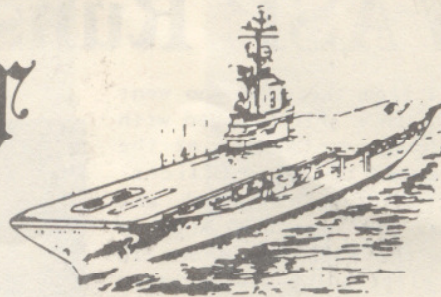


The Stinger



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Sixth Fleet: 'The Friendly Fleet'

The Sixth Fleet -- the U.S. Navy in the Mediterranean -- is probably the most exciting show of force ever produced in peacetime.

Behind the show, the force is there -- the most formidable striking power in the Middle East today.

The position of the Fleet is determined, minute by minute if necessary, in the brain of just one man: the Admiral of the Fleet.

Since late summer of 1956, that man has been Vice Admiral Charles R. ('Cat') Brown. A baby sister called him 'Cat' when he was a boy in Alabama, and the nickname took.

The Commander of the Sixth Fleet, who began his naval career as an Annapolis midshipman in 1917, is famous for a way with words, a well-thumbed Bible and an unshakable conviction that any human being can perhaps do twice as much as he thinks he can.

The Sixth Fleet under Admiral Brown is a community of about 25,000 American Navymen and Marines who function afloat on 50 ships which carry all the machinery of persuasion of our time.

The Sixth Fleet is modern and well-balanced. It includes an attack carrier striking force and an amphibious landing force and periodically is augmented by a special force -- Task Force 66, an antisubmarine carrier task group.

Task Force 66, which at the pre-



VADM Charles R. Brown
Commander, Sixth Fleet

sent time is made up of the WASP, her embarked air squadrons and seven destroyer escorts, is a team which uses all capabilities and all available weapons to hunt, detect and kill submarines.

A variety of sustaining auxiliary vessels make it possible for the Fleet to operate indefinitely at sea without shore bases in the Mediterranean.

The composition of the Sixth Fleet changes completely every four to six months, with ships from the United States replacing those in the Mediterranean.

The only exception to the rotation policy among combatant ships is the heavy cruiser which is used as the permanent flagship of the Fleet.

At present, Admiral Brown's flagship is the DES MOINES.

The Sixth Fleet is one of the Navy's two largest Fleets in continuous operation on the high seas. The other is the Seventh Fleet in the western Pacific.

These are the missions of the Sixth Fleet:

- * To help preserve the peace.
 - * To assure Mediterranean countries of our friendship and readiness to help them.
 - * To protect and support U.S. citizens, interests and policies in the Mediterranean area.
 - * To be prepared to carry out such wartime assignments as superior U.S. or NATO commands may order.
 - * To perfect working relationships with our friends and allies.
 - * To provide realistic wartime training for ships and men of our Navy.
 - * To familiarize U.S. Navy personnel with the strategic Mediterranean area of the world.
- The Sixth Fleet has no shore bases in the Mediterranean. It is a permanently transient organization. It is completely mobile and self-sustaining. About 50 per cent of the Fleet's time is spent in training exercises at sea, both U.S. and NATO, as well as occasional exercises with other friends and allies, depending on where the center of gravity of the Fleet may be at the time -- eastern, western or central

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a special report

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