

# REFORGER

What does it all mean, and why do we do it?

By Jim Koenig

REFORGER, what does it all mean? Why do we do it, and why is it done here?

First of all REFORGER means Return of Forces to Germany. Yes it is a show of force, but more than that, it shows support for our NATO allies in case we are ever needed, not to mention the tremendous training experience it gives each year.

The NATO mission of the command is to deter a Warsaw Pact aggression if it occurs. The mission calls for our forces to be well equipped and combat ready, according to USAREUR Pam 360-2.

Militarily, the communist threat towards the Army in Europe is massive. The ground forces are well trained and equipped to the max. They are in an advanced state of combat readiness, intelligence sources say.

They could attack using nuclear, chemical weapons or an assortment of powerful conventional weapons.

Most of the communist military forces in central and east Europe are organized under the Warsaw Pact. Pact members are the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, and the German Democratic Republic.

In a report published by Defense 82 Magazine, a publication of the Department of Defense, it was disclosed that the Soviets have 126 Motorized Rifle Divisions, 47 Tank Divisions and 7 Airborne Divisions. On the East German border, the report said, are 53 non-Soviet Warsaw Pact divisions and 30 Soviet divisions.

This is the main reason for REFORGER.

## Safety is a big part of REFORGER mission

REFORGER training must be real, exact and as close to actual combat conditions as possible. But dead or injured soldiers are not worth the price, we all must be safety conscious.

Soldiers should never sleep or nap under or near vehicles or electrical generating equipment. They could become poisoned by breathing carbon monoxide gases or injured by moving vehicles.

When driving a vehicle be alert at all times, watch out for the other driver, he may not be as alert. Never drive a vehicle before inspecting it first.

These are only a few tips, a soldier has to be constantly on the alert. Stay awake and stay alive.

