

'Highly Professional Outfit'

BLT 1-4 Praised for 'Back Pack' Showing

Operation "Back Pack," one of the largest military training exercises ever conducted in Taiwan, ended last week and was declared highly successful by senior military observers.

The exercise involved about

47,000 American and Chinese Marines and Naval personnel both ashore and afloat.

Under cover of naval guns and Marine and Navy fighter aircraft, U. S. Marines hit the beaches and joined with Nationalist Chinese Marines to battle the aggressors who had invaded southern Taiwan.

Adm. Charles L. Melson, commander U. S. Taiwan Defense Command, said after watching the exercise he feels that the United States would be ready and able to carry out the terms of the Sino-American mutual defense treaty of 1964, if called upon.

MajGen. James M. Masters Sr., commanding general, 3d-MarDiv, had high praise for Marines who participated in Back Pack.

"They did their jobs well and absolutely without monkey business," he said.

Gen. Masters singled out the comparatively small ag-

gressor force, the Brigade's BLT 1/4, commanded by Lt-Col. A. I. Thomas, for special praise.

"They kept us on our toes all the time," he said. "They are a highly professional outfit."

General Masters could also have mentioned that during the exercise, he was "CAPTURED" at his division C.P., single handedly by then 1st Lieutenant M.C. BROWNER, the aggressor battalion's S-2 and "O" Club Manager. Surely Gen. Masters was too embarrassed to go public with this event, - NO sense of humor.