

Pictorial: SEATO Exercises

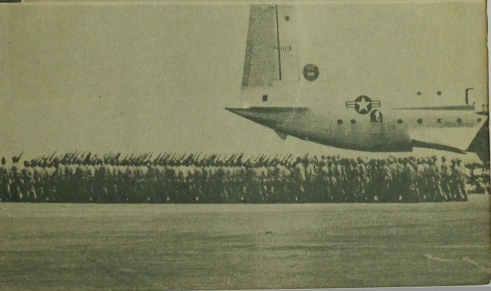


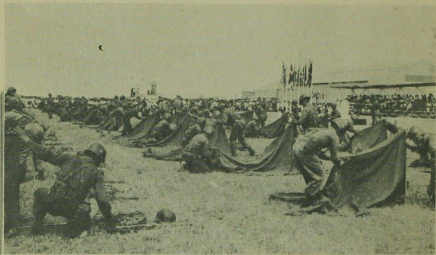
What may well be considered as the greatest milestone so far in the South East Asia Collective Defense Treaty work is the multi-nation defense exercises held Feb. 15-18 in Thailand. Dubbed Operations Firm Link, the exercises saw the participation of a Filipino battalion shown in photo above disembarking from USS Salisbury Sound at Klongtoi, Bangkok, and later joining other SEATO nations' forces as shown in panon shot below parading at Bangkok's Don Muang Air port before 250,000 spectators and observers.





Amidst a teeming crowd in Thailand, Filipino soldiers headed by Lt. Col. Uldarico Bacalagan demonstrate troop battle actions (above). Shown in photo below is the inspection of individual troop equipment.





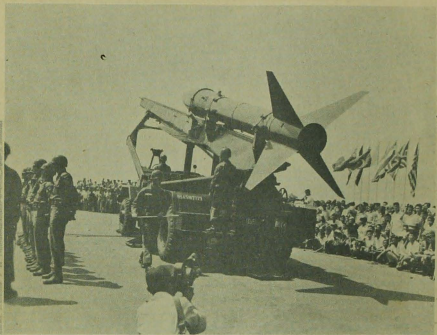
Filipino troops also showed SEATO nations observers how tents are pitched up in record time and how arms are readied. Boys were tremendously applauded by spectators and highly praised by foreign officials, including Thai Premier Phibul Songgram.





AFP troops smartly pass in review along Bangkok's main boulevard before SEATO top brass (above). In photo below the Filipino soldiers are shown receiving individual leis from Red Cross welfare service ladies upon their return to Manila.

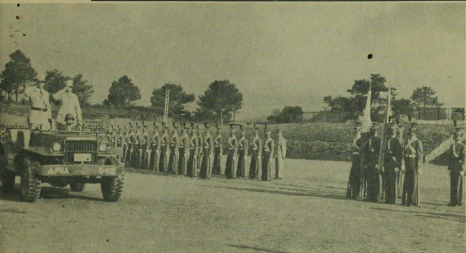




Like Filipino troops, U.S. soldiers gave various demonstrations, among which were operation of guided missiles (above) and anti-tank actions (below). Thai soldiers joined U.S. troops in paratrooper exercise. The three-day SEATO demonstration is considered a success. From the tactical point of view, it served the SEATO cause tremendously.



PMA 51st Anniversary



After existing for 51 years, the Philippine Military Academy celebrated, for the first time, its foundation day on February 17. Lt. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff, along with Col. Marcos Soliman, PMA superintendent (above), inspect cadets. Photo below shows the General addressing cadets.

