

BERLIN BRIGADE

Unclassified Briefing

NATURE OF BERLIN BRIGADE:

It is the purpose of this presentation to cover briefly the nature of Berlin Brigade, its missions, resources, and some of its problem areas. Berlin Brigade commanded by Brigadier General Frederick O. Hartel, is the means by which the Commanding General, U.S. Army Berlin, Major General Albert Watson II, carries out most of his military responsibilities. However, there are additional missions as will be indicated. Organization-wise, Berlin Brigade is a major subordinate command of U. S. Army Berlin. But it is unusual in this category that it is an area command and a tactical command. However, these two broad functions come together at the headquarters staff level only.

MISSIONS:

Tactical missions assigned Berlin Brigade are as shown (Incl #1). In the event of war, we fight. A brief discussion of our philosophy under this contingency follows. In the case of general war, the NATO alliance and the free world would be the Soviet target, and not the Allied Berlin Garrison. In this event we would probably be fighting satellite or reserve Soviet forces. Since Berlin is in enemy territory, and is an important communications center, it is unlikely that nuclear weapons would be employed here. Our role under such circumstances would be to hold out as long as possible and to inflict maximum damage. Short of general war, we visualize a special type of limited war. This could take the form of an attempt at a rapid takeover of West Berlin by the communists, probably utilizing East German army and police forces. This might follow deliberately generated civil disorder. Under such chaotic conditions the Soviets conceivably might allow the East Germans to move against West Berlin, under the pretext of restoring order, and afford them the opportunity of seizing the city which they, of course, claim belongs to them. Our role in this regard is to remain strong and ready, so as to discourage any such maneuver and, in the event this fails, to prevent such a takeover or at least hold out long enough to demonstrate that naked aggression has been initiated, and thus provide the time necessary for higher authority to act.

The rapid and decisive repression of civil disturbance, we feel, is our most likely and primary role. The communists have the capability of generating tremendous crowds in East Berlin and East Germany which could then be moved into West Berlin. Using the hard core of 5,000 communists who already live in West Berlin, plus activists and police in civilian clothing who could be infiltrated in advance, they would have the necessary nuclei and leaders to activate and direct mobs. Such mobs could be utilized as the direct instrument, or cover, for a coup against West Berlin.

The capability of moving large crowds into West Berlin has been reduced because of the construction of the many barriers along the sector/sector and sector zonal borders, by the East Germans since the 13th of August.

The communists also have the capability of mounting commando type operations against vital installations and personalities in West Berlin with the view toward annexation or seizure of the city. Such action could be carried out by especially trained military and para-military personnel in civilian clothing with or without accompanying civil disorder.

Our allied plans designate the West Berlin police as the first line of defense in the event of civil disorder and mob violence. Our responsibility is to assist the police where necessary and to take over from them when they are unable to cope with the situation.

The third mission is the most difficult to attain, and one toward which our overall training program is directed. Berlin Brigade requires monthly unit musters and operational readiness tests.

The operational readiness tests are designed to demonstrate our readiness and to increase our ability to react to emergencies. An essential feature of these tests is the deployment of some elements to appropriate objectives, and the conduct of an exercise in riot control and combat-in-cities situation. However, this third mission involves much more than readiness training. In a nutshell our goal is to be rough, tough and ready on one hand, while at the same time, we insist that Berlin Brigade be the smartest military garrison in the world. This involves convincing every soldier and officer in the Brigade that they must look and behave better than any soldier, sailor, airman or marine in the world. It is our contention that if a soldier is drunk and disorderly in Columbus, Georgia or Frankfurt, Germany, that is a serious matter, but probably will not make the front page. However, if he is drunk and disorderly in Berlin, that is doubly serious in that he may make the international limelight and at least furnish the East German press with propaganda material. Thus, the control of the behavior pattern of our soldiers is of grave concern to all of us here, and we have promulgated a detailed and positive plan in furtherance of this effort. The results obtained have been gratifying. Our statistical rates for offences and incidents are better than the USAREUR average rate in every category. We cannot afford - in this sensitive spot - to ease the disciplinary pressure on the members of this Brigade.

Also involved in this third mission is the furtherance of community relations between the people of Berlin and the American community. Berlin Brigade conducts educational, religious, social, and sports programs in which Berliners participate. Some examples are the Berlin American schools exchange program where our children visit the German schools and act as hosts in their homes when German students visit our school. In addition, we have a going program wherein a small number of children in the first three grades actually attend a German school. Our military ceremonies and reviews are held at locations available to Germans; we have joined German-American girl and boy scout rallies and demonstrations. Our Army band performs for many Berlin audiences, Berlin Brigade track, basketball, golf, bowling and tennis teams compete against German teams. Our Rod and Gun Club has many German members. Officers and men of Berlin Brigade are making a continuing effort on an

individual basis to improve German-American relations.

U. S. ARMY ORGANIZATION IN BERLIN:

Now for the means by which we accomplish our mission in Berlin. As mentioned previously, Berlin Brigade is a dual command - tactical and logistical. Berlin Brigade is augmented by an additional combat unit, the 2nd Battle Group, 47th Infantry (Reinforced).

This chart shows the Berlin Brigade units which have been permanently stationed in Berlin (Incl #2).

Berlin Brigade units which are permanently stationed in Berlin are: the 2nd and 3rd Battle Groups, 6th Infantry, a reinforced tank company and an engineer combat company. This is essentially a tactical Brigade. The remaining units furnish troops to support the tactical and area command operations.

TRAINING:

In training, Berlin Brigade units follow USAREUR and Department of the Army training guidance, but place particular emphases on those subjects which have paramount importance to the mission in Berlin. About one year ago, in order to raise training standards and to develop techniques and doctrine, one battle group concentrated on combat-in-cities operations and developed exercises thereof and the other battle group accomplished the same regarding civil disorders and riot control actions. Cross-servicing of this knowledge has been accomplished between the battle groups and unit training in these subjects has been completed. It is felt that through continuous training we are maintaining a satisfactory degree of proficiency in both these areas by all troops. We have also recognized the necessity for emphasizing instruction in the art of marching. Not only is it considered that this is a soldierly and a necessary attribute in competition with our French and British allies, but it is felt that it also furnishes important disciplinary by-products.

Marksmanship is of continuing interest, and currently Berlin Brigade participates in USAREUR, LE CLERC and allied weapons competitions. In the 1961 LE CLERC matches, the 2nd Battle Group, 6th Infantry team represented Berlin Brigade and placed third out of seven teams competing. We do have small arms and sub-calibre firing ranges and we are fortunate in having surprisingly good close-in small unit training areas, which are available to our troops throughout the entire year. The major problem in regard to training is our inability to conduct live field firing exercises within Berlin.

For field training exercises, it is necessary to travel to training areas in West Germany during the summer months. Because of the political situation we are limited to the size of the force which may be absent from Berlin at any one time; therefore, no more than one half of one battle group and one third of our tank crews may train in West Germany at any given time.

SUPPORT MISSION:

Our area command or logistical function, is the fourth and last mission (Incl #4). Berlin Brigade is responsible for furnishing general support service, and facilities for approximately 11,500 Americans who live in Berlin. This mission includes the responsibility for the control and operation of Autobahn and rail access between Berlin and Helmstedt. Vehicles traversing the Autobahn average about 1,000 per month. Four daily military trains travel to and from Frankfurt, Bremerhaven and Berlin carrying passengers and cargo. Also, there are two regularly scheduled freight trains per month.

LOGISTICS:

To assist the military in accomplishing the logistical mission in Berlin we employ about 3,500 German employees. They permit the maximum use of military personnel for other duties. The logistical situation in Berlin is a sound and enviable one and tailored to the ever present possibility of a blockade or other emergency. For example, we have the capability for 5th echelon maintenance so that we do not have to evacuate equipment for repair or rebuild. This capability in Berlin assures a high state of material combat readiness, and the necessary self sufficiency to support contingencies.

In support of the combat mission, Berlin Brigade maintains an "operational stock" of all classes of combat supplies and equipment.

To provide for the contingency of a blockade, Berlin Brigade is authorized and has stocked all classes of supply for the entire American community.

FUNDING:

The cost of maintaining the U. S. Army in Berlin is supported by a unique budgetary arrangement featuring a Deutsch Mark budget and a Dollar budget. Our total funding amounts to the equivalent of about 20 million dollars. 90% of the total cost of operations is borne by the Federal Republic of Germany and the West Berlin Government, while the remaining 10% is supplied by the American taxpayer in the form of consumer credits, funds for military and emergency travel, pay for civilians, hospital food, etc. Headquarters USAREUR is our immediate approving authority and the U. S. Embassy in Bonn is the final approving authority.

PLANS:

Finally we would like to give you a quick orientation of where our units are located.

The sketch (Incl #5) shows the major allied installations in Berlin. Berlin Brigade Headquarters is located at U. S. Headquarters - McNair Barracks houses two battle groups - Special Troops and the major portion of the reinforcing battle group are at Andrews Barracks - and the tank

company is at Turner Barracks. Our major training areas are in the Grunewald Park area, an area approximately 4 miles by 2 miles - Keerans known distance range - Rose Range - and our combat-in-cities, and tank-infantry training area known as Parks Range. British Headquarters and Allied Staff Headquarters are at the Olympic Stadium. French Headquarters is at Napoleon Barracks.

In closing I would like to state that although there are many disadvantages in being completely isolated and surrounded by the communists, and performing in this showcase of democracy, we do have some compensations. Our men have an awareness of their missions and a purpose in their training that might be missing elsewhere. Our housing is as good as any in Europe. We have first-class barracks, service clubs, sports facilities, religious facilities and an excellent shopping center. A high state of morale and esprit-de-corps among both the military and their dependents.

We feel that we can report that Berlin Brigade is capable and ready to carry out the missions chargeable to it.

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M I S S I O N S

BERLIN BRIGADE

1. WAR

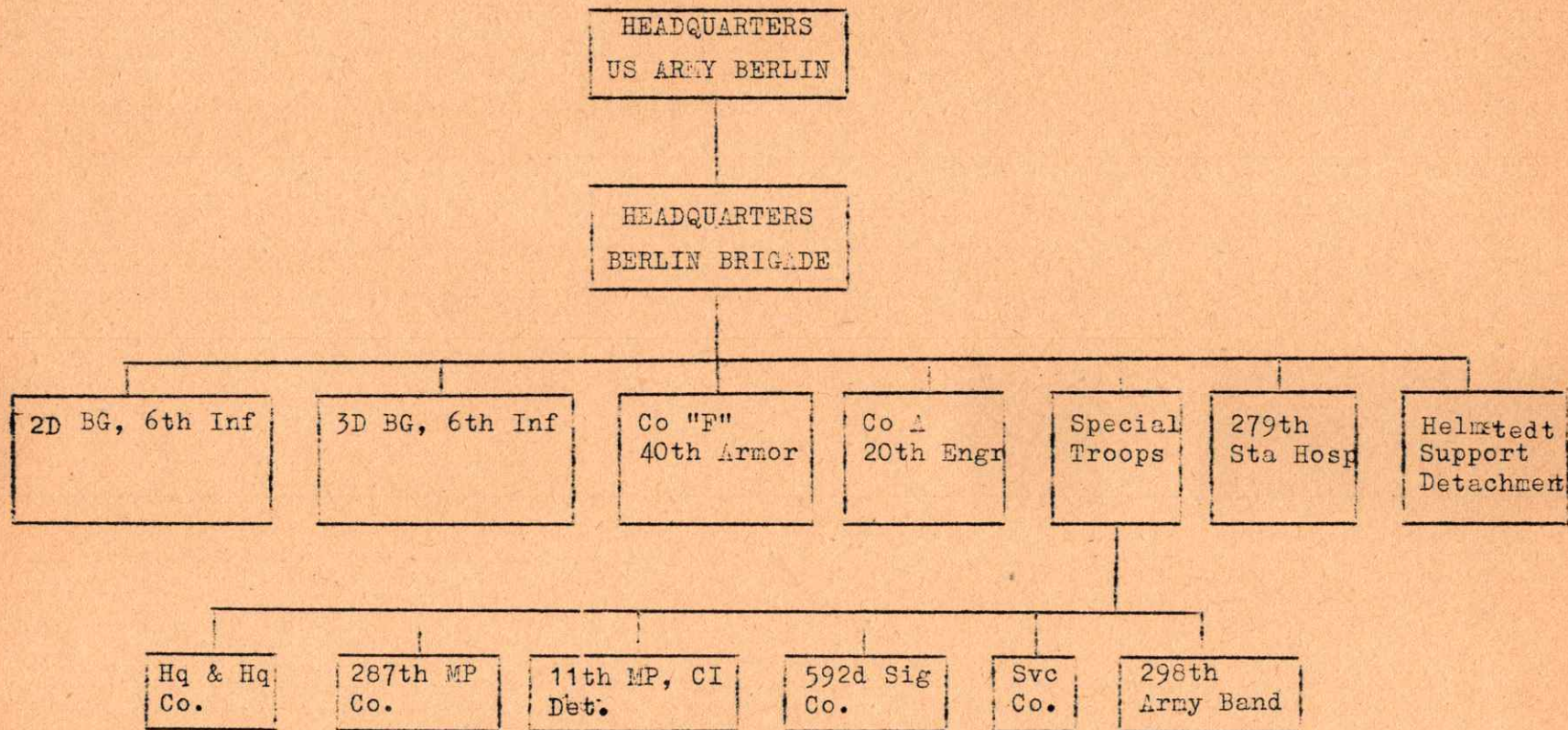
To defend Berlin in accordance with Allied and U. S. plans.

2. CIVIL DISORDER

Support West Berlin Police, Protect U. S. Lives and property and take necessary steps to restore order when police are not able to control the situation.

3. PSYCHOLOGICAL

To demonstrate a military posture of readiness and, through conduct and appearance, show the American Soldier at his best.



Inclosure # 2

TRAINING EMPHASES

1. Combat-in-cities operations.
2. Civil disorder and riot control actions.
3. Ceremonies and appearance.
4. Marksmanship.

LOGISTICAL MISSIONS

Berlin Brigade

SUPPORT:

- A. Provide logistical and administrative support to military units and the entire American Community in Berlin.

- B. Operate rail and highway control facilities.