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# The 5 Conditions of 'Defense Readiness'

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 25 — The "precautionary" alert that United States military forces found themselves under today is one of five "defense readiness conditions."

The five conditions are as follows:

5. Forces not in any state of readiness. Recruits lack any training.

4. Normal peacetime position as troops undergo training.

3. Troops placed on stand-by and awaiting further orders.

2. Troops are ready for combat.

1. Troops are deployed for combat.

Pentagon officials would not comment on the level of today's alert, but military sources said the condition was No. 3—troops not yet prepared for combat.

According to one Defense official, the United States has remained at Condition 4 since the Vietnam war. The most recent previous alert, defense officials said, was a "selective" alert called during a series of battles between Jordan and Syria in September, 1970. Today's was a worldwide alert.

In that 1970 period, paratroops of the 82d Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N. C., were put on alert along with two airborne battalions stationed in West Germany. In addition, the aircraft carriers Saratoga and John F. Kennedy were called into the Mediterranean.

In January, 1968, in another alert situation, President Lyndon B. Johnson called almost 15,000 Air Force and Navy reservists to active duty after the North Korean seizure of the

American naval intelligence ship Pueblo. President Johnson acted under an Executive order that enabled him to call up more than 35,000 reservists for not more than 24 months of active duty.

During the Cuban missile crisis of October, 1962, President Kennedy activated about 14,000 Air Force reservists. They were released a month later.

The Soviet-American clash over Berlin in 1961 brought the largest call-up of reservists in recent history. President Kennedy called up 150,000 men who remained on active duty for 10 months.