



Shattering: Deer vs Rabbit

One student at the Missile and Munitions Center and School bagged a deer this year without trying.

A young German Air Force lieutenant was driving along Patton Road last week when the buck suddenly darted into the path of his car. The animal was thrown onto the hood and crashed through the windshield.

The officer received minor lacerations from flying glass.

The mishap occurred just north of the Martin Road overpass.

E-5s—E-7s In Overstrength MOS's

6,000 Soldiers To Retrain In Combat Arms

More than 6,000 career soldiers serving in surplus MOSs will be shifted to combat arms skills by the end of 1976 under a mandatory retraining and reclassification program being managed by MILPERCEN.

The new retraining/reclassification program primarily will affect soldiers in grades E-5 through E-7 in overstrength combat support and combat service support MOSs. They will fill NCO positions in understrength combat arms skills -- infantry, armor, combat engineer and field and air defense artillery after formal training and on-the-job experience.

Initial classes of about 30 soldiers each are to begin training in January, according to MILPERCEN. About 3,000 should be in training or trained by mid-1976; the other 3,000 by December 31, 1976. About 10,000 soldiers will eventually be retrained and reclassified to bolster the NCO ranks in the combat arms.

MILPERCEN is screening soldiers' records to select those who mandatorily will be retrained and reclassified. Selection will come from among soldiers:

Serving in surplus MOSs worldwide.

With suitable physical profile and job aptitude. They must have a passing score (70) on their last MOS test.

In a career status: this excludes "first termers" -- those on an initial enlistment. Selection will focus on soldiers with at least six years' service.

Not in a bonus status: this excludes those receiving enlistment (EB), variable reenlistment (VRB), or selective reenlistment bonuses (SRB).

Not mandatorily reclassified in the last 18 months.

Those selected will represent the entire range of successful soldiers from MOSs with surpluses. They will have the potential for training and successful performance in a new MOS.

Also, soldiers who meet selection criteria may volunteer for the retraining/reclassification program. For the past year MILPERCEN has actively encouraged soldiers to volunteer to change their MOS to understrength skill fields.

Those involuntarily selected for the program will be notified by letter through their commander. MILPERCEN will reconsider the selection of only those soldiers who for strong military reasons (physical disqualification, etc.) forward within 14 days of notification the required documents supporting requests for deletion from the program. (ANF)

VIEWPOINTS

The Army's

The Army has a worldwide surplus of NCOs in support MOSs. On the other hand, there is a critical shortage of NCOs in many infantry, armor, combat engineer and field and air defense artillery MOSs. More combat arms NCOs are needed to fill other requirements as the Army moves to a 16-division force.

To cope with the problem, the Army must fill its needs from within. The answer is a program of retraining and reclassifying soldiers from overstrength skills to combat arms MOSs. Retraining of 6,000 soldiers by the end of 1976 will meet the Army's immediate needs. But the program will extend beyond that time to fill intermediate requirements.

Long-term needs can be met by recruiting "first termers" for the combat arms and by limiting prior service enlistments and careerist reenlistments to shortage skills. The Army should achieve a balanced enlisted force by following this path -- a path that offers equal career opportunities for all soldiers.

The Soldiers'

At Redstone a number of soldiers have received notice of involuntary classification into a combat arms MOS or other specialty where a severe personnel shortage exists.

"It's most definitely to my benefit", says Specialist 5 Calvin Ely, who is being reclassified from medical records specialist to fire director assistant. He is assigned to

Continued Page 18



Cozy Comfort

Nothing better than a stomach full of Hackberry and someone warm to snuggle against on a crisp, fall day. The two young Raccoon, in the branches of a tall Hackberry, were sighted by persons going to and from Building 5250. Last bed check of the day revealed them sacked out in their aerial bunk.

Blue Collar Wage Survey Set For Spring

Preparations have begun for the conduct of a full scale wage survey in the Huntsville, Alabama Wage Area, according to officials in the Civilian Personnel Division. The Department of Defense, as the lead agency for the survey, has designated MICOM as the host activity.

Scheduled to begin in March 1976, the survey will cover wages paid by industrial firms in the

Huntsville area for comparison with those paid to government wage employees at Redstone and other Federal agencies in the wage area.

Establishments to be visited will be selected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Jobs used in the survey will cover a wide range of occupations common in skill and responsibility in both industry and government.

The wage survey will be conducted in accordance with the Government-wide Federal Wage System, which provides for uniform application in fixing the pay for wage employees.

Further details are provided in Notice of Hearing posted on Bulletin Boards.

Saints Sodality Meets Friday

The Queen of All Saints Sodality will hear Laura Dinwiddie, a social worker from the Catholic Charities when they meet at the Post Chapel on Friday morning for their Baby Jesus Shower.

All ladies are invited to take part in the program and each is asked to bring a gift for a new-born baby. The gifts will be turned over to the Catholic Social Services and will be used for preparing layette sets to be given to needy mothers.

Mass will be at nine followed by the meeting and talk by Miss Dinwiddie.

The Rocket

The Rocket is published weekly, on Wednesday. The publisher will receive editorial content for publication in the Rocket through the Information Office, Army Missile Command, Redstone Arsenal, Ala., 35809, Bldg. 5250, Room A-134. Extension 876-1400 or 876-1500.

All advertising copy and payments therefor are received by Mrs. Vergie Robinson P. O. Box 5351, Huntsville, Ala., 35805, telephone 837-8595, as representative of the publisher. Advertising deadline—both display and wantads—is 10 a.m. Monday before publication.

The Rocket is distributed free of cost to personnel at Redstone Arsenal. Mailing rates off post for the Rocket are \$9.54 a year, or \$6.36 for six months, tax included. Mailing arrangements may be made with the publisher, P. O. Box 930, Hartselle, Ala. 35640.

Everything advertised in this publication must be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to the race, creed, color, sex or national origin of the purchaser, user, or patron. A confirmed violation or rejection of this policy of equal opportunity by an advertiser will result in the refusal to print advertising from that source.

CLOWERS

NO. 49—EYE BALLS ROLL . . . when they see this home in Parkway Estates/Fleming Hills area. At 7805 Mallard Rd., children walk to Chaffee School, playground w/pool and tennis, churches and shopping centers. Nearly 2200 sq. ft. nestled on a pretty fenced yard w/extra large patio and oversized double carport. SEE 'FORE SOMEONE GETS IT!!

NO. 43—WALK TO HOSPITALS, DUNNAVANT'S MALL & DOWNTOWN . . . \$13,750 will buy this cute 2 bedroom bungalow at 2026 Vanderbilt Dr. It has newly painted living room and dining room, front porch, carport, fenced yard and new heating system. Nothing down on VA, \$400 down on FHA.

NO. 31—WHITESBURG ESTATES Large half acre yard w/trees, 3 bedroom colonial 2-story w/double garage. Central heat and air, carpets and paneled den. All for \$35,950. 2206 Rothmore Dr. DON'T PUT OFF SEEING!!!

NO. 09—PRICES PINCHING??? (\$21,950) Then see this cute 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath ranch at 3015 Fairacres Rd., SW. It features living and dining rooms, garage and fenced yard. No money down to Veterans; \$700 down on FHA loan. SEE TODAY!! (Holiday Homes Area).

NO. 27—WANT KING SIZE REC ROOM?? for pool and/or ping pong tables? Then this brand new home on Galahad Dr. in Camelot is for you. Other features include: Den or study, 3 big bedrooms, 2 baths, formal living and dining rooms, all built-in Whirlpool kitchen, central heat and air, fully carpeted, loads of wallpaper and elegant light fixtures. Ready to move into!! \$43,950. Nothing down to veteran, \$3,500 down on FHA. DON'T WAIT!!

NO. 40—OLDER HOME NEAR DOWNTOWN!!! \$17,500 — on large tree filled lot over 200 ft. deep. House features long and covered front porch, big living room and dining room w/French doors, 2 big bedrooms, extra large country-style kitchen w/washer and dryer connections. See at 220 Walker Ave.

NO. 07—HEADS UP INVESTORS . . . We have two commercial tracts of land (ready for development) on South Memorial Parkway for lease or sale (with financing available). Buy now, build or hold for future profits.

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DOD Tightens Conflict Of Interest Loopholes

WASHINGTON—The Defense Department issued changes last week to its directive governing standards of conduct to be observed by all DOD personnel, changes aimed at "closing potential loopholes" in the words of Deputy Defense Secretary William P. Clements Jr.

The new language for the directive comes in the wake of widespread publicity and Congressional anger over reports that some DOD military and civilian personnel accepted invitations to hunt on land leased by DOD contractors or took football tickets from contractors.

Clements announced November 24 that the following language had been deleted from the portion of the directive concerning "gratuities" which permitted:

"Customary exchange of social amenities between personal friends and relatives when motivated by such relationships and extended on a personal basis...."

"Transactions between and among relatives which are personal and consistent with the relationship..."

The language on exchange of social amenities between friends had been cited by some DOD personnel to explain why they accepted hunting invitations from contractors.

Clements said: "These changes will strengthen our directive to the point where there shouldn't be any question as to the Defense Department's policy on acceptance of gratuities or other questionable transactions between

our military and civilian personnel and defense contractors. Potential loopholes regarding exchange of social amenities no longer exist.

"At the same time we have made revisions to the directive requiring more of our people to submit statements of employment and financial interests since these individuals have varying degrees of responsibilities in the approving and monitoring of government transactions."

In addition to the many categories of individuals required previously to file statements of employment and financial interest, the new language in the directive (DOD 5500.7) adds:

"All civilian officers and employees paid at the level of grades GS-16 to 18 and at a level of the

executive schedule in subchapter II of Chapter 53 of Title 5, U.S. Code...."

"All officers of flag or general rank.

"Commanders and Deputy Commanders of major installations, activities and operations as determined by the respective secretaries of the military departments and directors of defense agencies."

The DOD news release announcing the changes ended with this paragraph:

"Mr. Clements emphasized that the DOD will not tolerate violations of standards of conduct policy and any variance from strict adherence to provisions of the directive will be dealt with severely."



Women's Day

Above, representatives from Army elements in the Redstone area and from Marshall Space Flight Center meet to make final plans for Federal Women's Day tomorrow in the Rocket Auditorium. Front row, left to right are: Sarah Bruce, BMDSCOM; Arleta Martin, MICOM; Cathy Gant, MMCS; Betty Guess, BMDSTAC; and Mary Spears, MICOM. On the back row are Laura Lehman, Corps of Engineers, and Jimmie Dew, MSFC.

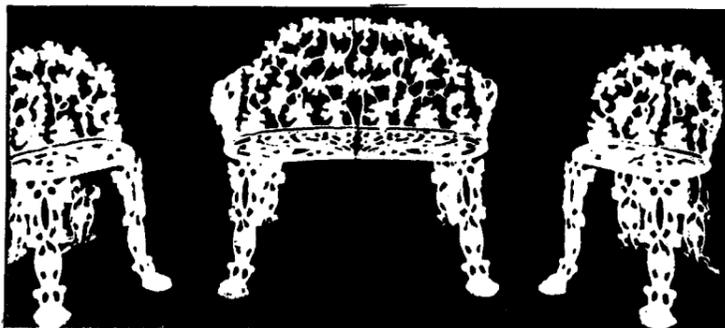
Right, Karen Keesling, director of women's programs, the White House, will be among the speakers at Federal Women's Day tomorrow in the Rocket Auditorium.



The Endeavors Play Rec Center

A popular Nashville soul groups, The Endeavors will furnish the music for a floor show-dance at the Recreation Center on Sunday evening.

Show time is eight and all enlisted persons and their friends are invited to attend.



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Holiday Notice

Redstone organizations desiring news coverage of holiday activities should submit or suggest news items to the Rocket well in advance of the December 19 press deadline for the Christmas issue.

The Christmas issue of the Rocket will be published Tuesday December 23, a day ahead of normal publication date. A portion of the paper will be available for news items on holiday activities here.

Holiday items cannot be published except in the Christmas issue.

The Rocket will not be published during the week following Christmas and resume publication January 7.



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Per Diem Hiked

WASHINGTON (ANF)—The House of Representatives has passed a bill to raise the per diem rates for military personnel and another that would limit to 60 days

the amount of leave enlisted soldiers can sell back in their careers. The current maximum \$25 per diem rate would increase to \$35 and from \$40 to \$50 per day in high cost areas. Both bills now go to the Senate for consideration.

In other congressional action,

the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Compensation voted down a measure that would have provided professional pay for military lawyers.

The subcommittee also considered a measure to improve the Soldier's and Airmen's Home financial status. A redraft of the Soldier's and Airmen's Home Assistance Bill would change the maximum active duty servicemember assessment from the previously proposed \$1 to 50 cents.

Servicemembers are now assessed 25 cents monthly.

The subcommittee also wrote in a provision requiring resident retired soldiers and airmen to pay a percentage of their pension to the Home. Amounts of from 20 to 25 per cent were discussed. The bill will be redrafted; the subcommittee will ask for comments from DoD and the Home.

The measure originally was proposed by the Home because of its current financial troubles. DoD opposed those measures that would increase the active duty servicemember assessment and the channeling of Article 15 fines to the Home. The redraft of the measure is the subcommittee's compromise between the two.

Bookstore Closes; Other Changes Set

Over the holiday period the Main PX will be open on Mondays, the Troop PX and Apollo Inn will close temporarily and the Book Store will shut down permanently, PX Manager Don Emmons said last week.

The Apollo will close Monday and re-open January 5 in a new format and with new hours. The Troop PX will close December 19 and re-open January 5. The Book Store is closing December 19 and will not be re-opened after the holidays.

The Apollo Snack Bar is being done away with, although part of its offerings are being picked up by

the Apollo Pizza Bar which will have operating hours from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily—4-10 p.m. Sunday—when it re-opens. The Pizza Bar menu will be expanded to include grilled sandwiches and several other foods that had been available at the Snack Bar.

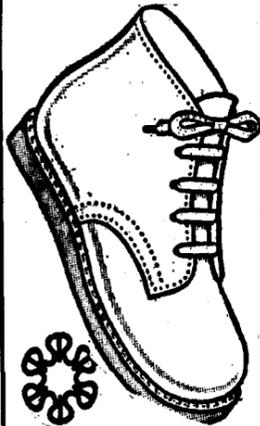
Both the changes at the Apollo and the Book Store closing are for economy reasons, Emmons said. Some Book Store items such as name tags and required texts will continue to be available at the Troop PX.

The Optical and Flower Shops in the Apollo Inn building will remain open.

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Tax Data Still Going To States

WASHINGTON (ANF)—States will continue to receive tax information about soldiers—including the soldier's name, rank, military income, Social Security number, duty station and home address—following a decision by the Defense Department comptroller.

In late September, the Office of Management and Budget rescinded the requirement that DoD annually provide tax data to the states designated by servicemembers as their legal residence.

OMB dropped the requirement because the Privacy Act of 1974 stripped it of authority directing DoD to provide states with tax information.

DoD has determined it legally can continue to provide the same tax data to state authorities under the Freedom of Information Act. "The dissemination of such data to State tax authorities for the purpose of insuring compliance with their income tax laws by military members does not constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy," DoD says.

DoD believes the public interest served by releasing tax data far

outweighs any possible invasion of personal privacy.

Tax data provided by computer to state tax authorities includes information normally contained on W-2 tax forms. The Army sends the information to the state indicated by the soldier in his finance records as his legal residence.

If no legal residence appears in his record, the data is sent to the state in which military wages are earned.

Red Cross Blood Champs

The 8th Student Company's 67.4 per cent participation in the November Bloodmobile visit to the Arsenal helped boost the intake of blood to 100.8 per cent of the Red Cross goal.

The MMCS unit mustered 112 donors and claimed the monthly best unit participation trophy.

In all, 504 pints of blood were accepted from 589 participants. The Bloodmobile will be at the Recreation Center again Dec. 10 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

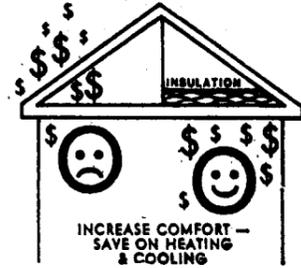
Prior Service Bonus Halted

WASHINGTON (ANF)—Prior service soldiers no longer will receive enlistment bonuses. However, the bonuses will still be paid to prior service personnel who signed up for the bonus under the Delayed Entry Program (DEP) on or before Oct. 20.

The bonuses ended on Nov. 1 because the Army considers the cash bonus is not needed to attract the required number of prior service enlistees.

Current projections indicate the Army can attract sufficient numbers of prior service soldiers to fill its requirements, DA officials say. Another factor was the Army's effort to reduce spending.

Bonus eligibility continues for non-prior service enlistees who enlist for a bonus skill.



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Dec. Promotions Steady

WASHINGTON (ANF)—December promotions planned in grades E-5 through 0-6 remain about on par with last month's

pace, according to the recently released December promotion forecast.

Enlisted promotions include 2,500 to E-5; 1,300 to E-6, 1,178 to E-7; 558 to E-8 and 143 to E-9.

Officer promotions include 40 to CWO-3 and 18 to CWO-4. Other promotions include 167 to O-3; 161 to O-4; 121 to O-5 and 46 to O-6.

The status of current promotion lists after December promotions

will be as shown below:
Grade
Through Sequence Number
Number on List

E-5 & E-6
Promotions made from local lists per DA published monthly promotion cutoff scores for each MOS.

E-7	9,221	12,999
E-8	3,927	4,958
E-9	86	799
CWO-3	628	785
CWO-4	229	351
O-3	5,101	5,661
O-4	651	2,548
O-5	594	1,883
O-6	445	598

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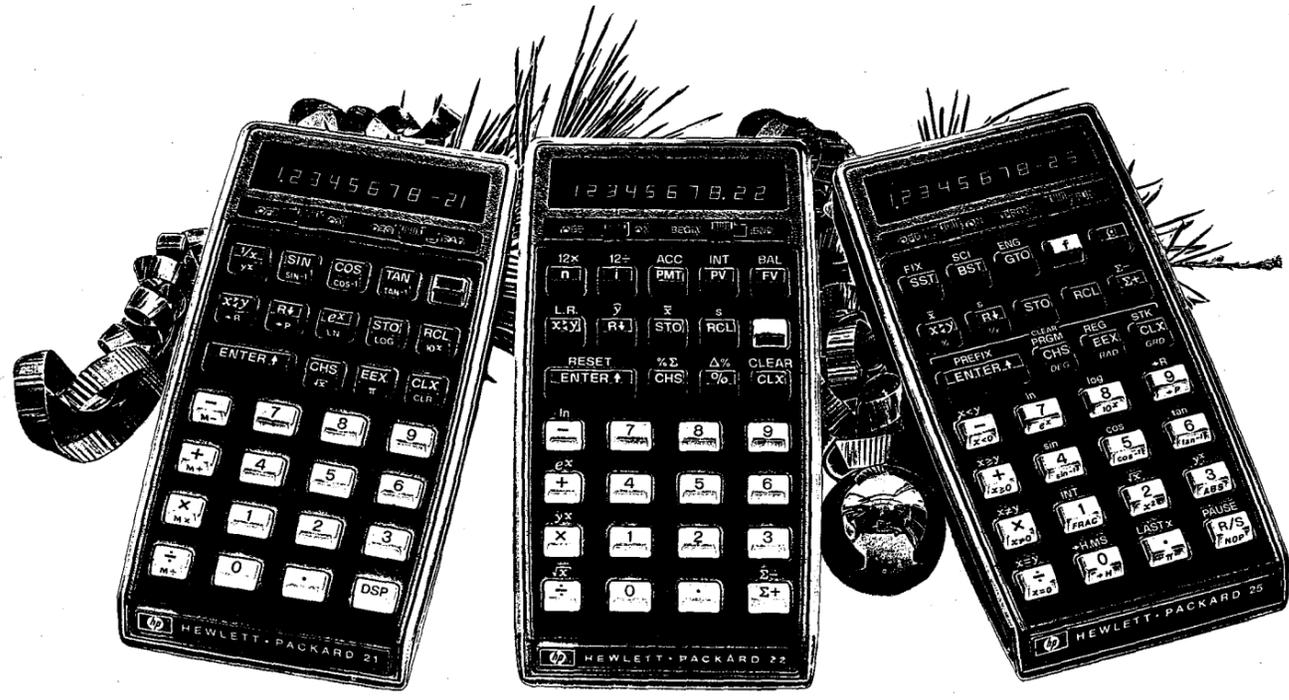
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He's Instrumental Times Six

Fred Hatchett is a one man band. For years he played his six instruments singly, but now with the aid of new multi track recorders he plays them simultaneously.

"When I present a program," said Hatchett, "I have background accompaniment. I like background most when I play the saw. A saw sounds much better with accompaniment."

Playing the hand saw is Hatchett's later musical accomplishment—having taken it up following his retirement from Facilities Engineer two years ago. His first instrument was the violin which he began to play about 50 years ago.

"Besides the saw," he said "a violin is the hardest instrument to learn. Of course I was just a boy, then, and I think children have more trouble staying with the practice you need."

By the time he was 21 he had left the Paint Rock Valley area where he had lived all his life and was playing the Vaudeville type

musical shows around Fort Worth, Texas.

Hatchett had always been on the handle end of the saw before he began bowing it.

"I built the home I live in with the saw I play," he said.

The entertaining Hatchett does now is mostly civic functions or charity performances. He has performed on local TV many times.

"I plan my program with the use of the recordings I have made. I arrange it so that there is variety of tempo and type of music. On some recordings I use background, like when I play the saw, and on others I have the lead and perform the harmony on stage."

Hatchett's interest in music has led him into writing of it. He has published songs ranging in content from the religious to one about the famous First Monday at Scottsboro.

"I wrote the First Monday song when someone asked why I had not, since I was from near there," he said. "It has been put on record and we sold a lot of copies."

It led me to record another song for a friend, "Trade Day at Collinsville. He wrote it but wanted me to use my voice in it, so I did. I also appear on his tape album playing my saw. His album is selling so well that his trade day is outdoing my First Monday."

Though he does not report in at 8 a.m. each morning, as he did the some 17 years at Redstone, Hatchett stays active.

"I see many employees who just stop doing. I believe that is a bad approach to retirement. I like to keep busy, and I think it helps keep a man healthy mentally."

I also think you should help others. I like to work with the Senior Citizen groups."



Fred Hatchett, One Man Band

PX Surveys

The Redstone Post Exchange and movie theater are taking part in a Department of Defense survey of non-appropriated fund activities around the globe this week.

Accordingly all AAFES exchanges and movie theaters on all installations will be required to conduct a head count of customers served. Patrons not in uniform will be asked to show their ID cards in order to obtain the information required by DoD.

AAFES must survey customers to determine whether the customer is retired, or active duty; whether the customer is a dependent or authorized civilian, and other related data.

DA Suggestors Stack Up Second

WASHINGTON (ANF)— Suggestions by soldiers and Army civilian employees saved the government almost \$70 million in FY 75, according to the Civil Service Commission.

Civilian suggestions totaled \$59.8 million in savings while soldiers netted \$9.7 million in savings. DA's total far exceeded the savings of any other federal agency.

For special achievements the Army ranked second among all federal agencies with a savings of \$14.9 million.

One Army civilian employee's suggestion resulted in \$2,500 cash award. Dr. Doug Ohlin, an audiologist at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. designed device to insure the correct fitting of ear-

plugs. His suggestion is expected to save the government millions of dollars each year in compensation for hearing loss disability.

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Citizen-Soldiers Amaze Germans

American soldiers have surprised their foes many times, almost as often as they have surprised their own commanders. Sometimes, as in 1918, they do it simultaneously.

By the time the last great German attacks petered out on the Western Front, more than 250,000 fresh American soldiers were arriving in France each month. That alone surprised their enemies. Germany risked war with the United States in 1917 secure in the knowledge that it could win in France before the Americans arrived in strength to stand with the British and French. The Germans guessed wrong.

What astounded them, however, was that these citizen soldiers from a land with no military tradition in the European view, men more civilian than soldier, many with little or no training, went willingly into battle and not only fought, but

Counterattack began in mid-July 1918, spearheaded by the American 1st and 2nd Divisions fighting beside what remained of the French Foreign Legion. The objective the town of Soissons within a salient in the allied lines.

Each of the veteran American divisions had been in several prior fights, fights that had cost them about 15,000 casualties from the very soldiers Pershing had trained the longest and counted on the most. To replace them, he broke up the 41st Division, spreading its soldiers between the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Divisions.

They were not the only green troops at Soissons, also the first fight for the American 4th Division, an outfit so green that some of its men had never fired a rifle when they moved up to the jump off line. One battalion so new to the business that it left its extra ammunition behind when it at-

Pershing had to agree to a second attack, the one the French really wanted made, within two weeks and 60 miles away, in order to get a go ahead for St. Mihiel.

About 450,000 Yanks went over the top there, attacking both faces of the wedge shaped salient at the same time. Every taxi driver in Paris knew the attack was coming.

So did the Germans. The Americans, backed up with 267 French light tanks; 3,000 guns, again mostly French; and 1,500 planes, caught the Germans pulling back, cleaned out the whole salient in a day and sent allied morale soaring.

A great many green Americans did well at St. Mihiel, among them 9,000 replacements used in the 42nd Division at the urging of the division Deputy Command, a young Brigadier named Douglas MacArthur, who formed some life-long opinions on the fighting

gauge railroads shuttled troops, ammunition and supplies to meet attacks. Beyond lay the railroads that were the arterial system of supply for the whole German army. Breakthrough here would mean loss of the front. There Germans did not mean to give ground.

One doughboy describing their defense years later said: "Every damn German there who didn't have a machine gun had a cannon."

A young colonel named George Patton led the Americans driving French light tanks, until a hit knocked out his tank, then drew the famous ivory handle pistols and went in shooting with both hands until felled by a severe wound.

A peppery artillery captain, another soldier destined one day to be famous, was remembered by men who saw him in action that day. Captain Harry S. Truman, of the 35th Division, tin hat pushed back on his head, squinting through his specs and field glasses, directed the guns of his battery and broke up a German counterattack. While Truman alternately cursed and shouted ranges and elevations, his men worked in professional silence, knowing, as one said later, that the Captain had the skill to swear for all of them.

Most of the half million American soldiers in that great attack, however, would never aspire to any elective office higher than commander of their town's American Legion post. They had come to France to fight and they fought, learning as they went.

Pershing hoped for a breakthrough and for a while it seemed as though he might get it. In places the Americans penetrated the first two defensive lines, but then the desperate Germans fiercely contesting every foot of ground, dug in, held and the advance stalled after four days.

The Americans came on again on October 2, individual units under orders to go forward regardless of what happened on their flanks. Incredibly some broke through. Buried deep in the Argonne forest on the far left of the American line, emaciated units of the 77th Division, many at half strength after four days of combat, made

several hundred yards by nightfall.

Dawn found the remnants of two American battalions, about 650 men in all including wounded, in a defensive perimeter some 70 yards wide and 200 long, smack dab against a hill where the Germans held a final line.

Major Charles W. Whittlesey was the senior surviving officer, commanding the 1st Battalion, 308th Infantry. Those of the 2nd battalion still alive were led by Captain George G. McMurtry. Both men were reservists. They had attended the pre-war summer camps at Plattsburg, New York, and had been laughed at by their neighbors for playing soldier. They were about to become famous.

Whittlesey and his soldiers held their ground, their flanks gone, fire raining on them from every direction while American correspondents hailed the epic of "The Lost Battalion" and their countrymen thrilled with each new account of their stand.

They were not lost. Whittlesey had eight carrier pigeons and he used them to send back reports of his location accurate to within 10 feet.

On the second morning the encircled men were joined by Captain Nelson M. Holderman and K Company, 307th Infantry. The only men able to fight their way through.

By October 5 half the men wounded, many dead, medical supplies exhausted, no food and only a little water, yet they fought on, sending an occasional pigeon message to correct friendly artillery that now and then fell within their perimeter. The fight went on for two more days as Germans on the hill above them chanted a countdown and then rolled grenades and mortar shells down and finally on the afternoon of October 7, the Germans sent in an American prisoner with a note for Whittlesey urging surrender.

Legend has it that the major replied "Go to Hell" which was not exactly the truth. The Major was a courteous man, but his men shouted obscenities at the taunting enemy and Whittlesey ordered

See Next Page

St. Mihiel: "About 450,000 Yanks went over the top there, attacking both faces of the . . . salient at the same time.

Every taxi driver in Paris knew the attack was coming."

fought well. The Germans really didn't know what to make of it.

For that matter, neither did the American commander. General John J. Pershing, regular Army to the core, believed in his soul that it took years to train a combat soldier. As a result, the few American divisions to reach France in the 12 months after the U.S. entered the war got extended training and a gradual introduction to combat, even the two divisions composed largely of pre-war regulars.

In the summer of 1918, however, the Germans has shot their bolt. The time for counterattack had come under the overall command of a fiery Frenchman, Ferdinand Foch, who's idea of strategy was attack all along the line and keep the pressure on until something gave.

Pershing, forced to use men half trained by his standards, did not like it at all. The results surprised him, then changed his mind, and in the end changed a whole way of thinking in the American army.

tacked, ran out of ammo and had to continue with bayonets alone.

No one, veteran or newcomer, got a tougher baptism of fire than a battalion of the 4th Division's 39th Infantry. They found themselves trapped in a ravine, shelled by Germans they had driven out and by the French who changed the time of attack without bothering to tell the Americans and who happily poured fire on the ravine in the belief it was still held by Germans. That one battalion counted 95 dead, 446 wounded and 67 missing as its initiation fee. The Big Red One lost about 7,200 men at Soissons in four days, the 2nd Division almost as many, but from July 18th when the attack began, the Germans never took another forward step in France.

By September, the Americans had fielded an entire Army, Pershing's long held dream, the American First Army, activated August 30, had as its first assignment elimination of the St. Mihiel salient, an attack the French considered a sideshow.

abilities of American soldiers then and there.

In the next two weeks, Pershing's staff—among them a colonel named George Marshall—worked a logistics miracle in the mud, rain and darkness, moving a million men, their weapons and supplies, Americans marching through the night to replace Frenchmen pulling back. Some of it went according to plan, a lot more by improvisation on the spot, and on the morning of September 26 the Americans, three corps spread over a 20 mile front, attacked in the single largest military operation in the history of their country to that time.

Many of the American divisions had never been in combat. Even those that had had never met anything like this Meuse-Argonne argonne offensive. They went head on into the Hindenburg Line, a position the Germans had prepared on for almost four years. There were three separate lines of defensive works arranged in depth, behind them and in between, small

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Amaze (Continued)

white panels spread on the ground to mark the position for American aviators taken up in fear the Germans would mistake them for a sign of surrender.

A few hours later elements of the 77th Division broke through to relieve the soldiers who had existed by gnawing the bark from shell shattered trees. There were only 195 soldiers left unwounded, many of them too weak to walk. It was reported that they volunteered to a man to stay in the line.

Whittlesey, McMurtry and Holderman got the Medal of Honor, three of the many won in the Meuse-Argonne by American civilians turned soldiers.

Years afterward Douglas MacArthur remembered the kind of soldiers they had been in the famous tribute he spoke in his last address to the Corps of Cadets at West Point . . .

One of the world's noblest figures, MacArthur called the American soldier, recalling "Those staggering columns of the First World War, bending under soggy packs on many a weary march from dripping dusk to drizzling dawn, slogging ankle deep through the mire of shell pocketed roads, to form grimly for the attack, blue lipped, covered with sludge and mud, chilled by the wind and rain, driving home to their objective and for many, to the judgement seat of God."

Sources:

"American Military History, 1683-1958" Department of the Army

"The Doughboys" by Laurence Stallings, Harper & Row, Publishers, New York.

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Soldiers Home Deduction May Increase

WASHINGTON (ANF) — Increased deductions from soldier's pay checks could result from legislation proposed to Congress. If approved, the monthly twenty-five cent deduction for the Soldiers' and Airmen's Home could increase to a dollar.

The additional money is necessary to solve the current financial problems of the Home.

That is one of the provisions of a bill designed to help the home. Another part of the proposal would funnel all fines from non-judicial punishment into the Home's

Permanent Trust Fund in the same manner as fines for courts-martial are now.

Another provision would allow the Home to assess a monthly service charge for those members at the Home who are able to pay. The financial difficulties of the

In that year expenses began to exceed income and it became necessary to seek legislation to authorize additional income.

Home began in 1971 with the problems of inflation and rising expenses.

Village Singers Entertain Officers Wives Club

The Restone Officers' Wives' Club December luncheon will be Tuesday at the Officers Open Mess. The Village Singers from the University of Alabama in Huntsville will entertain with favorite show tunes and Christmas carols.

Reservations will be accepted anytime until noon Friday by calling the following: A-E, Mrs.

Harry Griebing (Beth), 837-0708; F-L, Mrs. Russell E. McCoy (Dorothy), 852-3611; M-R, Mrs. Clinton A. Hodder (Judy), 837-0707; and S-Z, Mrs. H.J. Childress (Diana), 837-8906.

You must have a reservation to attend. If you are unable to reach the individual designated to take your reservation, please call any of

the other three.

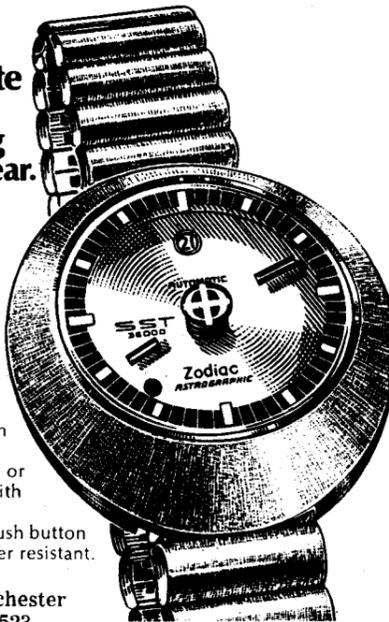
Mrs. Griebing at 837-0708 until noon Monday. Cancellations will be taken by

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4. His regiment's official campaign history if he fought for Alabama OR Tennessee (officers, battles, etc.) We must first know his regiment, company, and State. (\$3 per soldier).

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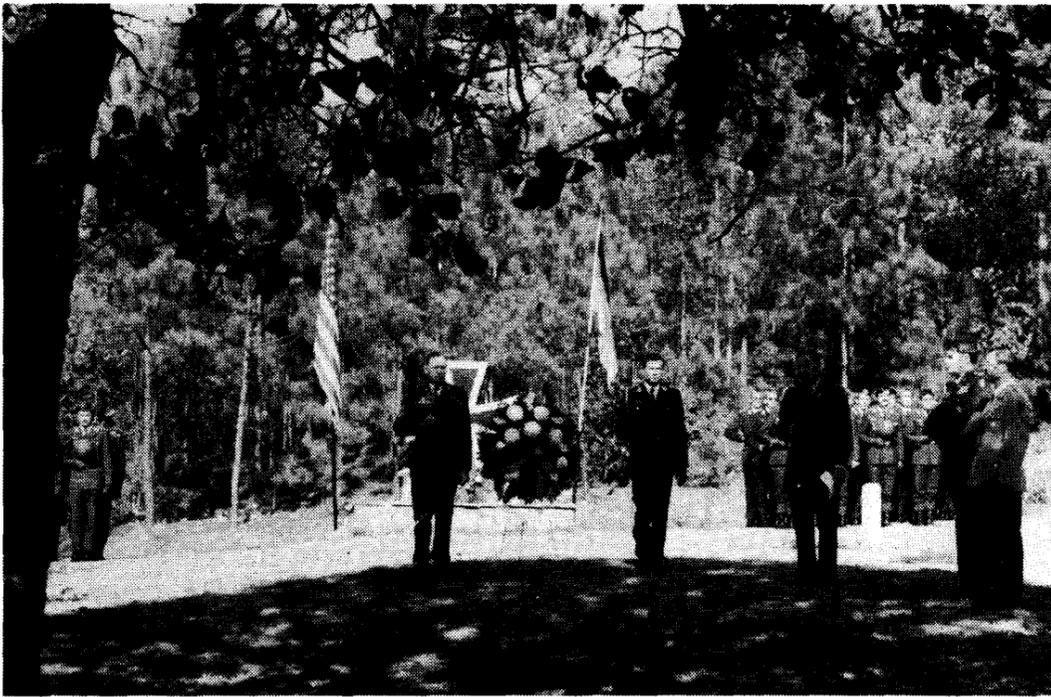
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COMMEMORATION—A German honor guard joins with American soldiers to honor World War II prisoners of war buried in the German-Italian Memorial Cemetery at Ft. McClellan, Ala.

MMCS Germans Honor War Dead

On a hill overlooking Ft. McClellan, Ala., is a plot of ground known as the German-Italian Memorial Cemetery. Buried there are 29 soldiers of World War II Axis forces ranging in rank from private to general.

They had been brought to Alabama as prisoners of war, probably from the North African campaign, and had died of disease in confinement. There were some 3,000 prisoners incarcerated near Ft. McClellan; 26 German soldiers and three Italians did not survive.

Last Nov. 16, as has been done for the past 13 years, German officers and non-commissioned officers from the Missile and Munitions Center and School traveled to McClellan for a commemorative ceremony. German Liaison NCO Sgt. Major Worst

Schmidt and McClellan Command Sgt. Major James Lyons jointly placed a wreath at the foot of an iron cross in the cemetery.

Chaplain Lee Berndt read prayers in German and English. Lt. Col. Heinz Spauka, German Army liaison officer, delivered the eulogy, in which he noted that his country and the U.S.—former enemies—now are working together to preserve world peace.

"It was the German Memorial Day, a day observed all across Germany on a Sunday in November," said Spauka about the Germans' participation at McClellan.

An honor guard of 35 Germans from Redstone was present. McClellan's 14th Army Band played German and American music. An Anniston area German club placed flowers at graves.

Nearly 19,000 E-7s Eligible For E-8 Board

FORT BENJAMIN HARRISON, Ind. (ANF)—Almost 19,000 soldiers from the primary and secondary zones are eligible for promotion consideration to E-8 by a DA promotion selection board that meets here Jan. 6, 1976.

Local commands still must verify the soldiers' eligibility before the board convenes.

The primary zone includes all E-7s with a date of rank Sept. 30, 1969 or earlier. The secondary zone covers soldiers with dates of rank between Oct. 1, 1969 and Sept. 30, 1971.

Soldiers in the primary zone received promotion packets containing documents the promotion board will be using. They should review the packet to insure all information is accurate and complete. Missing or erroneous information may place an eligible E-7 at a disadvantage before the board, Enlisted Records Center officials say.

While preparing the promotion packets for mailing, officials here found that almost 21 per cent of the 19,000 eligible soldiers had missing

or outdated photos in their files. This was due partly to the fact undated photos are now considered outdated.

The official photo is the only way board members can view a soldier's physical appearance. Appearance, length of hair, how ribbons and insignia are displayed

are some of the key features board members look for in a soldier's photo.

Primary zone soldiers were reminded in the promotion packet to update their photos. Those in the secondary zone also are being reminded of the photo requirement.

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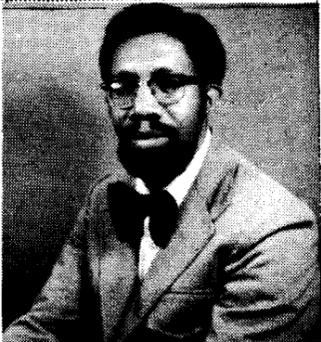
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Tickets

Season tickets for University of Alabama (Huntsville) basketball are available at reduced rates for Redstone military personnel.

Tickets for the university's 10-game slate at \$10 for adults and \$5 for students may be purchased from athletic director Ralph Santaliz at 876-2943.

Home games will be at the Von Braun Civic Center. The Redstone Rockets will play UAH's junior varsity squad in an exhibition game prior to the varsity game Jan. 23 at the center.

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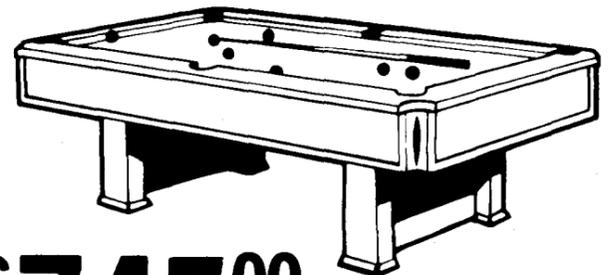
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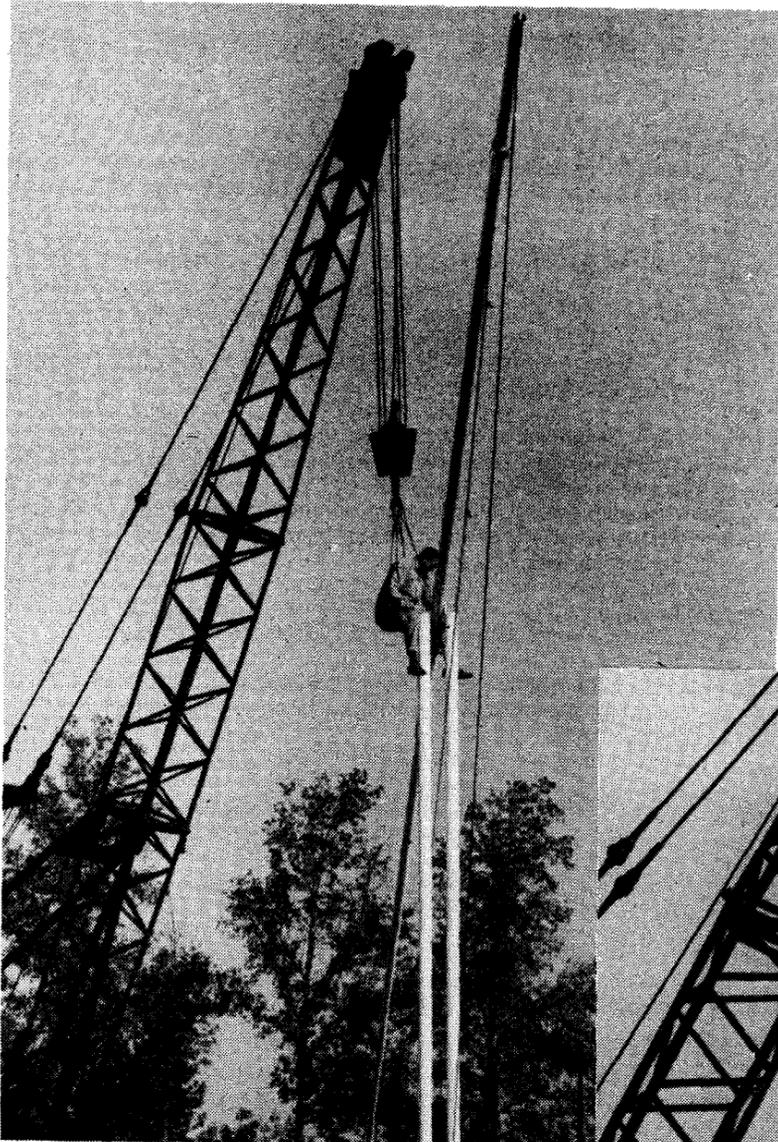
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Sitting Pretty

Flagpole sitters have always been viewed as curiosities, as harmless freaks of the human species whose lot it is to play the fool in pursuit of a meager reward . . . an agate line in a record book, a handful of cash. Though not a traditional sitter, this man atop the Missile and Munitions Center and School headquarters flagpole attracted the attention of gawkers of every variety recently. He was one of a Facilities Engineers crew tasked with unbending the mast, which bowed in high winds last Memorial Day.



Woman Leads Ammunition Class

The Missile and Munitions Center and School honored its first female distinguished graduate of the ammunition officer course last week. She is First Lieutenant Ann E. Ward of Bay City, Mich., a Michigan State University alumnus who now has entered MMCS's Explosive Ordnance Disposal course.

Ward compiled a 97.69 average for the eight-week course. She and

her classmates studied principles of management and organization of ammunition maintenance and supply installations.

A plaque was presented to Ward by Col. John R. Underwood, School Brigade commander.

A former sportswear buyer for

Seitner's of Saginaw, Ward came to Redstone in September after graduating from the Ordnance Officer Basic Course at Aberdeen Proving Ground. She entered the Army last April and completed training at Ft. McClellan, two months later.

Raytheon Gets Hawk Bid

The Missile Command awarded Monday a \$5,792,539 contract for engineering services to the Improved Hawk missile system.

The contract was awarded to Raytheon Co. of Andover, Mass.

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1975-76 EDITION—MICOM hopes for a championship season in girls basketball got off to a running start when the CWF team captured the pre-season tournament staged by the Madison Women's League. The MICOM players reading clockwise from Coach Jack Bissinger are, Carol Bissinger, Anita Whittaker, Linda Melton, Deloris Snow, Jeanette McNeese and Janice Riddle. Pat Shipp is in the center of the photo and Gladys Hill is in the inset above. Donna Broughton is not pictured.

Saints Stun Stingers

by Dave Cowan

The Redstone Arsenal Saints, this year's Jr. Bantam division winners in Northeast Alabama Pop Warner football, defeated the South Columbus, Ga. Stingers 25-13, in one of three games played Saturday in the First Annual Optimist Bowl at Milton Frank Stadium.

Two other local teams were defeated in their divisional games before more than 800 fans. The Columbus, Ga. Clubview Bulldogs edged the Madison Rams 6-0, and the Florida Pinecastle Rams from Orlando whitewashed the Madison Jets 33-0.

In the Jr. Pee Wee division game, the Madison Rams and the Clubview Bulldogs played an impressive defensive game with the Bulldogs snarling their way to victory on a recovered fumble in the waning minutes of the game.

Late in the fourth quarter, the Bulldog's Jim Carson recovered a Franklin Parker fumble on the Ram's 17-yard line, which proved to be the turning point. Two plays

later, Steve Hydrick blasted in for the touchdown from one yard out to give the Columbus Bulldogs a winning 6-0 margin over the Rams.

In the Jr. Midget contest, the Pinecastle Rams rendered the Madison Jets offenseless in their 33-0 win as Scott Hammond powered over for three TD's. Scott scored Pinecastle's first touchdown on an eight-yard run and then scored again on a seven yarder after Pinecastle recovered a jet fumble on Madison's 30-yard line. After taking a 13-0 halftime lead, Orlando squad scored again late in the third quarter on another seven yard scamper by Scott to give Pinecastle a 19-0 advantage.

Darrel Brown gave the Rams a 27-0 lead in the fourth quarter over the Jets, running 22 yards down to Madison's six and bulling his way from the one-yard line for the score. The Rams added the successful PAT. Pinecastle's final score came on a 36-yard pass from quarterback Ricky Anderson to end Willie Colbert.

The South Columbus Stingers drew first blood against the Redstone Saints in the finale, but when the whistle sounded it was the Saints stinging Columbus 25-13. Columbus had their moments—

although they were few—scoring the first touchdown of the game in the opening minutes on a recovered Saint fumble on the 30-yard line. After a drive of 22 yards, quarterback Bruce Chapman hit Mike Green on a eight-yard pass for the TD.

However, the game belonged to Redstone. After two Columbus running plays, Don Calvert intercepted Chapman's pass and returned the pigskin 55 yards for a TD to notch the score. Redstone intercepted another Chapman pass minutes later on the Stingers 40-yard line. The Saints drove to the two-yard line where Sammy Long bulled his way over for the score and a 12-6 lead.

Redstone took a 18-6 advantage at halftime on quarterback Rodney Dinkel's 13-yard TD pass to Bobby McEvoy.

The momentum stayed with Redstone in the second half as Dinkel connected with Kyle Rose on a 38-yard pass for a TD and an insurmountable 25-6 lead. The Stingers came back with one second remaining for a TD as Chapman hit Green for a nine-yard toss in the end zone. Chapman snuck across, following the touchdown, for the PAT.

MICOM Girls Win First Five

The Missile Command girls get their first serious test of the season with the Independents providing the opposition in this week's round of Madison Ladies basketball league action.

MICOM is riding the crest of a five-game winning streak including regular season victories over R. L. Young of Athens and the Tomboys. The Independents are also unbeaten in two league starts.

The Civilian Welfare Fund-sponsored MICOM team had little trouble in disposing of the Athens team, 50-23, and even less from the Tomboys in making it two in a row, 52-17.

Gladys Hill accounted for one more point than the entire Young team in setting the scoring pace in the league opener. Carol Bissinger and Deloris Snow split the other 26 points evenly.

Anita Whittaker was the offensive leader against the Tomboys as she tossed in 21 points. Snow had 12, Bissinger, 11, and Hill, 8.

Bowling Results

Wednesday Officers

Stadings	Won	School Brigade	Results
Lucky Strikes	68	Redrock Injunears	Black Jacks 8 — Readiness Group 0
Swingers	64	Pickups	Lucky Strikes 8 — Redrock 0
Readiness Group	54		Keglers 6 — P & P 2
Strikeouts	52		Metrcals 6 — Sch Bde 2
76'ers	48		EXASPRators 6 — Halo's 2
Black Jacks	46		Swingers 4 — 76'ers 4
Kuwait Keglers	46		Strikeouts 8 — Pickups 0 (forfeit)
EXASPRators	44		Ind. Honors
Halo's	42		Witczak 574 (202); Agee 566 (203); Stewart 549 (214); Townley 523; Ogozalek 521.
P & P Registers	36		
Metrcals	34		

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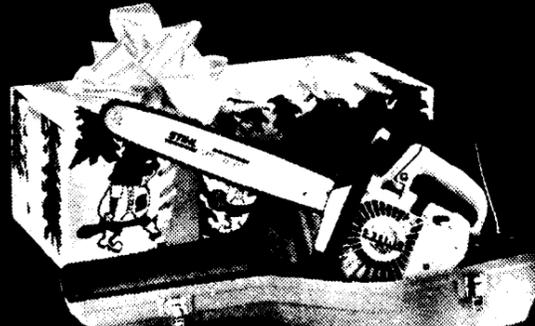
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Zones Of Consideration Set For E-7 Promotion

WASHINGTON (ANF)—MILPERCEN has announced zones of consideration for the E-7 promotion selection board to meet in early March 1976. The primary zone includes soldiers in grade E-6 with dates of rank June 30, 1970 and earlier. The secondary zone includes those with DORs between July 1, 1970 and Sep. 30, 1972. A high school diploma or GED equivalent also is required.

Soldiers in grade E-6 who complete 24 years service by June 30, 1977—regardless of date of rank—will be included in the primary zone for promotion consideration under a DA policy

change. The change is an effort to insure soldiers are considered at least once for E-7 promotion in the primary zone.

MILPERCEN is compiling a list of eligible soldiers to be sent to local commanders and personnel offices for validation before the promotion board meets. The Enlisted Records and Evaluation Center at Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Ind., is preparing promotion packets to be mailed to soldiers in the primary zone.

Soldiers in both zones should insure their personnel files are up to date and accurate. Official photos should be current and properly dated.

Policy Proclaims A Dim Yuletide

WASHINGTON (ANF)—The Army is limiting outdoor decorative lighting during the Christmas holiday season for the third consecutive year.

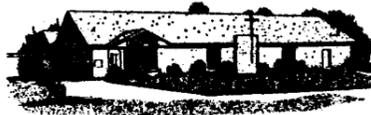
DA policy, sent out by message last week, says that only limited and prudent use may be made of outdoor decorative lighting at installations and activities. Outdoor displays are to be primarily non-electric.

All Army personnel are being encouraged to limit use of indoor decorative lighting and to use electrical decorations only during the evening hours—6 to 10.

Displays, electric and non-electric, should also conform to fire and safety regulations.

Increased energy costs and budgetary limitations mandate the austere use of outside ornamental lighting.

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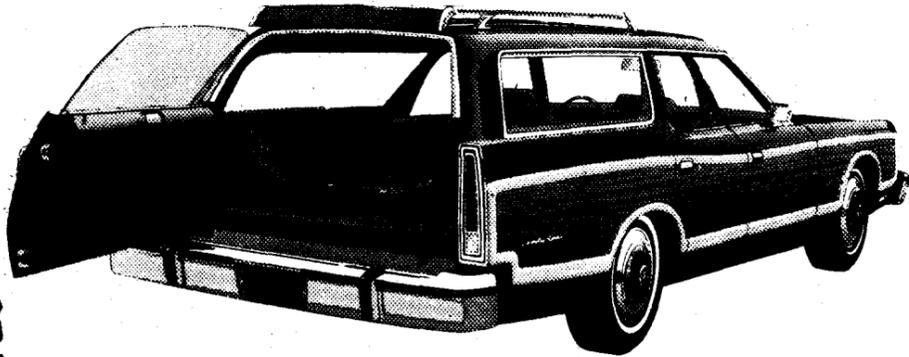
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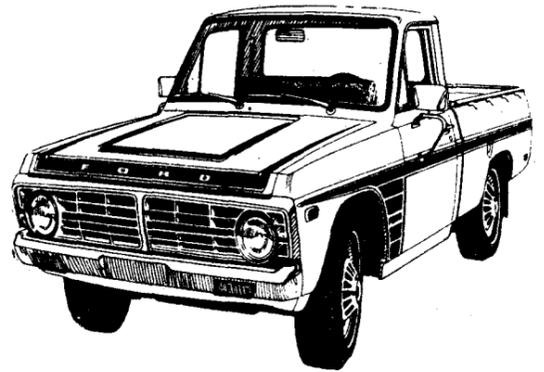
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Survivor Benefit Plan Explained

The Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) for military retirees, enacted into law more than three years ago, provides automatic coverage for service members retired after that date if they choose to participate, yet some retirees have been hesitant about signing up, according to Lt. Gregory Jones, deputy chief of COMPACT at Redstone.

"Service personnel getting ready to retire are often overwhelmed by countless last minute details, and are swayed away from the plan by idle scuttlebutt.

"I'm frequently asked, considering the provisions of irrevocable election and the Social Security integration, if I don't think military retirees could buy life insurance with the same amount of money and be better off.

"My answer has to be 'no'.

"I base that on the opinion of a nationwide actuary and employee benefit consultant firm which

found through an independent survey that 'the actual cost of the plan is sizeably less than the actuarial cost.' That implies that the plan is a good buy and should be recommended for retirees who have need for survivor benefits."

Jones pointed out that the government subsidizes about 40 percent of the cost, making it unbeatable from a cost-benefit viewpoint; persons may elect to participate regardless of age or physical condition; and beneficiaries continue to receive benefits for the remainder of their unmarried lives regardless of their age at death of the sponsor.

In addition beneficiaries are eligible to resume receiving benefits if any marriages subsequent to the sponsors' death are terminated. Benefits cease when beneficiaries remarry.

Beneficiary's SBP benefits automatically increase with the cost of living.

Amounts withheld from retired pay under the plan are exempt from Federal Income tax. The value of an SBP annuity is not counted for Federal estate tax purposes.

The beneficiary is required to list her or his annuity income from the plan as taxable income, but this recent IRS ruling is advantageous since, in most cases, the widow's or widower's tax will be minimal or nothing because they are usually in a lower tax bracket, and extra exemptions are received at age 65.

This tax treatment can be viewed as a further reduction of the cost of the plan.

Jones said that criticism of the plan centers on two unfavorable provisions. The greatest concern, he said, is the irrevocability of any option. This means, that although the spouse may predecease the retiree, he or she must continue to pay premiums for his or her lifetime. "It must be remembered

that women usually live longer than men and thus most men predecease their wives. Another consideration is that, according to statistics, a majority of widowers remarry and do so within three years. In that case, the new wife can be covered under the plan after a short waiting period. Pending legislation may eliminate the irrevocable clause."

Another concern is the reduction of the SBP benefit when the beneficiary becomes entitled to Social Security at age 62. "There is legislation being drafted to reduce the Social Security offset by 50 percent. Final enactment of this legislation may not immediately be a reality but should occur before the retirees' beneficiaries of the next several years reach age 62," Jones said.

He reminds retirees that they can earn additional Social Security credits in civilian employment after retirement from the military.

Rod & Gun Club Votes Tuesday

There will be a general membership meeting of the Redstone Rod & Gun Club at 7 on Tuesday, December 9, to vote on the revised constitution and by-laws.

A film titled "A Question of Hunting", produced by the Remington Arms Company, will also be shown.

The meeting will be in the organization's clubhouse near the intersection of Patton and Martin Rds.

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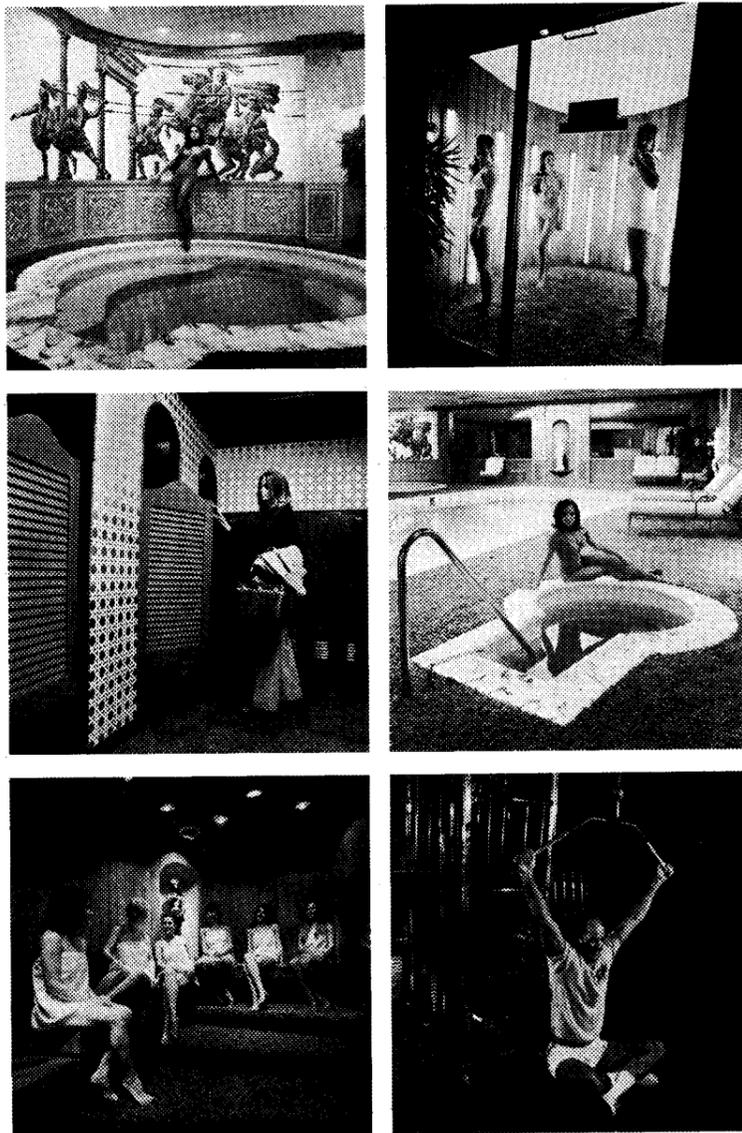
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MOS Change Improves Promotion Outlook



The prospect of promotion increases greatly for soldiers who retrain in a combat arms or shortage MOS. Vacancies exist at the higher grades in understrength fields for them to be promoted into.

Many soldiers now serving in overfilled MOSs find their promotion opportunities stymied. Even soldiers on local promotion lists to E-5 and E-6 are blocked from advancement because of high promotion cut-off scores. The

high scores reflect the lack of promotion vacancies in overstrength skills.

Soldiers who are retrained to fill combat arms NCO jobs will benefit from formal training and a period of on-the-job training with an experienced counterpart. It will prepare them to compete for assignment, career development and promotion on a par with their contemporaries.

In the year following reclassification, soldiers will be able to compete for promotion, schooling or reenlistment using their new or old MOS test scores -- whichever benefits them more.

Letters placed in soldiers' official military personnel files (field 201 files for E-5s) will tell DA selection/promotion boards the retraining/reclassification was mandatory and necessary to meet the Army's needs for combat arms NCOs. Soldiers are to be given every promotion consideration. Since only soldiers with a satisfactory record and who are mentally and physically qualified for the new MOS were selected, boards are not to view reclassification adversely.

The upshot of the retraining/reclassification program is that it meets the Army's needs for combat arms NCOs and improves soldiers' career opportunities.

Soldiers Weigh Retraining

From Front Page

the Patient Administration Office at the Hospital.

Ely, on his second one-year extension following a three-year enlistment, sees reclassification as tipping the balance in favor of his staying in the Army.

"I've been undecided about reenlisting", says Ely. "The reason I extended this second time was so I could stay here and finish up the few hours I need to get my degree at A&M. But now I'm having second thoughts about getting out because of the way things are on the outside.

Ely can get promoted as soon as he qualifies in the new MOS, because of the provision which lets a reclassified soldier compete for promotion using the latest test score from his old specialty. "The score I made on my last MOS test is good enough to get me an E-6 in the new MOS. It's very difficult to get promoted in the one I'm in now—the E-6 cutoff was around 800.

"Also," Ely went on, "I understand the new MOS has a good SRB and I might can get, say, \$10,000 for reenlisting."

"Sure, I'd like to stay in the skill I'm in now. I enjoy the work and the people I work with. But it's just too hard to advance in it, both where I am now and on into the more senior ranks", he concluded.

Ely leaves for Ft. Sill in January for a month's training in his new MOS, after which both he and his wife, who is also a soldier at Redstone, are being assigned together in Germany.

Involuntary reclassification also tipped the balance for Specialist 5 Charles Lancaster, but in the opposite direction.

"It helped me to decide to get out in August," said Lancaster, a data analyst at Military Personnel who's been in the Army just over seven years.

"I got a letter in September saying that 'reclassification is being contemplated for me and asking me to select three understrength MOSs that I'd prefer to be reclassified into. I chose Admin Clerk, MP and one other. I haven't heard yet whether I'll be reclassified, but I expect I will be."

"So I'm going to get out, join the Reserve, and start college in Mobile", said Lancaster, adding that he's not leaving the Army solely because of reclassification.

"They talk all the time about cutting the Defense budget. They talk about making us pay rent, hospital costs and costs for shipping our POYs. Well I'm going to help them cut it myself—by getting out!"

Sergeant First Class John Aday was involuntarily reclassified and has been getting on the job training since July in his new MOS. His MOS was changed from general supply to dining facility manager.

Aday has mixed feelings about his involuntary reclassification. "I had no objections at all when I first got the reclassification letter, as it let me pick three options, and I picked three supply-related ones that were understrength. But they wouldn't let me have any one of them; instead they told me I was going to be a cook.

"I went to the personnel sergeant and told him I was very unhappy. He started trying to get it changed, but after a while he said some colonel up there (in Washington) said flatly that under no circumstances would it be changed and that I was going to be a cook.

In January Aday goes to Ft. Dix for three months of formal schooling in his new MOS. After that he will be assigned to Ft. Benning. "I've established a home in Sheffield and had hoped I would be able to stay here", he said. "I'm on my last enlistment"

On a brighter note he commented, "I feel very fortunate getting assigned to this particular mess hall (no. 3) for my on-the-job training. Everyone here has taken a real interest in me and have gone out of their way to help me. I could have gone to one where they didn't care."

As for promotion possibilities in the new MOS, "That will depend on me, on how willing I am to get my nose in the books", he says.

Aday accepts the reclassification philosophically. "I'm not happy in my new job, at least not in the sense that I was happy in my other MOS, but it's something the Army says 'You'll do'. Like it or not, since I've been put in it I'll do my dead-level best. I know that's what is expected of me. And that's what I will do."

Formal Training and OJT Face Reclassified Troops

To gain the additional skills, knowledge and experience in a new combat arms MOS, a soldier will receive formal training and OJT. For at least four weeks, he will work in an OJT status with an experienced NCO to assist and guide him. For example, a soldier retrained as a squad leader, tank commander, or section leader will have an experienced counterpart to assist him in the transition of becoming proficient as an NCO in the new combat arms MOS.

When the commander considers the soldier to be qualified in the new skills, the new MOS will be awarded and becomes the soldier's primary MOS. The old MOS becomes his secondary MOS at reclassification.

Initial classes of about 30 soldiers each will begin retraining as artillery surveyors (MOS 82C) and as field artillerymen (MOS 13E, B).

Training programs will be cranked up at most CONUS installations where active divisions are stationed. (ANF)



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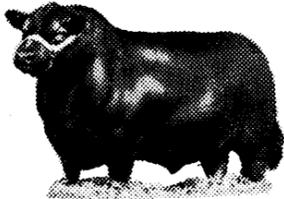
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