

ROUTINE

ARRS OAFB FLA

ALL ARS UNITS (SEE ATTACHED LIST)

ARS RES SQS

INFO: CONAC ROBINS AFB GA

INFO: AF 5555

UNCLAS ARCCO 01621 28 FEB 66.

SUBJECT: DISTINCTIVE HEADGEAR FOR PARARESCUE
PERSONNEL. THIS MESSAGE IN FIVE PARTS. PART I.
THE CHIEF OF STAFF, AIR FORCE, HAS GRANTED AUTHORI-
ZATION THROUGH THE COMMANDER, MAC FOR ALL
QUALIFIED PARARESCUEMEN IN ARRS TO WEAR A MAROON
BERET AND BLOUSED TROUSERS IN COMBAT BOOTS, WITH
ALL UNIFORMS, EFFECTIVE 28 FEB 66. PART II. THE
INITIAL BERET WILL BE PURCHASED FOR EACH QUALIFIED
ARRS ASSIGNED PARARESCUEMAN, BY ARRS, AS SOON AS
THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE.
THEY WILL BE MAROON BERETS PURCHASED FROM THE
DORTHEA KNITTING MILLS LTD., 20 RESEARCH ROAD

28

1400

FEB

66

1

2

544

CAPT. BUNDODET

ACTION AGENCY

PHONE NUMBER

FIFTEEN MINUTES

DATE

COL. AC BRYONE, COMMR

ROUTINE

COL AC BROOKS

CAPT RUNDQUIST

544

TORONTO 17, CANADA. PARARESCUEMEN MAY PURCHASE DIRECTLY FROM THE COMPANY AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE, ONCE THE BERET IS DELIVERED TO THE FIELD, IT WILL BECOME MANDATORY WEAR WITH ALL UNIFORMS. ~~REPLACEMENT OF THE INITIAL ISSUE WILL BE WITH THE CLOTHING ALLOWANCE. THE BERET WILL BE PROCURABLE THROUGH THE CLOTHING SALES STORES IN THE FUTURE.~~ PART III. THE STANDARD SIZE PARACHUTIST BADGE WILL BE WORN ON THE BERET UNTIL A NEW SILVER EMBLEM IS APPROVED AND MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE EXCHANGE SYSTEM. THE BERET WILL BE WORN WITH THE EMBLEM TO THE LEFT FRONT. PART IV. ONLY FULLY QUALIFIED PARARESCUE PERSONNEL, ASSIGNED TO ARRS AND AF RESCUE RESERVE SQUADRONS ARE AUTHORIZED TO WEAR THE BERET. STUDENTS OF THE PARARESCUE TECHNICIAN TRAINING SCHOOL WILL BE AWARDED THEIR BERET UPON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE SCHOOL. A PARARESCUEMAN WHO LOSES HIS QUALIFICATION WILL NO LONGER BE AUTHORIZED TO WEAR THE BERET. PART V. THIS ITEM OF UNIFORM CLOTHING IS CLEAR EVIDENCE OF THE RECOGNITION OF THE DISTINCTIVE ACHIEVEMENTS AND UNIQUE CAPABILITIES OF PARARESCUEMEN. IT SHOULD BE WORN PROUDLY,

UNCLAS

ROUTINE

COL AC BROOKS

CAPT RUNQUIST

544

IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGH TRADITIONS OF THE AEROSPACE RESCUE
RECOVERY SERVICE AND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE.

Maroon Berets ON For Pararescuemen

By Ron Mingus

WASHINGTON — Military Airlift Command's pararescuemen will soon be sporting distinctive maroon berets, both on and off base. Air Force C/S Gen. John McConnell recently approved the berets and, in another uniform development, made wearing a tie a must when the new, lightweight blue shirt-trouser uniform is worn off base.

The lightweight, long-sleeve shirt, a newcomer to AF's wardrobe, is made of wool/polyester material, as are the trousers with which it will be worn.

Pararescuemen will wear their maroon berets with black boots with bloused trousers. Silver parachute wings will be worn on the berets until a silver replica (already approved) of the Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service emblem can be manufactured.

It marks the first time AF has authorized off-base wear of berets and bloused trousers for any of its "elite" groups. Four other AF specialty outfits wear distinctive headgear, but only on base.

Security control forces in Strategic Air Command and Pacific Air Forces, and members of Tactical Air Commands combat control teams now wear light blue berets. Air Commandos have adopted the Australian bush hat.

The new maroon beret will go to a relatively small segment of AF's population as there are currently less than 300 pararescuemen.

Pararescuemen must be qualified parachutists, medical men, SCUBA divers, mountain climbers, survival experts and firefighters. Approximately seven months schooling is required to qualify a pararescueman.

THE NEW, lightweight blue shirt-trouser uniform, approved for year-around wear, is expected to make its appearance on the scene this summer when the shirts become available in exchange stores and commercial outlets.

While a tie will be required with the new uniform off base, commanders will retain the authority to okay on-base wear of the combination without tie.

The shirt will initially be available only in the current uniform blue 1084 shade, but is expected to be converted to the new darker blue uniform shade approved last December, AF says.

Although the shirt won't be available through AF clothing stores in the near future, AF officials here said they may be included in store stocks later if they win the approval of commanders and AFmen in general.

change of permanent station.

The bill would let him collect the dislocation pay, and it would be retroactive to April 1, 1955, when the dislocation pay was first authorized.

5. Replace the present enlisted deposits program with a new savings plan for servicemen stationed overseas, including officers. The object is to save U.S. gold.

Servicemen could deposit up to

cause of "error, miscalculation, misinformation or administrative determination" — unless there is fraud. But the number of years of service could be adjusted. The proposal is not retroactive.

8. Open up more service academy appointments to sons of career servicemen, including servicemen who are retired, or who died while on active duty, or who are 100 percent disabled.

Stripe Splurge Feared

Tight Promotion Policy

(Continued from Page 1)

quotas or skill controls for October. Officially, Defense has not announced AF's end FY-1966 strengths, much less those for FY-1967. It is known, however, that Air Force has asked for another substantial increase in NCO strength over the next year and expects to get it. If it does, the '67 quotas should be only slightly smaller than the 264,000 total for FY-1966.

The question of more direct concern to airmen not promoted this month is what the prospects will be in their skills in the fall. This one depends not only on the strength and quota figures but on the manning outlook in the specific

skills AF will not know this until it knows (1) where the new strength is going in terms of the skills and (2) where commands have used their big June quotas.

The skill controls on the June cycle kept commands from promoting more than certain numbers of men in each field, but these were the maximum numbers permissible. Headquarters will not know until it gets July strength reports how far they used the hike power within each.

WHEN IT has a better reading on the strength vs. slots by grade, Headquarters will again set promotion limitation by career field ladder for October. Current plans are to use the same formula adopted during the past year, forbidding promotion of more than a fixed percentage of the airmen assigned in the next lower grade. This is the point over which AF can expect some command argument as quotas increase.

Until last fall, the limitations were less binding. In the better manned skills, commands could promote only a percentage of the assigned (5, 10, 15, 20 or 25 percent). In many, however, they were allowed "unlimited" promotion power. Quotas were too small to promote all of the assigned in all of the unlimited skills, but the field had much more leeway to promote heavily where it wanted to.

Likely with the larger quotas is pressure from commands for a return to the less stringent restrictions. USAF is not expected to give on this point for fear of the field's flooding some skill fields with enough stripes to put them seriously overstrength again. A splurge of promotions now would have to be met with even tighter limitations later.

Overshadowing the normal concern over surpluses, is the fact that much of AF's current strength is "temporary." How much and how fast the Vietnam war ended abruptly is unknown, but high government officials have

said the trimming would be swift.

This puts the Air Force in the position of wanting to use the new strength to promote heavily while it can but being wary of going to the point where a major cutback like that following the Korean war would leave it in a bind. A particular worry are those skills in demand for the Viet war which could become surplus when it ends.

If AF is not apt to let down the bars on its skill controls this year, it is likely to focus on some new problems. One is that of airmen who carry two or more skills and have been competing for stripes in all of them. The promotion regulation makes men eligible for hikes in either primary or control skills. For the June quota, however, AF

Vietnam Co

SAIGON — During the week pilots destroyed or damaged more than the Yen Bay storage complex, 80 Red River.

Flying in good weather, F-105s and F-4Cs flew 18 missions and were credited with destroying 72 warehouses, damaging 44 others and silencing about 25 anti-aircraft sites defending the target area.

A secondary explosion was reported and strike pilots reported the area was engulfed in flames. One downed F-105 pilot was rescued 20 minutes after he ejected by an HH-3C crew. During the rescue, MIG-17s attacked the rescue aircraft without damage. Later, an F-4C downed a MIG-17 with a Sidewinder.

Strike aircraft used 750-, 2000- and 3000-pound bombs and 20mm cannon fire. Two surface-to-air (SAM) missiles missed Air Force aircraft.

Elsewhere in the north, F-105 cut Route 15, north of the Mu Gi Pass, at three points. Also 4 barges were hit by F-105 north west of Dong Hoi in one day.

Strike aircraft in the north also reported cutting bridges, hitting

Vins Trophy Protection

— First place in the Air Force Fire Protection
ler AFB, Miss. Maj. Gen. R. H. Curtin, director of
duled to present the trophy to Lt. Gen. Sam Maddux

essay contest, with prizes
first three places. In addi-
e department tours, lec-
movies were planned. An
ise was to close the week
BC fire stations.

AFB, N.C.—Many activi-
e scheduled here for Fire
on Week. They included
inspections, talks, and a
d fire evacuation of flight-
raft.

were the youngsters over-
3ase fire department mem-
eduled safety talks, and
tack of Sparky home fire
on kits to pass out.

FOLK COUNTY AFB,
The base fire station,
tops in ADC Fire Pro-
competition, had a busy
le during Fire Prevention

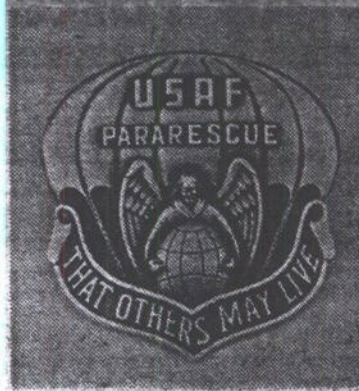
man," the base crusader,
base tours to talk with
ers on safety measures. His
e, designed by A2C Carl
y, included bright leotards
oe.

station, with other fire de-
nts, was also to participate
urning of 18 obsolete build-
Montauk Radar Station, as
a group training exercise.
e to the week was the ap-
ce of Lt. Gen. Arthur C.
Air Defense Command com-
r.

MINOT AFB, N.D. — A junior
fire marshal program, parades, con-
tests, demonstrations, inspections
and drills were activities planned
here.

For the Maroon Berets

NEW EMBLEM to be worn
on their maroon berets is
exclusively for pararescue-
men of the Aerospace Res-
cue and Recovery Service.
The emblems will be avail-
able soon in BXs and can
be obtained through regu-
lar AF supply channels in
about a year. Capt. Peter
A. Rundquist, Hq. ARRS,
Orlando AFB, Fla., designed
the emblem.



Nov 67 AF 71

26 May 1966: Headquarters USAF, The Pentagon. Air Force Chief of Staff John P. McConnell, approves a distinctive Pararescue uniform featuring maroon beret and bloused trousers over combat boots. The beret becomes a symbol of esteem, signifying the blood sacrificed by pararescuemen and their devotion to duty in aiding others in distress. Captain Peter Rundquist, a pararescue staff officer, plays a pivotal role in convincing the Air Staff to approve this recognition.

50 YRS = SOURCE