

Nov. 1961

BERLIN COMMAND

Unclassified Speech

NATURE OF BERLIN COMMAND:

It is the purpose of this presentation to cover briefly the nature of Berlin Command, its missions, resources, and some of its problem areas. The US Army Garrison in Berlin, commanded by Brigadier General Hartel, is the means by which General Watson carries out most of his military responsibilities. However, there are additional missions, as I will indicate. Organization-wise Berlin Command is a major subordinate command of USAREUR. But it is unusual in this category because it is both a tactical command and an area command. However, these two broad functions come together at the headquarters staff level only.

MISSIONS:

Tactical missions assigned Berlin Command are as shown (Incl #1). In the event of war, we fight. I should like to discuss briefly our philosophy under this contingency. 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 sealed off and left to satellite or reserve Soviet Forces to finish off. 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. As you know, 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.

As you know, a series of obstacles separating East and West Berlin have been erected by the communists since 13 August. These obstacles, consisting of barbed wire and a masonry wall, have reduced the communists capability to move rapidly against West Berlin.

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 this contingency of civil disorder and mob violence. Our responsibility is to assist the police where necessary and to take over from them in the event that 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. We have demonstrated our military posture of readiness. Berlin Command requires monthly unit musters and operational readiness tests, in which the Command is simultaneously combat loaded.

Our 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 troops 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 the one hand, while at the same time we insist that Berlin Command be the smartest military garrison in the world. This involves convincing every soldier and officer in the command 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 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 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 because he may make the international limelight, and at least furnish the East German press with propaganda material. Thus, the control of the behaviour 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 offenses and incidents are better than the USAREUR average rate in every category, while at the same time we have surpassed the USAREUR statistics in savings and reenlistment! We cannot afford - in this sensitive spot - to ease the disciplinary pressure on the members of this command. Also involved in this third mission is the furtherance of community relations between the people of Berlin and the American community. Berlin Command 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 joint American-German Girl and Boy Scout rallies and demonstrations. Our Army band performs for many Berlin audiences. Berlin Command track, basketball, Golf, and tennis teams compete against German teams. Our Rod and Gun Club has many German members. Officers and men of Berlin Command are making a continuing effort on an individual basis to improve German-American relations.

US ARMY ORGANIZATION IN BERLIN:

Now for the means by which we accomplish our mission in Berlin. As mentioned previously, Berlin Command is a dual command - tactical and logistical.

As you know, we have been recently augmented by an additional combat unit in Berlin, the 1st Battle Group, 18th Infantry reinforced.

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

Our combat troops, are the 2d and 3d Battle Groups, 6th Infantry, and a reinforced Tank Company - this is essentially a tactical brigade. The remaining units shown, provide our combat support troops and logistical support troops for our tactical and daily area command operations to include those personnel required for operation of the Helmstedt Detachment, the terminus of our autobahn and rail access through East Germany. This chart indicates what we consider to be the minimum US military personnel required in Berlin.

TRAINING:

In training, our units follow USAREUR and Department of the Army training guidance, but place particular emphasis on those subjects which have paramount importance to our mission in Berlin. We emphasize the items shown (Incl #3).

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 in support 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 the training involving has been completed, and we feel that we have achieved a satisfactory degree of proficiency in both of these areas by all troops.

Regarding the third training item, we have recognized the necessity for emphasizing instruction in the art of marching. Not only do we consider this as being soldierly and a necessary attribute in competition with our French and British allies, but we feel it also furnishes important disciplinary by-products. We believe we have substantially obtained the desired level of proficiency in this subject. Marksmanship is of continuing interest, and currently Berlin Command participates in USAREUR, IE CLERC and Allied Weapons competitions. In the 1961 USAREUR LeClerc matches, the 2d Battle Group, 6th Infantry team represented Berlin Command 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 Command is responsible for furnishing general support, service, and facilities for approximately 11,500 Americans who live in Berlin. An additional phase of this mission is the responsibility for the control and operation of military trains and military and civilian vehicles traveling the autobahn between Berlin and Helmstedt. This involves the operation of two checkpoints, and the Helmstedt Detachment. Vehicles traversing the autobahn average about 1,000 per month. Four daily military trains travel to and from Frankfurt and Berlin, and 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. These 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 generally we do not have to evacuate equipment for repair or rebuild. This capability in Berlin assures a high state of materiel combat readiness, and the necessary self-sufficiency to support contingencies.

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

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

Now a word about FUNDING:

The cost of maintaining the US Army in Berlin is supported by a unique budgetary arrangement featuring a Deutsche mark budget and dollar budget. Our total funding amounts to the equivalent of about 16 million dollars. 93% of the total cost of operations is borne by the Federal Republic of Germany and the West Berlin government, while the remaining 7% is supplied by the American taxpayer in the form of consumer credits, funds for military and emergency travel, pay of civilians, hospital food, etc.

Headquarters USAREUR is our immediate approving authority and the US Embassy in Bonn is the final approving authority, with apportionment of funds being made by the Department of the Army.

PLANS:

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

This sketch (Incl #5) shows the major allied installations in Berlin. We are, of course, now at US Headquarters - McNair Barracks houses two battle groups - Special Troops and the major portion of the 1st Battle Group, 18th Infantry are at Andrews Barracks - and Tank Company at Turner Barracks. Our

major training areas, as previously mentioned, 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. Although not yet completed, 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 exists among both the military and their dependents.

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

MISSIONS

BERLIN COMMAND

1. WAR

To defend Berlin in accordance with Allied and US plans.

2. CIVIL DISORDER

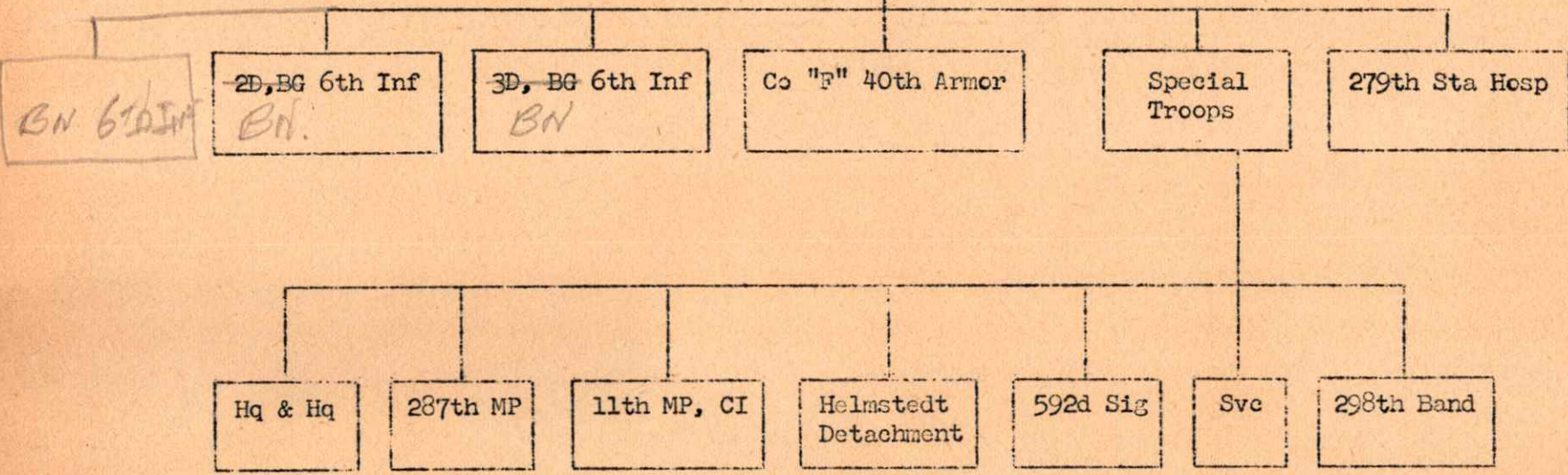
Support West Berlin Police, Protect US lives and property and take necessary steps to restore order when police are not able to control situation.

3. PSYCHOLOGICAL

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

Inclosure #1

HEADQUARTERS
BERLIN COMMAND



Inclosure # 2

TRAINING EMPHASIS FOR 1961

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

Inclosure # 3

LOGISTICAL MISSIONS

US ARMY GARRISON BERLIN

SUPPORT:

- A. Provide logistical and administrative support to military units and the entire American Community in Berlin.
- B. Operate rail and highway control facilities.

BERLIN

