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ASHIYA MOBILITY

OPERATION

"BARE STRIP"

The 815th Troop Carrier Squadron, part of the 483rd Wing based at Ashiya, Japan, successfully completed "Operation Bare Strip," a mobility readiness test last month on an isolated Okinawa air strip.

The operation began when aircraft of the Flying Jennies Squadron touched down at Futema Air Base on Okinawa, Futema actually being merely a landing strip.

Just one hour after the first 815th aircraft landed the squadron was prepared to fly commitments. During the two week mobility exercise the squadron flew four projected flights daily usually terminating at Clark Air Force Base, in the Philippines, or advanced fighter bases on Formosa.

Over 350 men took part in the exercise, 170 from the 815th itself and the remainder from non-tactical squadrons of the 483rd Wing. In-

cluded were elements of the Communications, Air Police, Food Service, Field Maintenance, Motor Vehicle and Air Installations squadrons. Administrative personnel from the 483rd Group Headquarters also took part.

Brigadier General Russell L. Wakron, 35th Air Division Commander and Colonel Jamie Gough, 483rd Wing Commander made inspections of the operation and termed it quite successful. This was also the feeling of other official observers that visited the "Bare Strip Operation."

The very name the project was given "Bare Strip" spelled out its purpose—for troop carrier units to operate from advanced air fields with only minimum equipment and personnel for an indefinite period of time. The 815th proved by realistic demonstration that a troop carrier unit can operate from a forward airstrip, lifting combat cargo and troops when and where it or they may be needed most.