

044532-0
COPY

~~DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE~~

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

NATIONALIST CHINA REEQUIPS NAVY WITH EQUIPMENT FROM U.S.

The Republic of China, with American advisors and equipment supplied under MDAP (Mutual Defense Assistance Program) is strengthening its armed forces as speedily as possible. The Nationalist Chinese Navy, though small, is learning to man former U.S. Navy ships and landing craft - and Chinese technicians are being trained for the many special skills required.

(a) At Formosa's Naval Academy - modeled on our own Annapolis -- the Chinese Naval Cadets take a four-year course to qualify as officers. Although the public generally sees them only on parade, they spend most of their time learning seamanship, engineering, gunnery and kindred subjects.

(b) Seamen are training at the Naval Rating School -- in communications -- from the manual signaling and signal flags to radio communications. In other courses, the students man various ships' batteries set up ashore to master the technique. Rowing on land, they learn how to feather an oar before they ever go to sea.

(c) Nationalist Chinese Marines, heading ashore in U.S. supplied landing craft, are given realistic training in amphibious tactics ... including assault landings.

(d) Cruises aboard former DE's of the U.S. Navy give the Chinese Nationalist Navy a chance to weld its various Naval specialists into a sea-going combat team. Practical navigation -- anti-aircraft drill -- are practiced throughout the naval patrol.