



442ND TROOP CARRIER WING MOHAWK



JANUARY 1960

RICHARDS-GEBAUR AFB

CONTROLLED RETIREMENT OF RESERVISTS ANNOUNCED

Approximately 50% of Reserve Officers eligible for 20 year retirement will have an opportunity to continue on active duty under a new controlled retirement program for reservists announced by Headquarters USAF on January 5.

The new retirement program, which will begin to make itself felt this fall, is designed to ease the disproportionate hump of officers in the 20 to 30 year service bracket. Essence of the program is that officers with more than 20 years service will be retained according to the needs of the service for certain skills and training.

The Air Force will have over 5,000 Reserve Officers on active duty who will be eligible to retire during fiscal year 1961. It is expected about 1,000 will retire voluntarily, and 1,700 will be forced to retire between September 30, 1960 and February 28, 1961 as a result of the new program.

Although an officer's character and efficiency are considered in determining whether he stays on, they are not necessarily the controlling factors. Other criteria may include the officer's essentiality to the unit mission, possession of a critical skill, outstanding performance or specialized knowledge of a particular project.

(continued on Page 2, column 1)

SUMMER BLUES

Reservists may soon have "summer blues". Not the 15-day variety but the uniform issue.

Following a trend toward more comfortable warm weather garb, the Air Force has put its stamp of approval on a smart, tropical worsted, blue summer uniform for all members.

Adoption of the new uniform will be gradual, beginning on an optional basis for all personnel on May 1, 1961. It will not become a "prescribed item" for officers until the summer of 1962. For airmen, the "prescribed" date is May 1, 1963.

The silvertan shade 193 uniform items, coat and trouser, or shirt and trousers, may be worn as optional summer clothing through Oct. 15, 1965. Unaffected will be the status of the "cotton, tan, shade 505 summer service uniform" as a required uniform for male officers and airmen, according to a Headquarters announcement.

The new uniform, officially designated the "lightweight blue shade 84 service uniform," consists of a coat and trousers identical in style, cut, and color, to the familiar winter blue serge uniform and can be worn as an optional, year-round outfit.

The prescribed summer uniform for officers in 1960 will continue to be the silvertan shade 193 coat and trousers and the cotton, tan 505s.

RESERVE RETIREMENT continued

Officers being considered for this first annual screening are those with 20 or more years active federal military service, on or before December 31, 1960.

Officials are quick to point out that retirement does not reflect adversely on the officer. In a letter to major commands, Lt. General Truman H. Landon, Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel, Headquarters USAF, stresses these reservists have contributed significantly to the leadership, technical skill and combat capability of the Air Force.

Major commanders will submit the names of officers not wishing voluntary retirement to Headquarters USAF for priority consideration for retention if they meet the criteria outlined above.

A board of senior officers will convene in March at Headquarters USAF to select officers to be retained. Those not picked will normally receive at least six months notice before their programmed separation date. They will be scheduled to retire, at planned increments, between September 30, 1960 and February 28, 1961.

Once an officer is selected for retention, he will not be screened again for three years, according to present Air Force plans.

AF CONDUCTS WORLD-WIDE SUPPLY "PROJECT-COUNT"

The first world-wide simultaneous inventory of supply and equipment assets will take place this month in order to gain a complete picture of what the Air Force has on hand.

The one-time effort is possible, officials say, because of the available electronic data processing equipment and fast, accurate communications. Previously, inventories were taken on a phased basis -- class by class.

"Project - Count" will be handled by 442d A.R.T. personnel, requiring about ten days to cover the complete physical inventory.

GI TERM INSURANCE STILL CONVERTIBLE

Holders of GI Term Insurance policies with the letters "RS" before the policy

TERM INSURANCE - Continued

number can convert these policies to any one of six Veterans Administration permanent plans, under recent amendment of the law.

In addition, policies may be exchanged for lower-priced term insurance. Full details are available from any VA office.

G. I. INSURANCE DIVIDENDS COMING UP

Dividends totaling \$234 million will be paid in 1960 to about 4,900,000 policyholders of National Service Life Insurance (NSLI), the so-called "G. I." insurance which originated in World War II.

Some \$19.5 million will go to about 273,000 holders of U. S. Gov't. Life Insurance, a World War I innovation. Both term and permanent plan USLI and USGLI policyholders will get dividends.

Payment of the dividend is automatic, a Veterans Administration spokesman said, cautioning that individual inquiry about dividend status tends to slow up payment. However, those who indicated previously that they wanted automatic dividend payment, but who have now decided to allow their dividends to "ride" as advanced payment on policy premiums, must make the change known in writing to VA insurance officials.

Checks will be mailed as soon as possible after the 1960 anniversary date of the policy, usually reaching the recipient about 30 days after the anniversary date.

Policyholders will receive approximately the same amount as last year.

NEXT U. T. A. IS FEBRUARY 13-14. LET'S SHOOT FOR 100% ATTENDANCE.

TOPEKA OFFICER ONE OF TEN OUTSTANDING YOUNG MEN

Lt. Col. Wesley W. Posver, head of the Air Force Academy's political science dept. whose hometown is Topeka, has been named as one of the U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce's "Ten Outstanding Young Men of 1959". The 34-year-old officer is the only service member named for 1959.

AF FILMS AVAILABLE - LET'S USE THEM

Reservists are urged to make use of the many excellent films which are available from ground training. If you are a member of any organization which desires films for programs see Sgt. Kloiber. Ground training also has projectors which you can borrow if your organization has none. If need be, ground training can also give you the needed instruction in operating the projectors.

This is an opportunity for everyone to do some good public relations work for the wing and the A F Reserve.

A. F. ACADEMY TO BUILD STADIUM

Plans have been announced for a fund drive to build a 40,000 seat football stadium for the Air Force Academy. Public funds are not to be used for such a project so the money will be raised by the Air Force Academy Foundation, a non-profit organization. A drive to raise the needed \$three and one-half million will begin on 15 April and last for one month. Headquarters USAF, CONac and Tenth are all behind the program. A stadium is needed at the Academy to enable the team to play home games which not only alleviate the need for travel but will also provide gate receipts to finance the 14 other sports at the Academy.

CHECK YOUR WRIST WATCHES MEN!

If you have a Rolex GMT-Master wrist watch purchased between October 1956 and November 1959, you might have a personal atomic fallout problem all your own.

The Atomic Energy Commission is trying to trace and recover an estimated 600 of the watches, made by the Swiss firm, Montres Rolex, Geneva, because some of them have been found to harbor radioactive strontium-90.

The suspect watches may be further identified by the name "Oyster Perpetual" on the face.

NEW RATING FOR AIRCRAFT OBSERVERS

The Air Force has announced a third aeronautical rating for aircraft observers to be known as "Master Aircraft Observer."

The new observer rating provides Aircraft observers three steps in career progression in their specialty, the same as pilots and navigators who already have a master rating.

To qualify for the new rating, aircraft observers must have 15 years of rated service since graduation from observer school, 3,000 or more hours, and be on flying status as an aircraft observer or Senior Aircraft Observer.

They must have passed the annual Aircraft Observer examination no more than 12 months before the date of application.

The Master Aircraft Observer badge will be the same as that worn by Master Navigators.

WING COMMANDS HAVE MEANS TO QUALIFY NONCOMS

The Air Force is trying to make clear that the Airmen Proficiency Test (APT) is only part of the story in its NCO and airman quality control programs.

In a letter, dated Dec. 7, 1959, to all major commands, Hq USAF re-emphasized the program's aim stating that "an airman whose performance on the job is satisfactory should not be downgraded."

Under current policy, a non-com in the 5 or 7 skill level who doesn't have a qualifying score in a proficiency test, must take an APT. He is given two chances to pass the test. If he fails on the second try, a classification board, convened locally by the base or wing commander, reviews the non-com's qualifications.

The board has the power to recommend retention of the man in his specialty; down-grading to a lower skill level if unqualified; or downgrading and retraining into another field in which training is authorized.

A non-com can appeal the board's results and receive another evaluation by a different board.

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS



MOHAWK

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

This issue of the Mohawk is somewhat slimmer than usual due to the snow-shortened UTA and also due to the fact that the Information Office is not getting much news from the different squadrons. Our office is not currently manned by any ART personnel and it is impossible for our small staff to go around gathering news from the various squadrons during the UTA. Anything concerning any reservist that is at all newsworthy may be used. Let us know about your weddings, your family, your part in civilian organizations and occupations, your traffic tickets, wife-beatings etc..... We can't offer any cash prize for the best news tip of the week but your contributions will certainly be appreciated.