

Alaskan Command



**Lt. Gen. Robert A. Breitweiser
of the Alaskan Command.**

Twenty — one successful years of keeping the peace in the north will be celebrated by Army, Navy and Air Force elements of the unified Alaskan Command on January 1, 1968.

On this date 21 years ago, the Alaskan Command was established to weld Army, Navy and Air Force commands within the 49th state into a more effective and efficient fighting machine.

Commanded by Air Force Lieutenant General Robert A. Breitweiser, the Alaskan Command has the distinction of being the oldest unified command within the U.S. defense structure.

Three major military commands are subordinate to General Breitweiser who has

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the distinctive title of commander in chief, Alaska.

The United States Army, Alaska, with its headquarters at Fort Richardson; the Alaskan Sea Frontier headquartered on the island of Kodiak and the Alaskan Air Command with its headquarters at Elmendorf Air Force Base, are the three major military components controlled by General Breitweiser.

These commands control ground, air and naval forces that are integrated into the intricate defense structure of Alaska and its segment of the overall defense structure of the North American continent.

In addition to its surveillance and defense mission, the Alaskan Command plays an important role in the support of the Vietnam conflict.

Huge C-141 Starlifter transport aircraft of the Military Airlift Command have become a familiar sight to citizens of Anchorage, Alaska's largest city, as they take off and land at frequent intervals, seven days a week at Elmendorf Air Force Base.

Some 900 C-141s are fueled and serviced at Elmendorf each month, then sent on their way with the least amount of delay possible....as they are carrying men, supplies and equipment vitally needed in Vietnam, or returning wounded servicemen to hospitals in the "South 48" for treatment and care.

The Vietnam support role

played by Alaskan Command units once again points out the strategic value of Alaska as an aerial crossroads of the world.

Highlights of the Alaskan Command's activities during the past year include the installation and operation of a fuel pipeline from the year-around port of Whittier to Elmendorf Air Force Base; humanitarian efforts on the Alaskan Command in support of victims of the worst flood ever to strike the city of Fairbanks; and the installation of General Breitweiser as commander in chief, Alaska, succeeding the late Lieutenant General Glen R. Birchard who lost his life as the result of an aircraft accident.

A noteworthy accomplishment of the Alaskan Command during the past year was the successful conduct of "Frontier Assault," a joint, combined winter exercise which saw the development of about 8,000 U.S. and Canadian troops into the field under extreme cold weather conditions.

Perhaps the most outstanding accomplishment of the exercise other than the tactical experience gained, was the safety record attained by participants.

Not one death or serious accident was incurred during the movement of the men and their related combat equipment through the hostile environment of Alaska's interior.

Other military exercises conducted by the Alaskan Command during the past year include Gold Rush VI/Big Bear, Jade Star II and High Heels 67.