C A N B E R R A T A L E S

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Air Guard - A.F. Reserve May Merge

The Defense Department is "on the threshold" of a decision whether to incorporate the Air Reserve into the Air Guard, according to Air Force Times.

Here's what the Times said in a Washington datelined story of 25 Nov.

"This (the merger) has been proposed by Defense, and the Air Staff here has offered Defense a series of alternatives. The matter is under intensive study now and a decision is expected quite soon.

"The Reserve Officers Association in October passed a resolution opposing the proposed . . . merger and there have been some inquiries to the Pentagon from members of Congress who are concerned lest their districts lose Air Reserve units.

"The R.O.A. said, 'It is unalterably opposed to the disbandment or reduction in size and mission of the Air Force Reserve by absorption into the Air National Guard.'

"Air Force Secretary Eugene M. Zuckert last February gave the proposal to consolidate the Air Reserve and the Air Guard his 'in principle' approval. Extensive studies followed.

"Chief of Staff Curtis E. LeMay, while not commenting publicly on the idea for many years, earlier called for merger. Years ago similar suggestions from other quarters were brushed aside.

"Sticky problems involving state prerogatives abound in any attempt to consolidate the two forces, although supporters of the idea point to substantial dollar savings and greater efficiency of operations that presumably would result."

The Times also said the Defense Department is expected to decide "in a few days . . . whether more AF Recovery units are to be deactivated."

Last year 40 recovery groups and 91 recovery squadrons were deactivated, leaving 42 groups and 109 squadrons in existence.

Louisville has two Air Force Reserve recovery units, the 8368th A.F.R. Group listed at Nichols Hospital and the 9218 A.F.R. Squadron listed at Standiford Field.

A.N.G. - Reserve Units Affected So Far - The massive shutdown of military facilities announced at the end of November by Defense Secretary Robert McNamara did not directly affect any Kentucky or Indiana units. It did include these changes: A.N.G. air transport group at Grenier Field, N.H., moved to Pease A.F.B., N.H.; A.N.G. air transport group at Newark Airport, N.J., moved to nearby McGuire A.F.B.; A.F. Reserve troop carrier group at Davis Field, Muskogee, Okla. to be discontinued by June, 1967.

O V E R

Commanders in Wichita - Five Kentucky A.N.G. officers and the air advisor left Thursday for the A.N.G. Commanders' Call (eastern division) at Wichita, Kan. and are due to return late this afternoon, via a West Virginia A.N.G. C-121. They are Brig. Gen. William D. Ott; Col. Joseph Sullivan, senior air advisor; Col. William H. Webster, Col. Verne M. Yahne, Col. Eugene F. Kinnaird and Capt. John R. McClure.

Flying Schedule - The December flying schedule calls for 300 hours and 40 photo sorties in RB-57s and 20 hours in the C-47. Night flying will be on 9 and 18 Dec. with no scheduled Sunday for cross country returns. There will be no flying 25-26-27 Dec.

Plunging Neckline Coming - A new "deep U" T-shirt for Air Force men has been approved by the Defense Department and should be available in base clothing stores by May, the Air Force Times reports. Adoption of the new undershirt means that eventually it will be taboo for a T-shirt to show at the neck of summer uniforms. Army and Navy personnel now use the "deep-U" shirt.

Weather Forecast - Cloudy and colder today, snow flurries this afternoon, high 37; lo tonight, in the 20s. Sunday, decreasing cloudiness and cold, high near 35.

Sunday's Menu - Roast turkey with dressing, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, corn, lettuce-tomato salad, fruit cake, fresh fruit.

Recreation News - Five volleyball teams have been formed and the first practice is scheduled this noon (Saturday) in the hangar. Tournament play starts Sunday noon.

Twenty-seven men turned out last drill to form a pistol and rifle team. MSgt. Kenneth Dungan, Materiel, is temporary team captain.

Persons interested in chess and photography programs should contact MSgt. Ted Bolton in the training office, room 124 O&T Bldg., Ph. 2723.

Those who qualified as a marksman (just about everybody) or higher at the summer camp firing range may obtain an attractive Small Arms Marksmanship certificate of achievement to impress the home folks. See Airman Campbell in room 124.