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DEAR GUARDSMEN: Airborne Ditcher . . . LARC . . . BARC . . . Mohawk
. . . Caribou . . . Mojave . . . AN/USD-1 . . . LITTLE JOHN . . . SS-11
. . . LACROSSE . . . Overland Train . . .

The WW II-model soldier thought he had fancy hardware in such things as
the Bazooka, the "Six-by" truck, the "Easy Eight" tank, the "Duck," the walkie-
talkie and the "Piper Cub."

But "sophistication" has entered the military picture through the media of
electronics and mechanization to a degree little-dreamed-of 15 years ago. A good
sampling of it was shown-off recently by the Tech Services at a conference and
demonstration hosted by Army Secy Wilber M Brucker at Aberdeen Proving
Ground, Md.

For Guardsmen in particular, it was a source of pride that the "curtain-raiser"
was provided by the DelaANG; four of its F86s whistled over the brass-hat stands
for an on-the-nose delivery of devastating fire bombs in a simulated ground
support mission.

Only trouble is, the Army—not to mention its first-line backup, the Army
Guard—doesn't have nearly enough of the modern gear to make its Pentomic
outfits really tick. A lot more "modernization" money has to be shook loose to
get us the tools to fulfill our mission. —AGC

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WASHINGTON report

MORE ABOUT ROPA

Army Guardsmen who already have both the number of
years' service in grade, and total years of commissioned
service, to be "ripe" for mandatory consideration for pro-
motion under ROPA as amended, probably will be con-
sidered by the first Selection Boards early in the new year.

That was the word from an NGB source at press time,
while all interested parties were awaiting their copies of
the new, just-going-to-press, AR 135-155 which governs
promotion as Reserve of the Army.

Though Army Area Commanders will oversee the boards,
the ARNG's to have one in each State, set up by the
Senior Army Advisor.

And, though no specific date had been set for the boards
to convene, the very fact that no one outside the Pentagon
(and the Govt Printing Office) had seen the new AR early
in Nov, and that it takes time to study the Reg and act
on it once it's been received, led to the educated guess
that none would be in a position to meet before 1 Jan at
the earliest.

The Selection Boards will operate generally along the
lines of the well-known Fed Recognition Boards: they'll
comprise not less than five officers, at least half of whom
must be Guardsmen; they'll delve through each subject's
records to determine his qualifications for promotion (but
it's unlikely that "candidates" will be called before a board
in person). However, whereas a FR Board may convene
to consider an individual officer, the Selection Board nor-
mally will convene only once a year. Ordinarily, at each
annual meeting, it will consider officers months before
they're technically due for promotion, so that appropriate
action can be taken as soon as the individual reaches the
actual deadline. At press time, however, it was questionable
whether this would be done on the first go-round, for in
many if not all instances, there's such a backlog of officers
who *must* be considered immediately, that the workload
may preclude taking-on those whose deadline is still
many months away.

The Board's recommendations (it doesn't have the
actual promotion authority) are subject to approval by the
Army Commander. Then, here are various courses of
action that may take place:

The Board has recommended, and the Army CG has
approved, promotion of 1st Lt Joe Blow to Capt. The
Army Commander initiates the steps to have the promotion
effected in the *Reserve of the Army*, and, through channels,
invites the appropriate State AG to promote Joe to Capt
in the National Guard of his State.

Then, one of three things can happen: if there's no
Capt vacancy for Joe, or for some other reason he doesn't
want the bars right then, *and* his State AG goes along
with the idea, Joe can decline the promotion, and keep
right on serving as a 1st Lt for up to three years. Or, Joe
can submit his resignation from the Guard, be transferred
to the Army Res, and be promoted. However, if there is
a vacancy, Joe can be granted his promotion without
further ado and without Fed Recognition Board action;
being duly advised, NGB will grant Fed Recognition and
will issue Joe's commission as Capt, ARNGUS.

On the other hand, if the Board *doesn't* recommend
Joe's promotion, and the Army Commander concurs, it's
a "passover," and Joe can stay put as a 1st Lt until the
Selection Board meets again and considers him once more.
If he's passed-over a second time, he must be separated
within 90 days.

AGREEMENT REACHED ON ARMORY SIZE

For nearly a year the discussions went on—not always
amicable—between a picked group of Army Guard lead-
ers and representatives of the Dept of Def. The subject
was a familiar one to Guardsmen: Armory space criteria,
or just how large an Armory must be built to house ade-
quately a unit of given size.

Studies were made, points argued and reargued, meet-
ings held, and recommendations submitted, first by one
side, then by the other.

The main goal: to establish space standards for a new
type of Armory, smaller than anything the Guard previously
had built, to house the assortment of smaller units—55 to
75 men—that had crept into the Guard's troop list.

Finally, in Oct, the protracted dispute was ended and
agreement reached, on substantially the Guard's own
terms.

Virtually no changes were made in the standards of
Armories for two or more units, except in the method
of computing strength. Previously, the figure used in de-
termining Armory size had been the "reduced column"
TOE strength of the unit to be housed, a figure which
was eliminated from TOEs long ago. The Guard's Armory
Criteria Review Board, headed by Maj Gen Maxwell E
Rich, Utah AG, studied the records and recommended
70% of TOE. That was the strength level the average
unit most likely would maintain through the years and
therefore was the most logical figure upon which to base
Armory construction. DoD conferees held out for the so-
called "priority aggregate," a somewhat artificial, change-
able figure which came into being during Guard-wide
reorganization in 1959. Guard spokesmen put up vigorous
opposition to the DoD proposal. The priority aggregate,
they pointed out, was more a *goal* than a permanent
strength figure. It was the minimum manpower level con-
sidered desirable if a unit was to retain its state of
combat-readiness, its assigned priority and its Fed recog-
nition. It could change—and did so frequently—and it
usually was lower than the actual authorized drill strength
of a unit. It was only in the final weeks of the ten-months-
long controversy that DoD finally agreed to the Guard
proposal—70% of TOE—as the basis for Armory planning.

It was in the limited realm of the small-unit Armory,
however, that the controversy centered, and even there,
most of the argument was prompted by only one frag-
ment of the overall problem. That was the size of the
drill halls. It didn't take long to reach agreement on overall
Armory size. There'd be four different sizes of single-unit
structures: the largest, for units of more than 100 men,
pegged at 15,960 square ft; the next largest, for units in
the 76/100-man category, 13,000 square ft (neither of
these represented any significant change from previous
standards); a still smaller structure, at 11,660 square ft,
to house a split unit which included the unit's Hq, or a
separate unit with its own Hq, of 55 to 75 men; and
the smallest, 10,960 square ft, to accommodate a split
unit of 55 to 75 men in which the unit (Co, Btry, Sq,
etc) Hq was located elsewhere.

On drill halls, the Rich Board queried Guard leaders
across the Country and settled on 5,400 square ft as the
smallest size which would permit the unit to hold the
prescribed formations, carry on training, and frequently
to store vehicles. The DoD representatives said 4,200

—Continued on page 41