



RESERVE REPORT

MajGen R. E. Cushman Jr., CG MCB, Camp Pend; CG, 4thMarDivHq Nucleus; CG, 5thMarDiv

☛ THE 4TH MARINE DIVISION is back in business again. The "ole" 4th was activated at Camp Joseph H. Pendleton on 16 August 1943. No division participated in more violent or bloody campaigns than did this one. It was committed to the seizure of Roi-Namur, Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima in the Central Pacific. On 28 November 1945 the 4th was deactivated.

On 7 February 1966, with the issuance of an Initiating Directive by the Commandant, the nucleus of the 4th Marine Division Headquarters was activated. It was charged with the primary mission of creating an effective division staff core capable of directing, controlling and integrating, as directed, the mobilization planning and logistics functions preceding the activation of the 4thMarDiv and of insuring an orderly and efficient mobilization of that division. The initial Table of Organization called for a staff nucleus of 28 officers and 62 men, with two Navy officers and one enlisted man.

MajGen R. E. Cushman, Jr. was designated Commanding General in the initiating directive. The situation found him at the same time CG of three independent commands: MCB Camp Pendleton, the 4th Marine Division Headquarters Nucleus, and the 5th Marine Division. (He is reported to have considered writing a request with one hat on and disapproving it with another. But despite the different operating *ids* he found relations among the three CGs unusually cordial.) Deputy Commander was Col H. L. Oppenheimer, who volunteered to return to active duty from the Reserve.

Eight major tasks were assigned by the Initiating Directive:

- To develop plans to insure orderly and efficient execution of the mobilization of the 4th Marine Division (Reinforced) in coordination with the functions assigned the Mobilization Personnel Processing Center.

- Maintain continuous cognizance of the logistic status and training readiness of Marine Corps Reserve Units scheduled for activation with the 4th Marine Division. Logistic status and training readiness reports are to be provided by the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

- Prepare and disseminate post-mobilization training programs for units designated for activation with or in support of the 4th Marine Division. These programs will provide a method of: a) ensuring rapid and orderly execution of post-mobilization training and b) determining post-mobilization requirements for logistic support and formal schools.

- Prepare Standard Operating Procedures for the 4th Marine Division. Disseminate selected SOPs to those Reserve Units designated for activation with the 4th Marine Division.

- Plan, direct and supervise execution of the annual active duty training of Reserve Units at Camp Pendleton. Training will be coordinated with the Directors of the Marine Corps Districts to insure a continuity of purpose and effort with that training conducted throughout the year at the unit's home station under the supervision of the District Directors.

- Coordinate the organization, training and employment of the 4th Marine Division communications nucleus with the Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, California.

- Assume administrative and operational control of any additional cadres of the 4th Marine Division that may be activated.

- Develop a complete file and review all applicable general war and contingency plans, SOP's and other pertinent directives issued by FMF, Pacific and FMF, Atlantic in order to

be prepared to respond to strategic reserve commitments.

Top priority is being given to a post-mobilization training schedule. Its preparation has entailed the development of certain assumptions as to the status of pre-mobilization reserve training and readiness:

- All members of OMCR units have fired T/O weapons during the past 12 months and have battle-sighted weapons.

- Key personnel presently assigned specialized key billets in OMCR units have had formal school training.

- Class III personnel mobilized to fill specialized billets have had required formal school training prior to mobilization.

- Infantry battalions will be capable of immediately operating in the field as battalions and of conducting CPXs and BLT exercises without further individual, small unit or company-sized training.

- Combat Support and Combat Service Support units will be capable of supporting BLT exercises by the second week of training.

Various arrangements are under study for giving the Headquarters increased operational control over Reserve units prior to mobilization. Other plans are being considered for accelerating and streamlining the post-mobilization movement of gear to reserve units and for smoothing out certain administrative procedures, especially pay.

Studies are currently underway to determine just what increases in T/O and T/E would be necessary to make the division CP fully operational in the very immediate future. The Nucleus is also preparing plans for the conduct of field exercises that would be held after mobilization, allocations of training and billeting areas, and schedules on the arrival of supplies and equipment and how they will be handled.

The 4th Marine Division is ready for any post-mobilization commitment and to continue the glorious traditions of the "ole" 4th, this time possibly in a counterinsurgency environment in Southeast Asia. USMC