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Harkins Well Versed in Attack Planning

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BANGKOK, Thailand (IO)— One of the U.S. Army's top military specialists in plans and operations, General Paul D. Harkins, commander, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, was to arrive at Bangkok's Don Muang Airport Monday for the eight-nation Southeast Asia Treaty Organization exercise "Dhanarajata."

Harkins and his party will remain in Thailand until June 13. He will return later to observe other exercise highlights through June 25.

Born in Boston, Mass., May 15, 1904, Harkins enlisted in the Massachusetts National

Guard's 110th Cavalry and rose to the rank of sergeant before attending the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., from which he graduated in 1929.

Shortly after the U.S. entered World War II, Harkins participated in the invasion of North Africa as deputy chief of staff, Western Task Force.

As deputy chief of staff, U.S. Seventh Army, he helped work out the successful plan for the invasion of Sicily.

Specializing in plans and operations for more than 30 years of military service, the general was

assigned to the Third U.S. Army, commanded by the late General George S. Patton, as deputy chief of staff, followed by a similar assignment with the U.S. Fifteenth Army after the war in Europe.

During the Korean War, Harkins served as chief of staff, U.S. Eighth Army, from April to December, 1953, when he became commanding general of the 45th Inf. Div.

In March, 1954, he assumed command of the 24th Inf. Div., also in Korea.

In view of his long experience in military plans and operations,

Harkins was appointed deputy chief of staff, G-3, internal affairs for the Department of the Army.

In 1957, he became the commanding general of NATO's Allied Land Forces, Southeastern Europe, with headquarters in Turkey.

He served as deputy commander in chief and chief of staff, U.S. Army Pacific, from 1960 until his assignment in Vietnam in 1962.

Among his decorations are the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star medal for valor.