines with snorkel breathing tubes that would enable them to patrol just under the surface of the ocean for long periods of time.



held island on the mainland fringe of the Formosa Strait.

The order applied to the 66-ship 7th Fleet, a dozen or more Air Force wings, Marines preparing to embark at Singapore and an Air Force missile unit that is in place and ready for action on Formosa.

In the western Pacific area only the two-division Army corps in Korea and certain air defense units in that country and in Japan have a specified area job to do.

American military power can be moved so rapidly and effectively in the western Pacific because the payload of United States policy in that theater is packed in the roaming fleet and in air wings. They

Japan line eastward through Guam, Pearl Harbor and all the way back to the Pacific Coast of America.

The 7th Fleet still uses two shore stations in Japan, Yokosuka and Sasebo. Okinawa provides some facilities for the Navy but the key station for the 7th Fleet in operations along the Asian seaboard is in the Philippines where the huge air station at Subic Point was completed after the Korean War to provide the same air support for the fleet that adjacent Subic Bay had long provided for surface ships.

The Air Force has in its Pacific command at least 14 wings, Fighter-Bomber Wing based at Kadena on Okinawa. For high speed jets, such reinforcing flights can be completed in less than one hour.

Backing up the fighters and light bombers in event of an emergency, the Air Force has on Guam, 1,340 miles from Clark Field, additional fighters and a full wing of B47 medium strategic bombers. The crews of these atomic bomb carriers are rotated to Andersen Air Force Base on Guam every 90 days to familiarize their crews with what would be required of them in a western Pacific operation.

B47s from this unit on Guam land based from which the Chinese Communists might attempt to support an assault on Formosa.

The Marine landing team of about 1,600 men, recently returned from Singapore, was drawn from the 3rd Marine Division which is stationed on Okinawa. This division, numbering about 12,000 men (its 3rd regiment is in reserve in Hawaii), is the fire fighting part of the western Pacific team. Its members are trained and equipped for rapid movement by sea or air.

Although the Army's 1st Cavalry and 7th Divisions are on defensive duty in Korea, the Army has its 28th Division in Hawaii, trained and equipped to reinforce the west-

New Social Security Laws Provide Monthly Hike Here

The social security amendments which were signed into law by President Eisenhower will provide increased monthly payments to about 2,500 people in Klamath County, beginning with the checks which are due early in February 1959, according to Wilbur W. Womer, social security district manager in Klamath Falls. The amount of the increase will be about seven per cent.

Under other changes made by the new law, social security benefits will become payable to a number of people not previously eligible for payments. They must, however, apply to their social security offices before payments can start.

Among the groups now eligible because of the amendments are: Dependents of people who are 50 or over who are now getting disability insurance benefits (children under 18 or disabled; a wife of any age who has a child in her care who is entitled to benefits; a wife 62 or over, or a dependent husband 65 or over; disabled people 50 or over who could not qualify for benefits under the old law because they did not have as much as one and one-half years of work in the three years before they were disabled. A total of at least five years of work under the law is still required).

Dependent parents whose son or daughter died after 1939 and who could not qualify for benefits under the old law because the son or daughter left a widow, widower, or child; Adopted children whose adopting parent began receiving retirement benefits less than three years after the adoption. (In many cases this provision will also make possible payments to the mother of the adopted child.)

A person receiving benefits who marries another person also receiving benefits can continue to receive monthly checks, or can become eligible as a dependent of the new husband or wife without waiting three years.

Some people in situations similar to those mentioned above may have applied for benefits in the past and been notified that they did not qualify for payments.

Basin Red Cross Schedules Meet

The annual meeting of the Klamath Basin Chapter, American Red Cross, will be held Monday, September 15, following a disaster drill to be conducted by the local chapter in cooperation with Civil Defense. Time of the meeting is 7 p.m. and new chapter officers and 10 members of the board of directors will be elected. The business meeting is open to all Red Cross members.

Preceding the annual meeting Civil Defense and Red Cross volunteers in communication, registration and information, first aid and canteen workers will participate in a drill beginning at 4 p.m. Notices of the disaster exercise are being mailed to all local volunteers who are asked to assist in the program. Local chapter officials urge that all receiving the notices reply promptly to the Red Cross headquarters, phone TU 4-4125.

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A LOT OF TROUBLE
CHICAGO (UPI) — Eleven men went to a lot of trouble to rob cab driver John E. Anderson of \$10 Thursday.

Anderson said four men he drove to a west side corner paid their fare and gave him a 15-cent tip, then got into a nearby cab with seven other men and the 11 started chasing Anderson's car.

During the chase Anderson's cab got stuck on a railroad track, a train narrowly missed him, a police squad car passed by but left when the 11 men assured the officers everything was fine, and finally Anderson was robbed.

The bandits left him the tip.

NATURALLY
McPHERSON, Kan. (AP) — Jolitta Schluhner, this year's National Spelling Bee champion, enrolled as a freshman this week in high school. One of her required courses — spelling.

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