

COMMANDERS DIGEST

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WASHINGTON, D.C.



Vol. 2, No. 49

June 18, 1966

SecDef Indicates Continued U.S. Buildup in Vietnam

Substantial military progress has been seen in Vietnam the last four weeks, Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara said June 11.

Such progress is expected to continue in the future, the secretary said.

"This doesn't mean that we will stop our military buildup," Secretary McNamara explained.

He noted that U.S. manpower strength in RVN now is about 267,000 with another 18,000 authorized for movement.

If the continued flow of infiltrators from the North continues at about 4,500 a month, Secretary McNamara said he expects the United States would continue to increase its forces.

Bill Seeks Gold Star Button For Kin of Cold War Dead

DOD is supporting a House of Representatives bill that would authorize Gold Star Lapel Buttons for next-of-kin of members of the Armed Forces who died or die as result of cold war incidents.

Bill H.R. 3013 would expand provisions now contained in an Act of 1947.

The bill provides award of the button to next of kin of members of the armed forces who, after June 30, 1958, are killed, or die of wounds or injuries received while engaged in action against an enemy of the U.S.; while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict in which the U.S. is not a belligerent party against an opposing armed force.

House Passes Procurement-Pay Bill

The House of Representatives has passed the FY67 military procurement authorization bill, which includes a 3.2 percent across-the-board military pay increase.

The bill is expected to go to Senate-House conference late this month.



CHANGE OF COMMAND—During a brief break between combat operations in the Gulf of Tonkin off the coast of Vietnam, Capt. W. M. Harnish, USN (right), relieves Capt. Leo B. McCuddin, USN, as commanding officer of the attack carrier USS Ranger. Capt. McCuddin will be assigned to the staff of the Chief of Naval Personnel in Washington.

DOD Will Move Certain U.S. Military Units from France

Movement of certain U.S. military activities out of France and suspension of dependent travel to France has been directed by Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara.

Following consultation with NATO allies, the secretary announced he has directed movement of two squadrons of C-130 transport aircraft, a total of 32 planes, and their parent 322d Air Div. Hq., from France to the United Kingdom. The C-130s, now at Evreux, will go to the air base at Mildenhall. The headquarters at Chateauroux will be relocated at High Wycombe.

Combat-essential stocks of ground and air munitions and equipment will be moved out of France to other NATO countries, largely to Germany. Excess stocks accumulated in Germany will be removed to make room for them.

Six squadrons of Air Force reconnaissance aircraft now based in France will also be relocated on European bases outside of France. If this proves impractical, consideration will be given to basing some aircraft in the U.S. under a dual-basing concept.

Travel of military dependents and dependents of DOD civilians to France from the U.S. will be suspended effective Aug. 1.

Washington Memos

NAMED AS ACTING Air Force Vice Chief of Staff is Lt. Gen. Hewitt T. Wheless, succeeding Gen. William H. Blanchard who died of a heart attack May 31. Gen. Wheless, 52, served as assistant vice chief of staff since February 1965. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. McConnell said Gen. Wheless would serve until a permanent vice chief is named.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE has requested Selective Service System to provide armed forces induction stations with 32,600 men in August. All will be assigned to Army.

JOINT CHIEFS OF Staff have designated nine active military operations or conflicts which have occurred subsequent to July 1958 in which United States units have or are now participating. They are Berlin, Lebanon, Quemoy and Matsu, Taiwan Straits, Congo, Laos, Vietnam, Dominican Republic and Cuba. Personnel who have been or are engaged in this operations are entitled to Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

STEPPED UP REQUIREMENTS in mission of Military Airlift Command have created formation of 3rd and 4th Military Airlift Support Squadrons at Travis AFB, Calif. Wartime mission of new units would be providing maintenance, air terminal services, airlift command post and forward support at support stations within CONUS or at overseas bases.

NUCLEAR POWERED FLEET ballistic missile submarine, George Washington Carver, has been commissioned at Newport News, Va. Doctor Luther H. Foster, President of Tuskegee Institute, Ala., was principal speaker. George Washington Carver, for whom the ship is named, was once biology teacher at Tuskegee. Carver is 37th in its class and will be equipped with Polaris A-3 missiles.

VARIABLE WING F-111A fighter began weapon-separation tests Eglin AFB, Fla., with on-target weapon drop after six hundred mile flight from General Dynamics plant, Forth Worth, Tex. Flight required precise navigation and split-second timing to execute successful weapon drop.

FIFTH CLASS OF Inter-American Defense College was graduated at Ft. Leslie J. McNair, Washington, D. C. Graduating officers and civilians numbered 31, representing 13 American Republics. IADC provides means for advanced sociological, cultural, economic and military study.

NAVY HAS PLANS for additional undersea ranges supporting R&D programs and evaluating related operational systems. Among Navy's current facilities is AUTEK, Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center in Bahamas.

MAJOR ATLANTIC FLEET exercise is being conducted in Atlantic and Caribbean, June 13-26. Called "Beach Time," exercise involves 40 ships with majority from U.S. Second Fleet and Atlantic Amphibious Force. "Beach Time" is designed to enhance readiness and training of participating forces. Training highlights include multiple ship missile firings and multi-deck helicopter landing operations. Climax of exercise will be amphibious landing of some 3,500 Marines on Vieques, an island near Puerto Rico.

THREE WOMEN MARINE privates attending Transportation Movement Control Course at Army Transportation School, Ft. Eustis, Va., are first to attend formal course there. Privates Linda D. Dolsen, Katherine Merchants and Jeanne A. Curtis are carrying averages over 85.

LOGISTIC SUPPORT MANAGEMENT of CV-2 Caribou which USAF will receive from Army has been assigned to Air Force Logistics Command's Warner Robins Air Materiel Area, Robins AFB, Ga. San Antonio Air Materiel Area, Kelly AFB, Texas, was also named to provide logistics support for the CV-2 engine.

ARMY HAS AUTHORIZED continued development of Medium Anti-Tank Assault Weapon System (MAW) for infantrymen. Shoulder-fired MAW will eventually replace 90mm. recoilless rifle. It is light enough to be carried by one man. Warhead of MAW, which follows gunner's line of sight, is large enough to knock out most armor and other infantry targets. Missile is automatically guided throughout flight to target.

MORE THAN 600 Cadets from U.S. Military Academy are scheduled to arrive at Ft. Belvoir, Va., June 22, to visit Engineers School as part of summer training before starting their senior year. School personnel will instruct cadets in role and mission of Engineer Corps, training and techniques of Engineer combat battalion and provide orientation on developments and future trends.

SOLDIERS IN RVN are adding luster to traditions of the American fighting man, says Army CofS Gen. Harold K. Johnson. He said that during five trips there in 25 months he has come back each time deeply impressed with magnificent performance and dedication of U. S. soldiers.

MILITARY PERSONNEL ON leave or visiting nation's capital may be interested in new pocket guide, "Your Washington," available from Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Wash., D.C. 20402, 15 cents per copy. Guide includes illustrations of historical sites plus map of downtown area.

60th MILITARY AIRLIFT WING, Travis AFB, set an all-time record for aircraft utilization during May. One of Wing's C-141 Starlifters logged 395.8 hours on Travis-to-Saigon missions during month, for daily rate of 12.8 hours, highest ever achieved on continuous airlift operations.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

Published semi-weekly by the Armed Forces News Bureau, a unified activity of the Directorate for Armed Forces Information and Education, OASD (M). This publication contains official information, news and policy, direct from Washington authorized sources. Reproduction of content is authorized. Suggested deadline for materials used is WASHINGTON (AFNB).

Background for Commanders

World Communism Shows Big Membership Drop

World communism, plagued by internal dissension and political reversals on the international front, has suffered heavy membership losses.

As a result of setbacks in Indonesia and elsewhere, a recently completed survey estimated that as of January 1966, party membership in non-Communist countries was almost 2,000,000 less than at the beginning of 1965—a decline from 4,500,000 to 2,600,000 active participants in the one-year period.

The membership losses by party organizations operating in non-Communist countries were so extensive—42 percent—that they more than made up for additions to party rolls in Communist-ruled states and brought about a net loss of some 600,000 members for the entire Communist movement.

43.9 Million Members

Total membership in all of the world's Communist parties is now estimated at 43.9 millions, all but a relative handful (less than six percent) affiliated with the ruling organizations of the 14 states where the Communists are in power.

The Communists try to attract more followers in free world countries, and the size of the Communist party in a given country is one clue to the strength of the Communist movement there. This is not true in Communist countries, however. There the ruling clique seldom permits party membership to exceed four or five percent of the total population. Thus, recent increases in the Chinese and other ruling parties' membership were only permitted as a means of keeping pace with expanding national populations.

Under the standard Communist method of "minority rule," for example, mainland China's party now has an estimated membership of 18.5 millions although the country's total population is estimated at approximately 700 millions—a party representation of less than three percent.

State Report Shows Decline

Revised membership estimates, cited in the U.S. State Department's 18th annual report on world strength of the Communist party organizations, revealed significant declines for the Communist parties of West Germany (about 40,000), Iraq (about 13,000) and Mexico (about 44,000). According to the new estimates, West Germany's outlawed Communist party organization is now reduced to a membership of only about 10,000. The revised estimates set 1966 membership in Iraq's party (officially proscribed in 1960) at only about 2,000.

Mexico's divided party is now estimated to have just slightly more than 5,000 members.

Regarding Communist reversals elsewhere, the report commented:

"In Africa, Communists suffered serious setbacks in Algeria and the Sudan during 1965. In Algeria, the fall of the Ben Bella regime in June 1965 has brought overt Communist strength and influence to an all-time low; and in the Sudan, elections have brought to power a regime which has again outlawed the Sudanese Communist party . . .

Indonesian Losses

"Overshadowing all other serious setbacks for the world Communist movement in 1965, a shattering blow decimated the Indonesian Communist Party—the most powerful (such) party in any non-Communist country. The precise role of the Indonesian Communist Party in the attempted coup of September 30 against the army remains obscure, but its undoubted participation in the coup served to galvanize the anti-Communist forces of the country into concerted action against the party. Leading Indonesian Communist leaders were captured and executed; soon after there was widespread killing of party members and wholesale destruction of its property. The once powerful organization of the party has now been broken, its principal leaders killed, imprisoned, or driven into exile, and as of March 1966 the party has been officially outlawed."

In previous years, the report said, some 40 Communist parties were banned or otherwise proscribed in non-Communist countries.

As evidence of an apparent trend toward greater autonomy of existing local Communist parties, and the gradual disappearance of "the old Bolshevik leadership," the report noted that the Swedish party (with an estimated 20,000 members) had boycotted a regional meeting of Western European parties in June 1965, and that representatives of the Dutch party (with an estimated 12,000 members) had refused to sign the meeting's final communique because they disagreed with its contents. Dissatisfaction with the old hard-line leadership of the Finnish party, it was pointed out, resulted in the 1966 resignation of long-time chairman Aimo Aaltonen and his replacement by a younger and more moderate leader from the ranks of the Finnish trade union movement.

Although the Sino-Soviet dispute continued to reflect bitter differences within and between parties throughout 1965, the report said, little change was noted in the ratio of support for Moscow and Peking. The majority of the world's Communist parties are still regarded as pro-Soviet.

Apollo Tracking Ship Undergoes Sea Trials

The Project Appollo tracking-communications ship USNS Redstone underwent initial sea trials June 9, two days ahead of schedule and just six months after being floated from her building basin at Quincy, Mass.

Redstone is one of three WWII T-2 tankers being converted into instrumentation ships to track and communicate with astronauts during missions to the moon.

Redstone will be the first to be equipped with a special system that will permit it to communicate around the world via satellites.

AF Satellite Control Facility Joins Range Cmdrs.' Council

The Air Force Satellite Control Facility, Sunnyvale, Calif., has been voted into the Range Commanders' Council (RCC).

RCC is an informal organization which exchanges ideas and information to solve common range problems. It is assisted by a number of standing committees which work toward standardizing range equipment, inter-range cooperation and joint procurement.

Other members are Navy's Pacific Missile Range; Army's White Sands Missile Range and Kwajalein Test Site; Air Force's Eastern and Western Test Ranges; Naval Ordnance Test Station, China Lake; Air Proving Ground Center, Eglin AFB, and Flight Test Center, Edwards AFB.

Lightweight Dental Kit Has Space-Use Potential

The Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine at Brooks AFB, Texas, has developed a simple lightweight emergency dental kit which would allow astronauts to cope with their own dental problems.

The 26-item set of instruments and supplies fits into a foot-long container weighing one and one-half pounds.



YEARBOOK PRESENTATION—Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey receives a personal copy of the 1966 *Howitzer*, yearbook of the U.S. Military Academy, from Cadet William D. Booth, yearbook editor.

Artillery Unit Assists In Map Research Program

The 2nd Battalion of the 31st Artillery at Ft. Sill, Okla., is using new maps in firing exercises as a part of a map research program for the Defense Intelligence Agency.

The unit has been determining the accuracy of the new maps by artillery fire.

The new maps, made by a process using aerial photographs, are being used not only like more traditional maps but also as firing charts in place of the standard grid sheets.

Record Attendance Scheduled At Army ROTC Summer Camp

Some 3,300 college and junior college students are scheduled to attend the Army ROTC basic summer training camp at Ft. Knox, Ky., during June and July.

The camp replaces the first two years of the traditional four-year Army ROTC program. It is a major step through which selected students may qualify for an Army officer commission in just two years.

The number of students applying this year is more than five times the 623 who attended the first camp under the new program in 1965.

Athena Missile Launches Show Quick Reaction Time

Air Force Ballistic Systems Divisions' successful dual launch of two Athena missiles May 26 demonstrated capability of the Athena system to respond rapidly to urgent re-entry test requirements.

Test planning and launching of the Athena with its experimental re-entry vehicle normally takes four to six months. However, the 42nd and 43rd launches in the series were identified April 28 and launched May 26, for a total planning, assembly and launch time of 29 days.

Athena is a small-scale four stage missile capable of supplying re-entry data applying to full-scale missiles.

Name New WAVE Director

Commander Rita Lenihan has been appointed to succeed Captain Viola B. Sanders as Director of the WAVES. Cdr. Lenihan will assume her new duties upon the retirement of Capt. Sanders this fall, and will serve with the rank of captain in her new assignment.

Currently assigned to the staff of the Naval War College, Cdr. Lenihan will be the seventh director of the WAVES since establishment in 1942.

Personnel Actions

Robert A. Frosch will replace Robert W. Morse as Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research and Development. Mr. Morse will become president of Case Institute of Technology. No date has been announced for the change. Maj. Gen. Alonzo A. Towner, USAF, Command Surgeon, Strategic Air Command, Offutt AFB, Neb., reassigned to deputy Air Force Surgeon General, Hq. USAF, July 1. Maj. Gen. Jaroslav T. Folda Jr., USA, Deputy Commandant, Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pa., reassigned as CG, U.S. Army Alaska.

3, 1966

ches Time

as Divi-
of two
nstrated
stem to
re-entry

g of the
re-entry
to six
nd 43rd
entified
26, for
launch

ar stage
re-entry
ssiles.

OF
as been
Viola B.
WAVES.
er new
f Capt.
ve with
er new

staff of
Lenihan
of the
in 1942

S

Robert
tary of
Develop-
e presi-
nology.
for the
Towner,
strategic
Feb., re-
Surgeon
Ma.
USA,
ar Col-
reas-
ska.