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DEAR GUARDSMEN: Pictures? Boy—do we have pictures! Group pix of people at meetings, at Service schools; getting into, out of or off of airplanes, helicopters, tanks, and what-have-you; of people presenting things to people, or shaking hands, or just grinning at the photographer.

What brings this to mind is the recent chore of combing through some hundreds of accumulated photos, cross-referencing every individual shown, and filing them in our morgue (journalistic for reference library) against possible future need. We got to wondering how many people in these shots feel hurt because *this* photo, or *that* one, never saw print.

An Editor has to get pretty hard-boiled about copy and pix. There's just X amount of white space available and Y amount of material with which to fill it—far more Y than X. So the problem is one of honest selection and elimination. Which pix, which feature articles, which news items, are likely to interest the most readers? Strictly local or commonplace material hits the dead-hook or the morgue; unusual, broad-interest stuff makes the printed page.

We hate to say "no" to anything that's offered. We hate to disappoint anyone. But something's gotta give! —AGC

OUR COVER: The hottest fighters and bombers, the soundest operational plans, are worthless without sure-fire communications. The way the communicators and the fliers team-up was exemplified in the Air National Guard's top-notch performance as a Tactical Air Force in this Summer's Exercise BRIGHT STAR/PINE CONE III, and Artist Lou Nolan has pointed-up this inter-dependence in his design for our cover.

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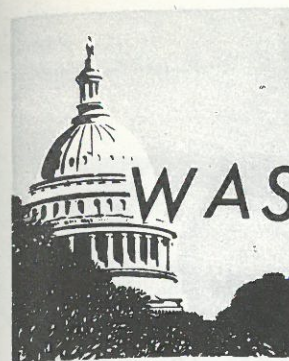
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WASHINGTON report

BULLETIN EXPLAINS ROPA

The Reserve Officer Personnel Act amendments that last July put into effect a new principle of forced attrition for the Army Guard and other reserve forces, and modified the Air Guard's (and other components') policies, was *one* thing.

Quite another is the implementation—the steps that are necessary on the respective Services' part, to fit the law to specific situations, and start the wheels rolling.

That process is underway; now being staffed are changes in AR 135-155 and NGRs 20-3 and 204.

Meantime, NGB is putting out a Special Bulletin for the ARNG, giving its slant on how Guardsmen are affected. Much of what's in the Bulletin already has been covered in "A Final Report on ROPA," in the Aug 1960 issue of THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN. Since then, however, some points that had been stated in general terms in the law, have been reduced to specifics as to what, how, and by whom certain things will be done.

For example, the law states that when a Lt Col has been recommended for promotion, he may be retained until appointed or refused appointment in the higher grade. It doesn't mean that his AG's or CG's recommendation governs; it means he can be held *if* he's been found fully qualified by a Fed Recognition Board, and has been extended Fed recognition, but hasn't yet been tendered his Colonelcy as a reserve commissioned officer of the Army. For star rank, the "candidate" can be held *if* he's been recommended by a Gen O Fed Recognition Board, its findings have been approved by the Secy of the Army, and his name has been placed on the recommended list for promotion as a reserve Gen O of the Army.

Then, too, there's a general statement to the effect that ARNG officers originally appointed in the reserve of the Army before 3 Sep 54, and who have been in an active status since that date, but because of hardship or circumstances beyond their control couldn't complete 20 years' service for retirement because they'd be washed-out sooner by time-in-grade or length of service limitations, may be kept on until they make their 20 years before reaching age 60. The "circumstances beyond their control" are defined in the Bulletin as being "circumstances of a personal and temporary nature, such as extended illness, civilian employment, etc.; or of a military or administrative nature such as lack of suitable vacancy for assignment, residence too far from unit, transfer to an inactive status due to inactivation of unit, etc., which precludes active participation." It also covers those who were over 25 when commissioned. The Chief, NGB, is the one who will decide each case on its merits. The same applies to the exceptions for Medics, Dentists, Nurses, AMSCS and Chaplains who otherwise might be eliminated.

The Secretary of the Army has reserved the right to decide, on an individual basis, which ARNG officers in State Hq (to whom the maximum service limitations don't apply) may stay on until age 60. States will have to submit requests for retention of such officers to the Bureau

at least 45 days before the individual otherwise would be eliminated.

Working details for application of the so-called "mandatory promotion" angles of the law—the ones that have the most impact on the Guard—still are being staffed. Strictly speaking, "mandatory promotion" isn't what's involved—it's mandatory *consideration for promotion*. By the time an officer has served so many years as a commissioned officer, and so many years in his present grade, he must have been *considered* by a selection board for promotion.

At this writing it hadn't even been decided at what level the boards would operate; whether there might be one central board in the Pentagon, or one in each State, for example. (NGB officers estimate 8,000 Army Guardsmen will be ripe for consideration by the first Board). A guess-timate is that the first Board, or Boards, might get into action in late Fall or early Winter. The precise criteria it (or they) would use, hadn't been determined. And here's an important point: It appears that *some* people have jumped to the conclusion that the new system means that the rigid military educational qualifications now governing promotion of Guard officers, no longer apply; they couldn't be "wronger." ROPA, or nothing else, has upset or is likely to upset the educational criteria already established in NGRs. Whatever recommendation a Selection Board makes, the officer concerned still will have to go before a Fed Recognition Board, and, one Board or another—or both—will be bound by those criteria.

As for the business of a Maj, Capt, or Lt declining promotion (with his Gov's consent) for three years, rather than be pushed out of the Guard for lack of a slot in the higher grade: if he *does* turn down the promotion, he can't quit the Guard and go over to the USAR and be promoted before the three years are up, unless his State AG approves the action.

Another angle enters into mandatory consideration for promotion of ARNG Lt Cols. The Army may have only so many "non-unit" Reserve Cols. When there are, or are about to be, some eagle vacancies, the Army Secy may call a board to consider and recommend ARNG and USAR Lt Cols (including USAR Lt Cols on AD) to fill them, and say how much service is necessary for officers to be considered. ARNG Lt Cols recommended for promotion may turn it down for three years (Alaska Scout and "on-site" Air Defense Lt Cols for longer, if the Secy approves). And even two "pass-overs" by this Board won't wash-out those involved.

AIR PERSONNEL PROCEDURES CHANGED

Changes to Air Guard Regulations have flowed from NGB in an unceasing stream these past few weeks as the Bureau adjusts its personnel handling procedures to last Summer's changes in ROPA and in the AF command structure. Here are some of the more significant Regs which were changed, and the gist of the revision:

ANGR 36-03A—Transfers authority to appoint Federal recognition boards from ConAC to the Gaining Commands.

ANGR 35-05A—Eliminates ConAC from the officer evaluation procedures and substitutes appropriate Gaining Commands in coordination with State authorities.

ANGR 36-05A and 36-014—Makes specific provision for discharge of a probationary officer (one who has held a commission less than three years) without referral to an efficiency board. Makes no change in procedure for non-probationary officers.

ANGR 39-10A—Corrects two omissions in basic reg: (1) lists transfer from one component to another as a specific reason for discharge, to provide book, chapter and verse which can be cited in the discharge order; (2) Gives State AGs permission to delegate their own authority to issue discharges to a lower echelon.