

The Big Picture – Southern European Task Force

Sergeant Stuart Queen: In Northern Italy today stands an outpost of the new United States Army. It is a unique organization, the Southern European Task Force called SETAF, whose job it is to support NATO's ground forces in the area. It is a tightly packed, well-trained band of about 6,000 men. More important, SETAF comprises the Army's only operative atomic Missile Command in Europe. SETAF makes its headquarters in Verona, the town made famous by Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. Few places in the world where our troops are stationed is there more mutual respect and admiration between troops and the native population than here in Verona.

Today's *Big Picture* is more than the story of SETAF and our Italian allies. To see SETAF in its proper perspective, we must also consider NATO and the threat of the Communist Empire.

Narrator: For more than a decade now, the nations of Western Europe have been enjoying the fruits of peace. Across farmlands where warring armies raged twice in the course of half a century, farmers are again raising crops to feed a population which for years existed on a substandard diet.

This is the free Europe of today, its peoples living better and more richly than ever before. But it is a Europe living not without a grave threat to peace. In 1949 the North Atlantic Treaty Organization was formed to create a defensive barrier against further expansion by Soviet Russia. The western anchor of NATO is the United States. The defensive chain stretches...