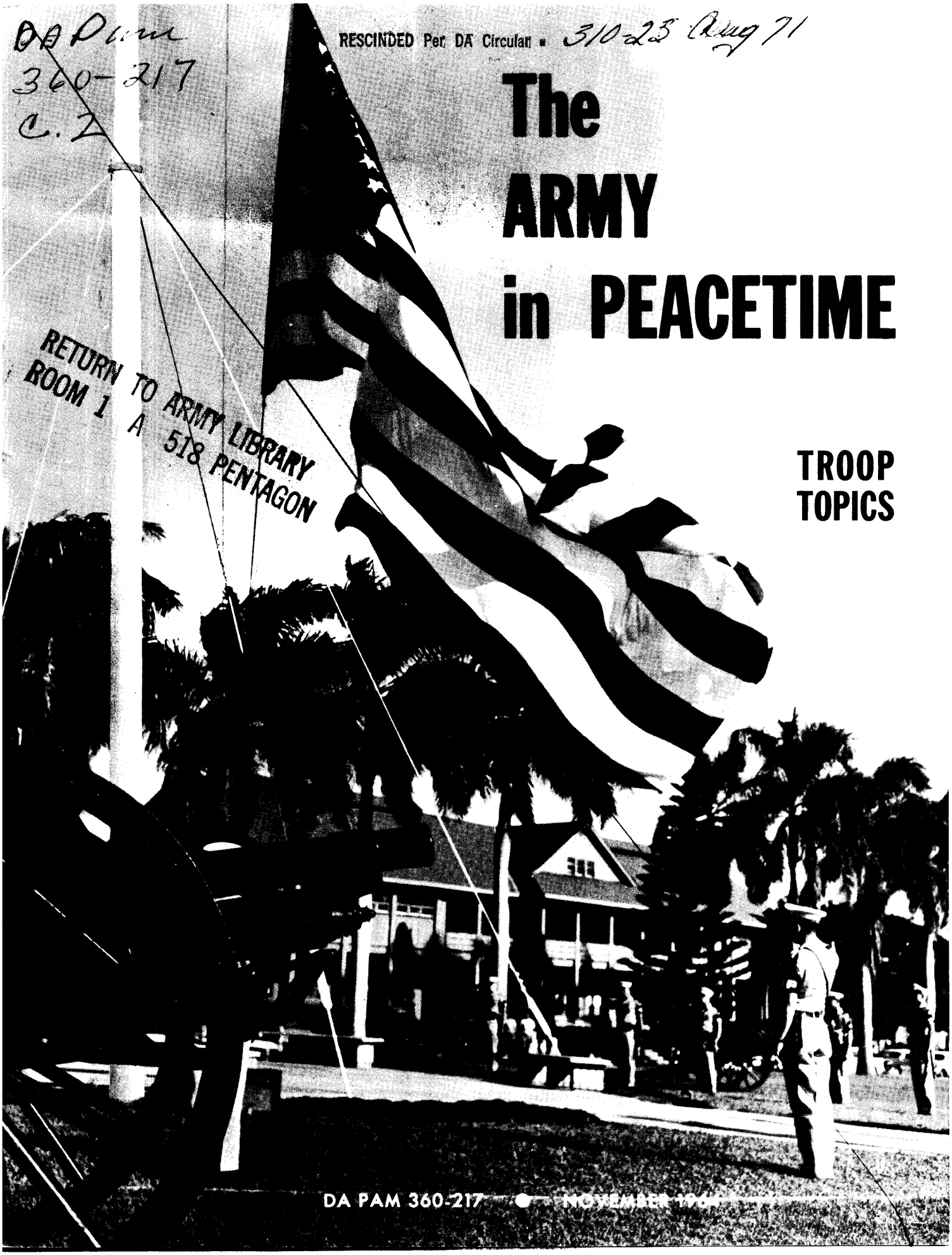
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The ARMY in PEACETIME

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TROOP TOPICS



DA PAM 360-217 • NOVEMBER 1970

DA Pamphlet 360- 217
Headquarters, Department of the Army
Washington, D.C. 20310
20 November 1964

PURPOSE

This pamphlet, which supersedes DA Pamphlet 355–3, has been prepared to familiarize Army personnel with the numerous peacetime contributions the Army has made to the building of our country. It explains the Army's current activities that continue to benefit our nation. It also discusses many Army activities overseas that help other peoples in building for a better life.

This pamphlet supersedes DA Pam 355-3, 18 July 1955.

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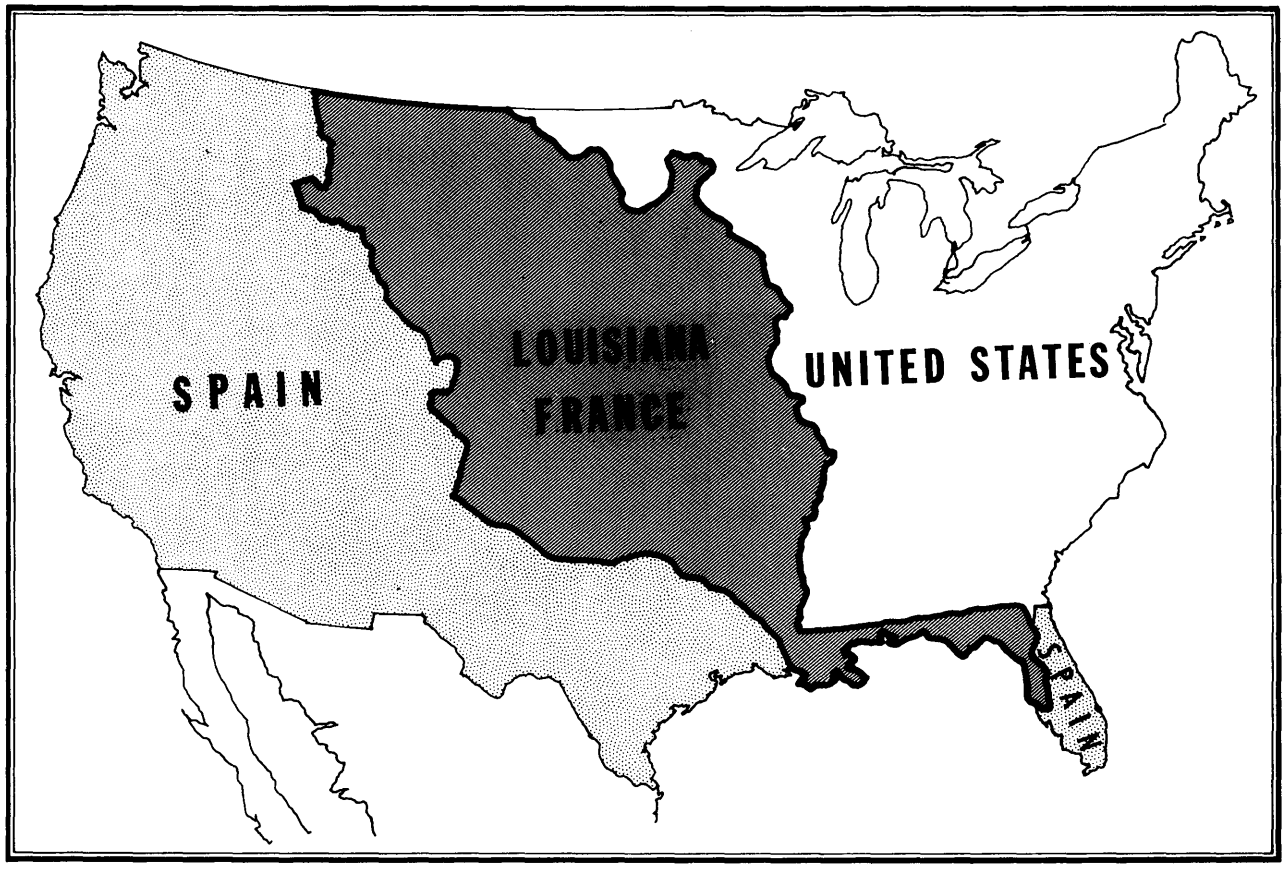


The ARMY in PEACETIME

INTRODUCTION. The staff of the United States Army Flag boasts 145 campaign streamers, each representing a saga of the valor of American soldiers who stood, as the "Star Spangled Banner" tells us, "between their lov'd homes and war's wild desolation." We who serve today can be rightly proud of our courageous predecessors and the traditions of service they have willed us. In wars great and small, in battles from Ticonderoga to Korea, the American soldier—in General MacArthur's words—"has written his own history and written it in red on his enemy's breast." The campaign streamers symbolize this glorious history.

But campaign streamers awarded for wartime exploits tell only part of the story of the U.S. Army. During the crowded years between wars, the Army has accomplished many things—sometimes in the calm atmosphere of peace, sometimes in the tense environment of near war, and sometimes in the heat of actual, though undeclared, combat. Often largely unnoticed, these accomplishments cover a wide range of activities that have affected, and continue to affect, many aspects of the daily lives of Americans. The purpose of this Troop Topic is to discuss some of these peacetime achievements of the United States Army.

1776 to 1946 * 145 Battle Streamers



United States of America—1803

PATHFINDERS

One of the first peacetime tasks undertaken by the Army was the exploring and opening of the West. In 1803, the greatest real estate transaction ever recorded, the Louisiana Purchase, gave the United States approximately 1 million square miles of thinly populated, largely unexplored land. The eastern limit was the Mississippi River, the southern limit the Gulf of Mexico, and the western boundary "somewhere beyond the mountains."

On taking possession of the extensive region, it was necessary to relieve the Spanish and French garrisons along the numerous rivers and at outpost stations. When the formal transfer to the United States took place on 20 December 1803, nearly all the military posts were under the control of Spanish garrisons, the territory having been in French possession less than three weeks. Throughout 1804, small detachments of the U.S. Army moved to replace these garrisons. Thereafter, the detachment commander served as both civil and military commandant in the areas around the posts.

President Jefferson was naturally eager to obtain detailed, definite information about the vast lands to the west of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers and to extend trade with the Indians. A plan he submitted to Congress resulted in the appointment of Captain Meriwether Lewis to command an expedition to explore the West. Lieutenant William Clark was to be his assistant.

The now famous Lewis and Clark Expedition departed from St. Louis, Missouri, in May, 1804. In addition to the two leaders, the party consisted of four sergeants, 23 privates, and several guides and Indian interpreters. The route west was up the Missouri River, across the Rocky Mountains, and down to the Pacific along the Columbia River. Finally, in November 1805, the small party reached the Pacific Ocean.

On the return journey, the expedition divided,

with Clark following the Yellowstone River and Lewis going down the Marias River and the forks of the Missouri. They rejoined at the mouth of the Yellowstone and reached St. Louis in September, 1806, after an absence of two and one half years. They had traveled some 8,000 miles, making accurate surveys and maps, and developing friendships with the Indians. The hardiness, daring, and determination of these soldiers opened the door for the westward expansion of the United States.

While Lewis and Clark were exploring beyond the Missouri River, General James Wilkinson—in his dual role as Army commander and also Governor of the Louisiana Territory—sent a 26-year-old first lieutenant, Zebulon Pike, on an expedition to the headwaters of the Mississippi.

This expedition included one sergeant, two corporals, and 17 privates. They left St. Louis in the summer of 1805 and headed north up the Mississippi River. When they returned, after a journey of nine months, they had charted the northern course of the river, had established contact with British traders within our borders, and had made peace with the northern Indians.

But Pike's most famous expedition was yet to come. He left St. Louis again in April of 1806 to explore the headwaters of the Red and Arkansas Rivers. On this journey, Pike went west along the Arkansas River until he came in sight of the famous mountain in Colorado that now bears his name, Pike's Peak. In February, 1807, Pike and his men were captured by the Spanish and taken to Santa Fe (now New Mexico), then a Spanish holding. During this period in Santa Fe, Pike was able to increase his knowledge of the region and also to learn a great deal about Spanish customs and Spanish intentions in the southwest. He was released in the summer of 1807 and returned to St. Louis with his invaluable information.

The expeditions of Lewis and Clark and those of Pike are today great epics of the West. They contributed much to the dynamic growth of the young nation by opening wider the vast frontiers of America. The men and the members of their parties displayed those characteristics of initiative, bravery, and fortitude which, in generations to follow, enabled Americans to overcome the obstacles of nature in the fast moving drama of the growth of the United States. And the tradition of always looking for "something lost beyond the Ranges" has not died. As recently as 1962, the Army sent a team of experts to the frozen Antarctica to help map uncharted stretches of that forbidding continent. This time, of course, they were equipped with the newest and most sophisticated electronic mapping devices, but the spirit of the explorers was unchanged.

Lewis and Clark reach the Pacific Ocean



ENGINEERS AND BUILDERS

Exploration and mapping of remote areas are activities we could normally expect a nation's Army, particularly engineers, to perform. U. S. Army engineers, however, have always performed many tasks not so obviously in the military sphere. Part of the reason for this is the Military Academy at West Point.

When the Academy was founded in 1802, it was the only engineering school in this hemisphere and for years was the only source of trained engineers. Naturally, its graduates were called upon for many peacetime engineering jobs such as designing and building public buildings and lighthouses, digging canals, and laying out roads and railroads.

ROADS AND RAILROADS

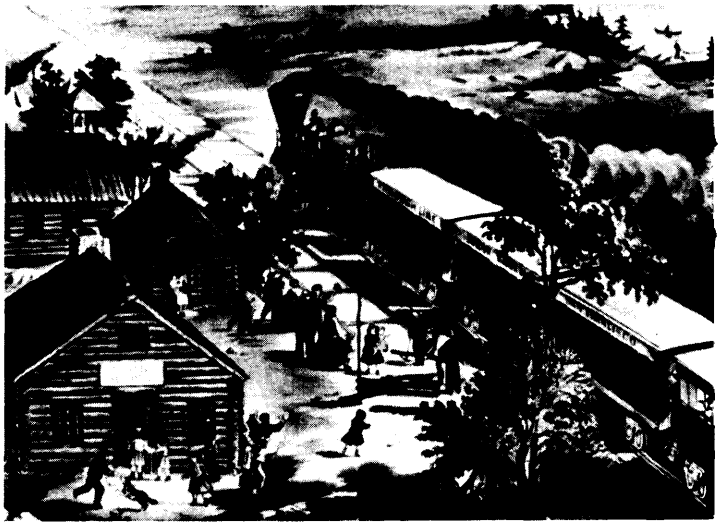
Economic considerations and military necessity led to the use of military resources to develop roads, canals, and railroads, and to assist in navigational improvements. Major Stephen H. Long, Corps of Engineers, made a reconnaissance between the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers in 1817. He reported on several practicable routes to connect Chicago to the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers. Seven years later, the General Survey Act of 1824 specifically authorized the use of Army Engineers for developing the nation's communications network.

In the face of the increasing demands for transportation facilities, the Army Engineers turned to assisting in the building of the nation's railroad lines. From 1827 to 1830, Army Engineers worked on the layout and construction of the railway roadbed of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, which had petitioned Washington for assistance in building its line. By 1835, 15 different railroads were receiving assistance from Army engineers either through surveying or supervision on construction. Government surveys for railroad routes came to an end in the East in 1838, but continued for at least another 15 years west of the Mississippi.

Covered wagon trails led West . . . .



and railroads followed



NAVIGATION AND FLOOD CONTROL

Army Engineers also assisted states, localities, and chartered companies in planning navigational improvements. In 1823, Army Engineers completed studies for the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, the Morris Canal in New Jersey, and two proposed canals in Maryland. In 1824, Congress adopted legislation designed to improve the navigation of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers and passed the first appropriation for harbor improvement at Presque Isle, Pennsylvania, and Plymouth, Massachusetts. Since then, a major peacetime task of the Army Engineers has been to design and build improvements on inland waterways. The Sault Ste Marie Locks and the U.S. portion of the St. Lawrence Seaway are modern examples.

Flood control became a major concern of the Army as the Ohio, Mississippi, and Missouri River valleys developed in agriculture, industry, and commerce. This, too, is an important mission of modern day Army engineers.

Their 900 flood control projects not only protect most of our major cities, but also provide a fifth of the nation's hydroelectric power, municipal and industrial water supply, and other benefits. Their reservoirs—man made lakes—attract greater recreational use each year than all the national parks combined, or all the national forests. Their undertakings include some of the world's greatest dams, biggest canals, and most unusual engineering feats.

The list of public buildings which Army engineers have helped construct includes some of our capital's most imposing structures. The Capitol Building, the Library of Congress, the Washington Monument, the Pentagon: these and many, many others were built under the supervision of the U.S. Army Engineers.

Finally, one of their most outstanding achievements was the construction of the Panama Canal. This canal, which had long been a dream, was started by the French de Lesseps Company, which had built the Suez Canal, but failed in the Panama venture. In 1907, Army engineers, under Lt Col G. W. Goethals, took over the project, and in seven years the canal was open to shipping. It is interesting to note that the Army continues to operate the canal and administer the Canal Zone.

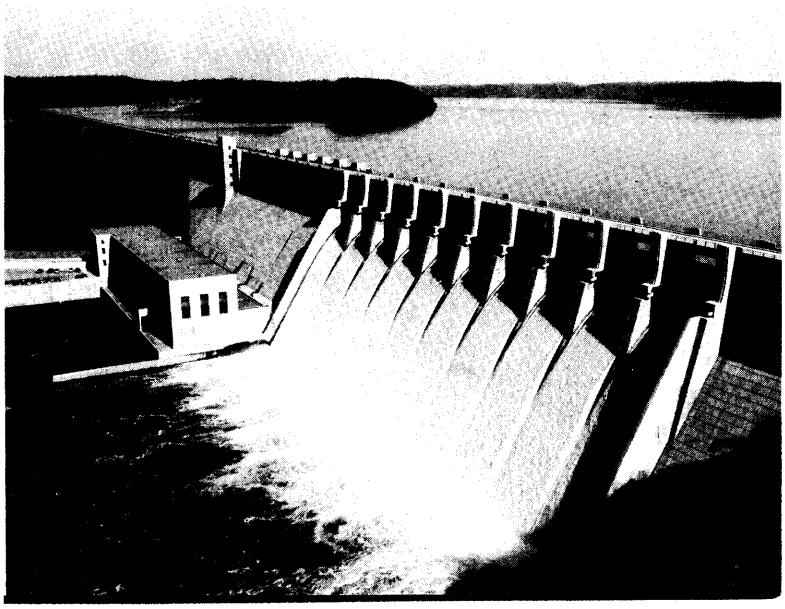


Chesapeake and Delaware Canal—1823



Panama Canal construction—1907

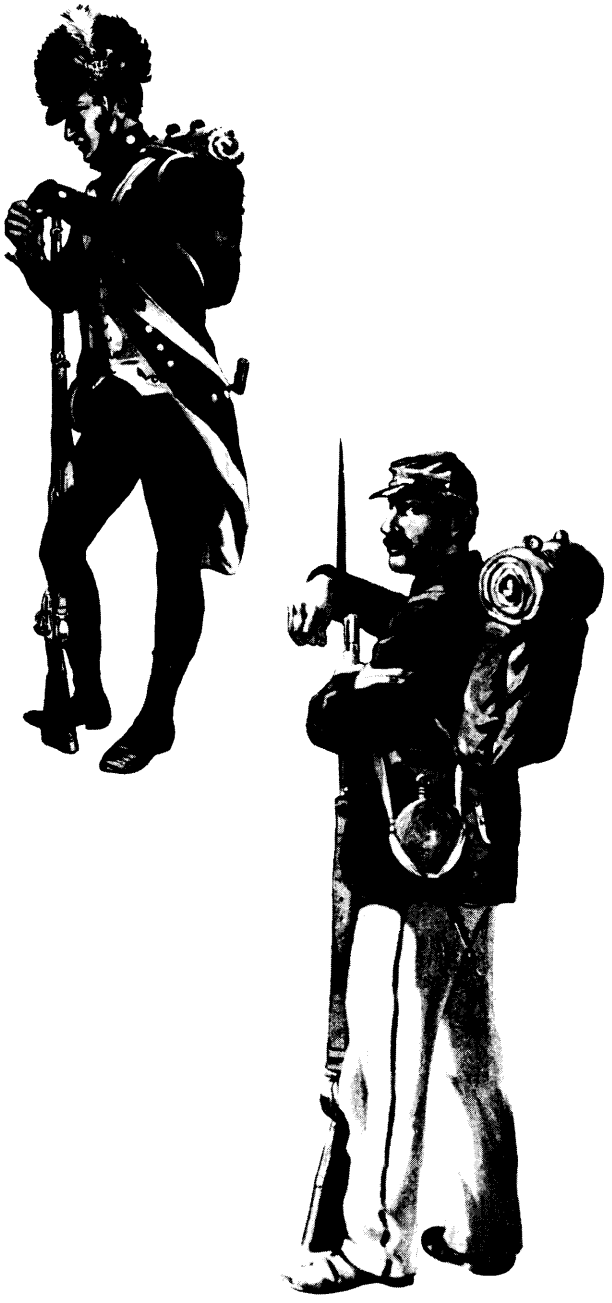
Flood control dam



PEACE KEEPERS

Since the end of World War II, the task of maintaining peace has assumed monumental importance and has consumed a large part of the energy and resources of the United States. The situation came about, of course, from recognition that even a small incident could erupt into a nuclear war, and that the best way to prevent the aggression that could ignite such a catastrophe is to maintain strong, deployed, ready forces. The Army, along with the other armed forces, has done its full share to keep the peace in these troubled years.

Although the world situation has seldom been as charged and volatile as during the last two decades, the task of keeping peace is not a new one to the Army. It is a task that has always involved some risk, and sometimes the fighting of "brush fire" wars to prevent larger ones, under worse circumstances.



ON THE FRONTIER

The Army was performing this duty as far back as the earliest Western migrations here in the United States. Although the Army did fight on many occasions, its primary task was to protect wagon trains and settlers, and to avoid fighting unless it became necessary. The numerous small forts that dotted the West had the mission of maintaining peace between the Indian tribes and between the Indians and settlers or traders—while at the same time making sure that none of the interests of these diverse elements conflicted with those of the U.S. Government.

Stockades and forts built and garrisoned by the Army in Kansas, Nebraska, the Dakotas—all over the West—became footholds of civilization on the wild frontier. Here could be found gristmills, sawmills, and blacksmith shops, all erected by the troops. On the site of many of these frontier forts flourishing cities were to grow, their foundations laid by the brave men in Army blue who first blazed the westward trail. Security and law and order largely depended upon the continued presence of these gallant soldiers in the West.

This activity occupied the Army for many years; it was not until the last decade of the

19th century that the Indian threat was completely eliminated. There were, of course, the two major interruptions: the Mexican War and the Civil War. The Army's performance in these two wars is well known and voluminously documented. Less well publicized, however, is the ever-present task of maintaining peace after it has been won.



OCCUPATION DUTY

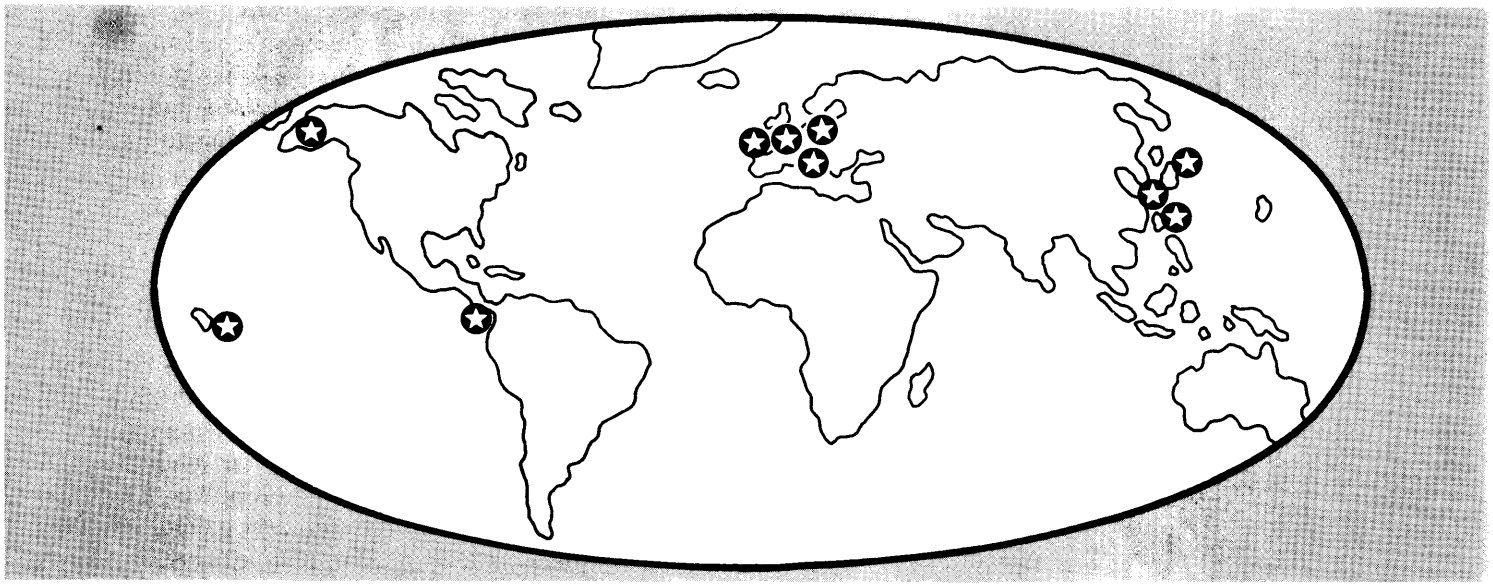
The Mexican War recorded many firsts for the U.S. Army, not the least important of which was its first experience in occupation duty and military government. When General Winfield Scott and his army entered Mexico City in September of 1847, the Mexican Army was thoroughly beaten, and normal governmental processes had broken down. For almost a year, Scott and his soldiers were required to occupy the capital and administer a military government until a peace treaty was concluded and civil government re-established. The exemplary conduct of the soldiers and the wise firmness of the commander prevented further fighting, and the U.S. Army demonstrated another way it could keep the peace.

After the Armistice ended the fighting of World War I, units of the American Expeditionary Force assumed a similar mission. With French and British allies, U.S. forces occupied a bridgehead on the east side of the Rhine River to insure that the German Army would not renew hostilities before the conclusion of a peace treaty. It was at the end of World War II, however, that the U.S. Army participated in occupation and military government activities on a large scale.

When Germany was forced to capitulate in May, 1945, the country was completely devastated, and there was no civil government. Under terms of prior agreements, Germany was divided into four zones for occupation: British, French, American, and Russian. The city of Berlin was similarly divided into four sectors for joint occupancy. American soldiers immediately found themselves involved in innumerable governmental and quasi-governmental functions, as well as having to deal with their stubborn wartime ally, the Russians. The skill, tact, and patience demonstrated by the American soldier during these critical days is a source of pride for Americans.

The situation in Japan was somewhat different. American troops had not yet entered, the cities were not as completely destroyed as those of Germany, and at least the machinery for civil government still existed. General MacArthur acted firmly and rapidly to insure that the occupation of Japan would not be hindered by the Russians. He entered Japan with a small force and assumed control. The subsequent occupation proved to be a model, with Japan achieving a phenomenal economic recovery, while moving toward closer ties with the United States and developing a more democratic form of government.

Events in Japan and Germany after World War II demonstrated that the U.S. Army had gained maturity and was a force that was indispensable in executing its government's policies in peace as well as in war.



PREVENTING AGGRESSION

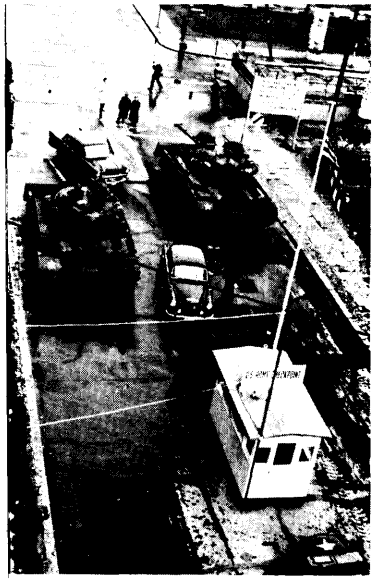
Occupation of the territories of our former enemies has now ended, but the Army remains deployed on the frontiers of the free world. Eight of our sixteen combat ready divisions and almost half our strength are overseas as proof of our intention to resist aggression. It is an interesting fact that the presence of American combat troops has prevented an overt advance by the communists in areas garrisoned by our troops.

The single, most flagrant, aggressive action by the communist world since World War II occurred in Korea in June of 1950. When the North Koreans attacked across the 38th parallel, only a handful of American advisors were in South Korea. Although our reaction was swift and powerful, it had been demonstrated that the communists were quick to seize the initiative when they were not convinced we would fight.

This situation is not likely to arise again in Korea. Two of our divisions, with supporting troops, are located along the demilitarized zone, prepared to bear the initial brunt of a communist attack. They are there to discourage that attack; their very presence is proof of our determination to fight, if necessary, to keep the peace.

HELPING OTHERS KEEP THEIR FREEDOM

Combat troops deployed overseas are but a part of the Army's effort to deter aggression and maintain peace and security in the world. There are, of course, limits to America's manpower and material resources, making it impossible for us to station sizeable forces at all likely trouble spots. Hence, the United States helps of other nations to help themselves in military and civic activities. The American soldiers who serve on these teams—training, advising, and providing technical skills—are working to insure not only the freedom of staunch allies but also the peace of the world. Also, several thousand foreign military and civilian personnel receive



Berlin wall



Korea



Vietnam



Thailand

to strengthen the armed forces of freedom-loving nations all over the world, and, upon their request, pledges them support and aid and professional advice if necessary.

Under the Military Assistance Program, the United States furnishes allies with assistance in the form of training and equipment, the latter consisting of weapons and military materiel used generally by U.S. forces and, by and large, manufactured in the United States. The objective of the program is to furnish selected national military forces with training and hardware that will contribute to the maintenance of world peace by enabling them to maintain internal security and resist outside aggression. Today, South Vietnam is but a magnification of what the Army is doing in many countries.

Military advisory teams are located in approximately 40 countries, many of them newly developing. Additionally, mobile training teams are sent outside the United States to train forces instruction in a variety of military and civilian occupations in CONUS and overseas schools.

Before leaving the subject of how the U.S. Army helps other nations maintain freedom, mention must be made of civic action programs, which may prove to be the Army's most significant peacetime contribution in our times. Civic action projects are those in which military forces of a nation undertake activities which contribute to the economic and social development and to the strengthening of ties between the military and civilian communities. The U.S. Army gladly furnishes teams to assist nations interested in initiating civic action projects; the number of nations with such projects increased from 9 to 25 between FY 1962 and 1964. The twofold benefits of providing real, tangible help to people and strengthening ties between the people and their army lead to order, stability, and prosperity.

CIVIL DISTURBANCES

There is another facet to maintaining peace that deserves mention in a consideration of the Army's peacetime activities: that is, assisting in quelling civil disturbances here in the United States.

The first instance of American soldiers' being used in this role occurred even before the Constitution was ratified. In 1786, disgruntled farmers in Massachusetts banded together under Daniel Shays and disrupted normal governmental processes by refusing to allow courts or the legislature to sit. After making an unsuccessful attack on a Federal arsenal early in 1787, the group was dispersed and pursued by hastily organized militiamen. Although not extremely important in itself, the so-called "Shays' Rebellion" did much to promote the movement for a constitutional convention to draw up an instrument for a stronger central government able to deal effectively with disorders of this type.

After the new Federal Government came into being, a more serious incident occurred in Pennsylvania in 1794 when a group of farmers rose up in arms against a Federal excise tax on whiskey. A militia force from adjoining states under the personal command of President Washington was required to quell this rebellion and to prove the authority of the Federal Government to enforce the law.

Similar cases in history have necessitated the use of the Army. The nullification of Federal law in 1832 by South Carolina precipitated action by President Jackson. Frontier difficulties in Utah and Kansas, cattlemen-homesteader wars in New Mexico: these and other incidents in the middle of the 19th century brought firm action by troops of the Regular Army. In the period 1870-1914 intervention by the Army was required frequently to prevent bloodshed in conflicts between labor and management.

These precedents set the stage for the use of the Army to protect the rights and safety of individuals in the recent civil rights disturbances. In these, as in the earlier examples of civil disturbances, the Army's role was paradoxical; sworn to defend and protect American citizens, the Army found itself deployed against groups of these same citizens. The restraint, quiet dignity, and courteous posture of the soldiers under the most trying conditions greatly enhanced the prestige of the active Army and the Reserve Components that participated in these actions.

SCIENTISTS

MEDICAL RESEARCH

During peacetime years the Army constantly prepares for war. This preparation encompasses many fields of endeavor and often results in achievements of far-reaching importance. Perhaps because it has always been a fact that sickness produces casualties as surely as enemy action, many of the most noteworthy results have been achieved in the field of medicine.

As early as 1800 a significant contribution to the country as a whole was made when Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse, a Regular Army surgeon, introduced smallpox vaccination into the Army. Two years later, another Army doctor, Benjamin Rush, wrote the first American textbook on psychiatry. But it was in 1822 that an Army surgeon first achieved world-wide recognition for detailed research.

Doctor William Beaumont, the Army surgeon at a frontier post, saved the life of a young French Canadian who had been accidentally shot in the stomach. The wound did not close, however, and through the opening Dr. Beaumont was able to observe the processes of digestion. The reports on his observation prompted Sir



The Conquerors of Yellow Fever by Dean Cornwell. Courtesy Wyeth Laboratories Division of American Home Products Corporation

William Osler, the great medical historian, to call Dr. Beaumont the "pioneer physiologist of the United States and the first to make a contribution of enduring value."

Medical research in the Army has continued on an ever-increasing scale. It was an Army surgeon, for example, who discovered the organism that causes pneumonia, and important findings have been made by the Medical Corps on dengue fever, hookworm, amoebic dysentery, and malaria. But the Army's conquest of yellow fever remains its most widely publicized accomplishment in the field of medicine.

In June of 1900 four Army doctors—Majors Reed and Carroll and contract surgeons Lazear and Agramonte—were assigned to Cuba with the mission of investigating this dread disease which had plagued mankind for centuries.

All four were skilled pathologists, and they attacked their jobs with enthusiasm. They became convinced that the disease could be transmitted only by the bite of a particular mosquito, and set up laboratory experiments to prove their hypothesis. Soldier volunteers stepped forth and allowed the doctors to try to infect them; some slept in the bedding of previous patients, some were inoculated with blood drawn from these patients, and some were bitten by the suspect mosquito. Sixteen men caught the disease and two died; all had been bitten by the mosquito or inoculated with the diseased blood, and none became infected in any other way. For all practical purposes, the original theory was proved. The dedicated doctors and the brave volunteers saved countless lives and paved the way for the building of the Panama Canal.

Many other medical advances have come about through the Army's desire to protect the health of its soldiers. Army medical personnel isolated and identified the Asian flu virus; under Army contract, the anti-malaria drug, primaquine, was developed and adopted. Improved uses of prosthetics, treatment of shock and burns, a better method of artificial respiration—these are but a few of the recent contributions by Army medical research, an important peacetime activity.

OTHER TECHNOLOGICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Medical research is not the only scientific or technological field in which the Army's peacetime efforts have achieved significant results. The modern Army's needs parallel the broad requirements of our civil economy. Many Army developments are easily adaptable for wider use. For example, in 1798 Eli Whitney, the inventor of the cotton gin, turned to the manufacture of small arms and was awarded a sizeable order for Army muskets. The order was so large that it could not be feasibly filled by the slow method of custom making each weapon. As a result, Whitney devised a production method that involved a division of labor and the manufacture of identical and interchangeable parts. This was the forerunner of assembly line production that was refined and expanded through the years to our present enormous industrial capacity.

Another far more recent and dramatic example concerns the development of the airplane. When the Wright Brothers achieved their first uncertain flight, no one visualized the mighty air armadas of World War II or the great passenger planes of today. The Army's role in this incredibly rapid change cannot be overemphasized. From the first purchase of an airplane by the Army Signal Corps in 1908 and continuing to the present, the Army provides much of the impetus for improvements in aircraft design and production techniques. Today the Army's need is for better helicopters and fixed wing aircraft.

Related to the development of the airplane is radar, essential for safe and dependable air traffic. Although developed strictly for military use, radar has provide indispensable in the vastly increased use of airways in the past few years. It is worth noting that a Signal Corps officer was awarded the basic patent for radar.

Also under Signal Corps supervision, in the field of communications-electronics Army contributions are many and important. Army requirements for miniature radio equipment led to development of printed circuit techniques and transistors that replace complex wiring and vacuum tubes. Smaller, improved hearing aids are among the many civilian applications. One final peacetime activity of Army communications-electronics that has significance far beyond the purely military sphere is the instrumentations of satellites.

Worthwhile scientific and technological contributions of the Army could be enumerated in many other fields of endeavor; the full benefits of some of these contributions are yet to be fully realized. One whose ultimate significance can now be only dimly visualized is the Army Nuclear Power Program. It is common knowledge that the famous Manhattan Project, which produced the first atomic bomb, was supervised by Lt Gen Leslie Groves, an Army engineer. However, it is not so well known that the Army has also pioneered in the production of usable power from atomic energy. The Army's interest in this program is understandable, as lightweight nuclear powerplants would satisfy a pressing need for power in remote areas and would reduce logistic support requirements. And it is just as obvious that Army progress in this field is reflected as a tremendous potential of power for the civilian economy, another substantial Army peacetime contribution.

DISASTER FIGHTERS

Combatting the effects of natural disasters is another peacetime service that the Army is uniquely suited to perform. By virtue of its nation-wide and world-wide deployment, the Army is able to respond to distress calls from practically any place in the world in a matter of hours. And when it responds, it has the manpower, organization, and equipment to furnish prompt, effective assistance.

One of the early occasions in which the Army



was able to provide much needed aid was during the San Francisco earthquake and fire in 1906. The destroyed buildings and streets, raging fires, and the specter of starvation and disease created a situation that demanded firm and immediate action. Fortunately, Army troops under General Funston, stationed in San Francisco, were immediately available to cope with the catastrophe. Emergency aid stations, field kitchens, rescue teams, anti-looting patrols: all were established by the Army, saving an untold number of lives and preventing much suffering and property loss.

Through the years the Army has continued to aid stricken cities and people. A flood in Galveston in 1915; the Puerto Rico Hurricane in 1926; disastrous floods in the Ohio and Mississippi River valleys in 1912 and again in 1937; the Texas City explosion in 1947; Hurricane "Donna" in 1960: these and many other disasters have proved the Army's capability to save lives and combat the destructive forces of nature.

The most recent example occurred during the earthquake and accompanying tidal wave in Alaska in the spring of 1964. Here, some 700 active Army troops, in addition to Reserve Component units, engaged in relief activities. An interesting aspect of this operation was the demonstrated versatility of modern Army equipment in the disaster area. Helicopters evacuated injured people and rescued those who were marooned. Heavy cranes cleared debris, gasoline generators furnished emergency power, temporary bridges spanned the gaps caused by the failure of existing bridges, and water purification units ran day and night to provide disease-free water. Emergency mess halls and hospitals were established, and again troops were temporarily used as guards to maintain law and order. Both the modern and traditional talents of the Army were brought to bear on the tragic situation.

Related to disaster relief activities are the Army's efforts in the nation's Civil Defense program. Although Civil Defense remains essentially a civilian directed program, the Army supplies much needed support in the solution of civil defense problems. The Corps of Engineers, for example, assisted in the shelter survey program and, with the Navy's Bureau of Yards and

San Francisco earthquake—1906



Alaskan earthquake—1963



Yugoslavia

Chile



Iran



Docks, operates the Protective Structure Development Center. Army communications—electronics supports the Civil Defense communication programs and provides crypto security support. Radiological monitoring courses are conducted by the Army; and, under the Stand-by Reserve Program, individual Army reservists may gain points for retirement by performing civil defense tasks. In addition to the preparatory activities, the Army's disaster-fighting capabilities can be brought into action in the event of an attack.

Although Civil Defense and the examples of disaster relief cited so far pertain to the United States, this should not mean that the Army does not assist the people of other countries. In July, 1963, an entire Army hospital was airlifted to Skopje, Yugoslavia, when that town was stricken by earthquake. A year earlier, in September of 1962, the Army rushed aid of all types to Iran after an incredibly destructive earthquake had killed an estimated 10,000 persons, injured another 10,000 and left 25,000 homeless. Tents, hospitals, kitchens, aircraft and vehicles, and water purification units were all used to save lives and alleviate suffering. Because it must constantly be prepared to operate in the near-primitive conditions of combat, the Army has the organization and equipment to act when a natural disaster strikes a peaceful community.

READY FOR ANY MISSION

In these years of cold war and uneasy peace, the U.S. Army bears a heavy responsibility. With eight divisions deployed overseas and eight in strategic reserve in the United States, the Army is prepared to respond to aggression anywhere in the world. Advisors in South Vietnam share the hardships and dangers of their Vietnamese comrades as they move against the communist Viet Cong in the deadly jungles and swamps. Administering military aid in many allied countries, refining air mobility techniques, and training—constant training—are drains on the resources of energy and imagination of the American soldier.

But these are peacetime years for the United States, and the Army continues to perform peacetime activities that benefit the nation at large—and in many cases, the entire world. The Army's first task is to be prepared to fight, but in achieving that preparedness it makes many worthwhile peacetime contributions. These, too, are a source of justifiable pride.

DISCUSSION OUTLINE

1. **Introduction**
   a. The U.S. Army has a proud record of wartime achievement.
   b. Many, lesser known, accomplishments in peacetime are also sources of justifiable pride.

2. **Pathfinders**
   a. Army explorers were instrumental in exploring and mapping the American West.
   b. The exploits of Lewis and Clark and Zebulon Pike, among others, enabled the country to expand.
   c. The spirit of exploration continues as the Army sent a mapping team to Antarctica in 1962.

3. **Engineers and Builders**
   a. The U.S. Military Academy at West Point was the nation's first source of trained engineers.
   b. Army engineers planned and constructed many early roads, railroads, and canals.
   c. An Act of Congress in 1824 gave the Corps of Engineers responsibility for inland waterways and harbors.
   d. Flood control projects have resulted in hydroelectric power, municipal water supplies, and recreation areas.

4. **Peace Keepers**
   a. Since the end of World War II, one of the Army's primary tasks has been to maintain peace; however, this does not imply that peace keeping is a new role for the Army.
   b. During the period of westward expansion, Army efforts were directed toward preventing wars between Indians and settlers while maintaining law and order in newly settled communities.
   c. In many instances, occupation of defeated countries has prevented further hostilities.
   d. Present day deployment of the Army helps prevent aggression and thereby contributes to world peace.
   e. Military aid and advice to friendly nations enables them to resist outside aggression and maintain internal security.
   f. The active Army and the Reserve Components have been used many times to prevent bloodshed and protect the rights of citizens during civil disturbances in the United States.

5. **Scientists**
   a. Army scientific and technological achievements have often produced widespread civilian benefits.
   b. Army doctors have pioneered in many areas of medical research.
   c. The beginning of mass production methods resulted from an Army need.
   d. Aircraft and radar are examples of military developments with civic application.

6. **Disaster Fighters**
   a. The Army's organization, deployment, and equipment make it uniquely qualified to furnish assistance following a natural disaster.
   b. There are many examples—the most recent being the Alaska earthquake of 1964—of Army participation in disaster relief.
   c. The Army also fulfills a civil defense role.
   d. The role of the Army in disaster relief is not confined to the United States; aid is granted to foreign nations in need.

7. **Conclusion—Ready for any Mission**
   Throughout its history, the Army has served the nation well in time of war; and it must be constantly prepared to do so again. But, in addition to its wartime role, the Army has performed, and continues to perform, many peacetime functions that are essential to the nation's welfare and progress.

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