

COMMANDERS DIGEST

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SecDef Issues Summary Of Views on Vietnam

Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara has issued a four-point summary of his views on the situation in Vietnam, following his latest tour of the area.

The Secretary contrasted the Vietnamese situation today with the situation of his last visit in October 1966 and the situation one year ago.

"Substantial progress has been made in the political, economic and military areas," the secretary said. "But substantial problems still remain in these areas, and particularly in the crucial area of pacification.

Four Major Aspects

- Progress in the evolution of political institutions has been noteworthy, he said, considering the situation of last spring.

- He noted a "remarkable change" in the economic situation, pointing out that inflation is far more controlled, and the elimination of the bottleneck in the port of Saigon has done much to reduce the pressure of prices.

- The Viet Cong offensive military campaign in evidence a year ago has not been completely eliminated, the secretary said, but has been blunted. He said there are clear indications of success of General William C. Westmoreland's large-unit actions. He noted progress in extension of the road net in Vietnam and repeated that he did not find "a single American official" in Vietnam who agreed with allegations that a "military stalemate" exists.

- Mr. McNamara placed great emphasis upon the fact that progress in pacification has been very slow, that pacification is an extremely complex process and that he anticipated that progress would continue to be slow. He also emphasized that the responsibility for the vital job, which is really nation-building, must be a Vietnamese responsibility, particularly at the lower political level of the hamlet, the village and the district.

In summary, the secretary said, "I do not consider it optimistic to cite the progress which has been made; I do not consider it pessimistic to cite the problems which remain."



SEABEE SOUVENIR—Marine Lt. Col. Warren P. Ketterman, CO, Second Bn., Seventh Reg., First Marine Div., shows Navy Cdr. G. W. Schley, CO, MCB 74, where the Marines found the 140mm rocket launcher Cdr. Schley is holding. The Marine unit presented the launcher to the Seabees as a token of appreciation for assistance rendered. It will be displayed in the CBC Museum, Gulfport, Miss.

SecDef Names July 24-28 DOD Cost Reduction Week

During the Department of Defense Cost Reduction Week, July 24-28, Certificates of Merit are being presented to 11 persons whose contributions collectively represent a cross-section of the program during Fiscal Year 1967.

The week was designated by Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara "to honor the thousands of military and civilian DOD personnel whose ideas and efforts have produced more than \$14 billion in savings since establishment of the program in July, 1962."

During the week, the 11 awardees were to meet with top officials of the military departments and the Office of the Secretary of Defense to discuss cost reduction attainments and future goals.

Also, more than 100 poster-type displays of representative cost reduction achievements will be exhibited in the Pentagon concourse.

Washington Memos

NEW PEAK IN passenger airlift was recorded at Travis AFB, Calif., during June. The 100,000th passenger had passed through the base—more than 50,000 of the passengers headed for Vietnam and other Southeast Asia bases. During one eight-hour period, more than 2,000 passengers were processed. A record was also established June 22 when 4,793 passengers were processed, the highest ever handled in a single 24-hour period.

NAVY PROVIDED SALUTE to armed forces at Soldier Field, Chicago, July 8. "Mid-America Salute to the Flag," witnessed by more than 52,000 consisted of "living flag" formed in color by 10,000 sailors, graduation of 1,000 recruits from Great Lakes Training Center, presentation of Purple Hearts to wounded Vietnam veterans, and an aerial flyover of Naval Air Reserve A4 Skyhawks. Project was joint effort of the Navy and city of Chicago.

ARMY ENLISTED PERSONNEL must have 13 months remaining on current enlistment after completing Vietnamese language training course. Army also said when necessary individual must extend enlistment or reenlist if he does not meet the eligibility requirements for the 13-month status. Changes to AR 611-82 are contained in DA message 822678.

NAVY HAS SELECTED Lockheed Missiles and Space Co. and Westinghouse Electric Corp. (Underseas Division) to make separate designs for a prototype deep submergence search vehicle (DSSV). First of a maneuverable class of vehicle, DSSV will be able to descend to 20,000 feet and perform search and recovery operations. Construction contract for winning design is expected to be awarded about mid-1968.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BUILDING of Civil Air Patrol was formally opened at Maxwell AFB, Ala. Command of about 131 officers, airmen and civilians moved in mid-June from Ellington AFB, Texas, where it had been located since 1959.

ARMY MISSILE COMMAND has activated new metrology and calibration center at Redstone Arsenal, Ala. Center consolidates calibration and metrological activities formerly conducted by other units throughout United States. New center will manage calibration work of 13 locations around the world and will be manned by 184 civilian and military personnel.

THREE AF RESERVE Military Airlift Wings and their eight subordinate groups have attained "fully combat ready" status, Continental Air Command announces. Units are: 445th, Dobbins AFB, Ga., 512th, Carswell AFB, Texas, and 349th, Hamilton AFB, Calif. Units are part of seven reserve wings which have been converting from Tactical Airlift, flying C-119s, to Military Airlift, flying C-124s.

ARMY "GOLDEN KNIGHTS" Parachute Team finished among the top 10 in the national parachute competition. Four members of the team garnered honors in meet sponsored by Parachute Club of America. Judging was on accuracy in hitting the ground target and maneuvers performed in free fall.

OPERATIONAL THIS MONTH is the 73rd Aerospace Surveillance Wing, Tyndall AFB, Fla. Its mission is detecting and tracking objects in space. The aerospace unit is directly responsible for all Air Force space track system sensors which form a chain of optical and electronic tracking installations from the Aleutian Islands, Alaska, to the Middle East.

ON AUGUST FIRST, Air Force units designated as troop carrier units will be redesignated tactical airlift units.

THIRTY-FIVE SAC aircraft and crews will compete in this year's Strategic Air Command Combat Competition, Oct. 5-11, at Fairchild AFB, Wash. Crews representing all B-52 and B-58 wings will participate in the "world series of bombing." In addition, three Royal Air Force aircrews are expected to compete.

NEW APOLLO PROGRAM manager at Kennedy Space Center, Fla., is RADM. Roderick O. Middleton, who had been serving as deputy director of NASA's Manned Space Flight office in Washington, D.C. Adm. Middleton has been assigned to NASA since 1965 and fills the position formerly held by retired Army Maj. Gen. J. G. Shinkle.

TWO DOCTORS AT Naval Dental Research Institute, NTC Great Lakes, Ill., have developed a vaccine that may lead to prevention of dental caries. Dr. Irving Shklair and Ledr. John Quinn used vaccine successfully on laboratory animals after isolating and identifying organisms that cause caries.

ARMY INFANTRY BOARD is evaluating a 40mm smoke-marking round to identify targets in inaccessible areas. Round is fired from M-79 grenade launcher and can mark positions at ranges of 200 and 400 meters. Smoke is emitted for about one and one-half minutes allowing enough time for marking of potential target, strike area or landing zone.

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION announces that more than one-half million veterans have entered training during the first year of the educational program under the 1966 GI Bill.

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THIS PUBLICATION CONTAINS OFFICIAL INFORMATION, NEWS AND POLICY, DIRECT FROM WASHINGTON AUTHORIZED SOURCES.

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Background for Commanders

"ESCALATION" IN VIETNAM*

I have heard a good deal about this word "escalation." Now, I would just call to your attention in passing that that seems to be a word reserved only for the United States and Allied forces. Very seldom do you see any reference to escalation by the other side. Before we put any ground combat units into South Vietnam and before we started the bombing of North Vietnam, major elements of the 325th North Vietnamese Regular Army were sent into South Vietnam. That wasn't escalation. That was infiltration, generally, in the way in which people talked about it.

North Vietnamese and VC "Escalation"

Let me give you a good example of what I mean by this word. The North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong, for several months now, have been mining Saigon harbor. Not too long ago they sank a British-flag ship in the Saigon River. I daresay you don't recall having read about that mining as an escalatory step on the part of the other side. But I'm sure you would agree with me that if we were to pick up their mines out of the Saigon River and simply take them home where they came from, to Haiphong, everybody would cry "Escalation! Escalation!"

Have you seen the use of Cambodia by Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces referred to as an escalation of the war by the other side? We haven't bombed the headquarters in Hanoi of General [Vo Nguyen] Giap. But the other side set up some mortars in the center of Saigon and tried to shell General [William C.] Westmoreland's headquarters not long ago.

So at least this is a word that ought to be used on both sides, if necessary, along with the firm realization that we are prepared this afternoon to start the process of deescalation just as soon as the other side is willing to join in.

No "Unconditional Surrender" Demand

There have been many, many dozens of proposals made by ourselves, by other governments, or by groups of governments, pointing toward deescalation on both sides as a means for reducing the violence and bringing this matter to the conference table.

Just recently, we have suggested that both sides pull 10 miles away from each side of the demilitarized zone. But all of these measures have been turned down by Hanoi.

I have heard it said that we are asking the other side for unconditional surrender. Well, let's look at that just for a moment.

We are not asking North Vietnam to surrender an acre of ground nor a man. We are not asking them to change their regime. We are not asking them to

pay any reparations. Indeed, we have invited them to take part in the Southeast Asian development program, to which we would contribute a billion dollars. The only thing we are asking them to do is to stop their effort to seize Laos and South Vietnam by force. To call that "unconditional surrender" is, it seems to me, an abuse of the English language.

Time and time again, we've put proposals to them trying to probe for peace. But we have not asked to occupy their country or to impose upon them the kind of unconditional surrender that anyone associates with that term in World War II in connection with Germany or Japan.

We do not move to peace and the relaxation of tension by giving away one small country after another—increasing the appetites of those on the other side and leaving them with the hope and expectation that by additional pressures they might get more and more.

The Soviet Union is a cochairman of the Geneva conferences on Southeast Asia. We should be very glad indeed to sit down with them in a conference, or in any other fashion, to talk about the full application of the agreements of 1954 and 1962. It need not be a source of tension between us.

Reciprocity Required for Peaceful Solution

I have seen doubts cast upon the extent of our desire for a peaceful settlement in Southeast Asia. On occasion, I have seen signs, such as "Peace in Vietnam," when I go out to speak. I have wanted to go up to some of these people and ask them to let me help them carry the sign, because at President Johnson's request, I have carried that sign into every capital of the world over and over again. There are literally hundreds of conversations, dozens of offers, continuing contacts, probing for the possibility of a peaceful settlement.

But today the situation is, unhappily, relatively simple. North Vietnam is saying that we must make an unconditional and permanent commitment to stop the bombing at a time when they will make no military move on their own side in the direction of deescalation. And, in that circumstance, they might talk after a period of—well, we don't know; we have heard 3 weeks; we don't know what the exact time period would be.

The commitment of the United States to its 40 or more allies is a very important element in the building of a durable peace. If those who would be our adversaries should ever suppose that our commitments are not worth anything, then we shall see dangers we have not yet dreamed of.

* Excerpts from a recent address by Secretary of State Dean Rusk.

First F-111A Assigned For Combat Crew Training

The first F-111A aircraft assigned to Tactical Air Command combat crew training has arrived at Nellis AFB, Nev.

It is assigned to the 4520th Combat Crew Training Wing, and will be used to train instructor pilots.

The F-111 was flown from Edwards AFB, Calif., where TAC pilots have been participating in a joint test program.

The aircraft is designed for short takeoffs and landings. It is a tactical multipurpose fighter.

New Hydrofoil Gunboat Slated for 1967 Delivery

A hydrofoil gunboat capable of speeds faster than 45 mph is scheduled for the Navy later this year.

Named Tucumcari, the hydrofoil has three fully submerged foils and will be powered by water jets. The hull and superstructure are made of aluminum, and the foils and struts of stainless steel.

Tucumcari has a full load displacement of 58 tons and is 72 feet long. It will be armed with a 40-mm gun forward and an 81-mm mortar aft. Twin 50-cal. machine guns will be mounted on each side of the bridge.

Army Study Reviewing Junior Officer Duties

Army is reviewing duties of junior officers as part of a broad study of career motivation.

Officials are seeking information on why officers do or do not remain on active duty beyond their minimum obligation. The study involves officers with less than five years of active commissioned service.

The review represents a phase of a continuing Army program involving all personnel. The review, started in 1965, seeks information on the basic motivational drives which influence individuals to voluntarily enter and remain in the military profession.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE—Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. McConnell (left) inspects the Distinguished Service Medals he has just presented to (from left) Lt. Gens. Robert J. Friedman, Hewitt T. Wheless and Jack G. Merrell in a Pentagon ceremony. Gen. Friedman, Deputy Chief of Staff, Programs and Resources, will become Chief of Staff, U.S. Forces and Chief of Staff, United Nations Command, Korea. Gen. Wheless, who will remain in his present assignment as Assistant Vice Chief of Staff, USAF, has also been nominated Senior AF Member, Military Staff Committee, United Nations. Gen. Merrell, Comptroller of the Air Force, has been reassigned as Vice Commander, USAF.

AF Schedules Changes In Performance Reports

Air Force "Airman Performance Reports" are in for a change early next year.

A review of the APR system has been completed, officials disclosed, with changes still in the "planning stage."

Some recommended changes in the revised APR manual, now in the "staffing" stage, are:

- Revised, simpler format for reports including an "Overall Evaluation" item on reports for all airman grades.
- Minor administrative changes in reporting procedures.
- Provision for the collection of rating data through a personnel automatic process, similar to that now used for officers.

Navy Researchers Achieve Record Temperature Low

Scientists at the Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D. C., have achieved the world's lowest recorded temperature—one millionth of a degree above absolute zero.

Absolute zero, the point where all molecular motion in gases stops, is -459.67 degrees Fahrenheit. The previous low was 1.3 millionths of a degree above absolute zero.

The freezing experiment was part of a study of forces between nuclei, which change sharply as temperature is lowered. Near absolute zero even the tiniest variation in temperature makes a difference, scientists said.

To achieve the low temperature, scientists cooled a bundle of thin copper wires with a special salt and a magnetic cooling technique called nuclear cooling.



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