

THE U.S. is building the strongest civilian reserve corps in history to back up the armed forces in any emergency on land, sea or in the air.

Packing far more punch than its pre-war counterpart, the new reserve will be ready to swing into action on M-Day (if it should come) schooled in all the combat techniques mastered on the road to victory in World War II.

The biggest outfit will be the Army's organized Reserve Corps. Already 975,000 men and officers, veterans of European and Pacific campaigns are on the muster rolls. The Army plans an elastic force which can be expanded to 3 million, with at least 700,000 in full-strength units always ready to start shooting.

Men and Machines. The Army Reserve Corps will include 25 divisions—17 infantry, 5 airborne and 3 armored—plus engineers and artillery. The Air Force Reserve has enrolled 20,000 reserve pilots, 7,000 of whom are now in flight training at 60 stations.

The Navy plans a seagoing reserve of 1 million and already has signed up nearly 16,000 officers and men. There'll also be the Organized Marine Reserves with 33,262 officers and men, 6,222 of them assigned to the air arm. However, the Marine Reserves must wait until the regular corps hits its peacetime strength of 100,000.

The job of reorganizing the National Guard rests with individual states. Quotas range from 62,158 in New York to Nevada's 904.

Flying Reserve. The National Guard's total goal is 682,000 officers and men; it hopes to have 240,000, the equivalent of the pre-Pearl Harbor Guard, under training by July 1. Any qualified youth of 18 can join the National Guard. Older men (19-29) can belong only if they have had previous service in the armed forces.

Airborne Guard. The streamlined National Guard has booted out horses in favor of planes and tanks. Its 27 divisions will include tank and tank-destroyer battalions, combat engineers, radar and anti-aircraft units and military police. Air National Guard will have 2,700 planes, 3,000 pilots and 3,800 non-flying officers in 84 fighter and light bombardment squadrons.

All the reserve organizations are suffering from growing pains: Shortage of armories and training facilities, possibility of a universal military training program which would drastically cut their manpower, and budget slashes. The current economy program has already forced the Army to drop 38,000 men from ground forces units in the U.S., and may hit the reserves if the new Republican Congress decides to trim further U.S. military funds.

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