

# THE ARMY-NAVY-AIR FORCE REGISTER

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## Work Begun on Earth Satellite

Man's age-old dream of conquering space has just come a giant-step closer to reality. The Defense Department announced last week that work has begun on Project Vanguard, the proposed man-made earth satellite.

Word of the "artificial moon" first electrified the world on July 29 of this year when President Eisenhower, and several others, announced that a small satellite probably about the size of a basketball would be launched into space in 1957, where it would circle the earth once every one or two hours, for several days. Two months of silence on the daring project was broken Wednesday when it was learned that contracts for the satellite have been let to the Glenn L. Martin Company, of Baltimore, Md., and the General Electric Company. Other important portions of the missile will be built by various other companies, so that most sections of the country will share in the glory of man's first encroachment upon outer space.

### Defense Department Role

The entire project is being supervised and sponsored by two American scientific organizations, the National Academy of Science and the National Science Foundation. The defense Department's role in the project will be accomplished as a Joint Army-Navy-Air Force program under Navy management.

The small, unmanned satellite will be included in the final "stage" of a multi-stage rocket launching vehicle. The first rocket will launch the entire missile into the air, and will drop off when its fuel is exhausted. The second rocket will then take over, continuing the vertical flight. The third rocket, containing the satellite, will accelerate it to a top speed of about 18,000 miles an hour, which will establish the satellite in its orbit. The "artificial moon" will continue under its own momentum after that, and will circle the earth in an elliptical, or egg-shaped, (Continued on page 6)

## LATE NEWS

Marine Corps Selection Board to consider in grade promotions for 160 Warrant Officers was announced today. Recommendations will be made for 25 Warrant Officers to W-4, 118 to W-3 and one to W-2.

One large increment for Navy Petty Officer promotions will become effective November 16. 70,229 Navy E-3's, E-4's and E-5's are included.

Navy Reserve Officer Selection Boards will meet as follows: Rear Admirals, October 11; Line Captains and Commanders, January 10; Staff Captains and Commanders, January 7; Line Lt. Commanders, February 21; Staff Lt. Commanders and Line Lieutenants, May 1, and Staff Lieutenants, June 5.

The Air Force has placed a million dollar order with Lockheed for the new F-104A jet fighter. Air Force C of S. Nathan F. Twining said the plane is possibly "the fastest, highest flying fighter in the air anywhere."

Retired Reserve Officers who are employees of the government are not bound by any dual compensation restriction, the Supreme Court said in effect this week in refusing to review the Tanner Dual Compensation case.

The General Staff Officer Selection Board which was to convene October 10 has been postponed to October 24. Temporary and permanent promotions to Major General and Brigadier General will be made at that time.



Admiral Radford delivering his address at launching of USS Saratoga. Behind him, and to his right is Admiral Cowdrey and along side of him, Mrs. Thomas, the sponsor.

## Mighty Saratoga Christened

New York, Oct. 8: Today under gray skies and intermittent rain the 59,600-ton aircraft carrier, USS Saratoga, was christened by Mrs. Julia Hayward Thomas, wife of the Secretary of the Navy. Sister ship to the USS Forrestal, commissioned just a week ago, the Saratoga is the world's most powerful ship.

Speaking to over 5,000 people at the New York Naval Yard, Adm. Arthur Radford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the throng that the Saratoga represented a distillation of new weapons and new concepts, "the aircraft carrier you see before you is one such concept which has been proven in combat. It is the concept of sea-airpower. At sea there can be no separate air force and sea force. They must be integrated as one." Radford had served on the first great carrier the Saratoga in World War II, later destroyed in the atomic tests at Bikini.

Among those present for the christening were: Hon. Charles Sparks Thomas, Secretary of the Navy; Fleet Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr., Ret.; Lt. Gen. Leon W. Johnson, Chief of Conac; Rear Adm. R. T. Cowdrey, Commander of the New York Shipyard. Rear Adm. Edward B. Harp, Jr., Chief of Navy Chaplains read the invocation.

### More Carriers Under Construction

Just fifty yards from the Forrestal, the fourth in this class carrier is rising from her dock. This will be named the Independence. The third ship in this class, the Ranger, is under construction at Newport News, Va.

### ARMY GENERAL STAFF REORGANIZATION

A plan for reorganizing the Army General Staff may be forthcoming soon. In response to a Register inquiry concerning a recent news story about the possibility of up-grading the working level to a three star Deputy Chief of Staff status, an Army spokesman commented "The Department of the Army is continually examining its organizational structure in order to improve it. This particular concept is just one of the many under examination at this working level."

## Drastic Reserve Shakeup Disclosed

A Reserve that can be mobilized in six months is the aim of a large-scale reorganization in Army Reserve forces brought to light this week. About 358 company size units not needed in the early stages of a war will be replaced with more urgently needed outfits.

At a press conference this week, hastily called after a Washington, D. C. newspaper called attention to the shake-up, Deputy Assistant Army Secretary Franklin Orth emphasized that the plan was not new. He said it was part of President Eisenhower's National Reserve Program and was approved by top Army officials last winter. He said he could not say why the reorganization had not been made public until now.

The revamping was ordered by the National Security Council last year, which directed the Armed Forces to re-establish troop requirements on the needs of the first six months of war, rather than the previous 18 months figure. The probably shortness of an atomic war was the reasoning behind the new figure.

The Army now needs, said Mr. Orth at the press conference, 1,692,235 men in the Reserves and National Guard, against the figure of 500,000 now on drill pay status. The basic division strength will not change, but important changes in missions have been ordered as a result of the directive.

There will be ten combat divisions gradually built up to full strength of 14,000 men each, under the revised concept. The original plan was to have 25 combat divisions in cadre strength, about 3,300 men each.

Twelve divisions will be retained in cadre strength, but they will have on mobilization the role of training divisions. This mission would probably be changed later in the conflict.

Three other divisions will be converted into maneuver area commands, to be used for conducting (Continued on page 6)

## Army Overpaying Some Officers

The U. S. Comptroller General has ruled that the Army has been overpaying certain officers who held AUS without component commissions during World War II, were relieved from active duty and did not receive a regular or reserve appointment until after July 1, 1948.

The Army has withheld comment on the matter, but the Register has obtained a copy of the Comptroller General's decision and received background information from Air Force officials.

For several years the Army and Air Force have differed regarding those appointments. The Army has held that the commissions continued subsequent to June 30, 1948, whereas the Air Force maintains that they were eliminated as of that date, as a result of Public Law 239, which repealed the act authorizing the wartime commissions.

Consequently, the Army has considered the interim period between the time of an officer's relief from active duty and the time of his subsequent appointment, if before April 1, 1953, as time which may be applied toward retirement pay, as FOGY time, and as years of service for reserve promotion.

In the spring of this year, the Defense Department, because of numerous inquiries regarding the controversial date of termination of the commissions, wrote the Comptroller General to clear up the question. The ruling was handed down last week, in decision B-123992, dated October 7, 1955, stating that the Army interpretation was incorrect.

It is probable that the Army will request that the decision not be retroactive, as the cost of screening thousands of records to determine who owes the government how much, would doubtlessly be far more than the amount of money collectible.

## THE DECLINING MILITARY PAY SCALES

By Col. Russell F. Albert, AUS, Ret.  
Second Installment

## Areas in Which Pay Scales Lag

After World War II, substantial pay increases for the Armed Forces were authorized by the "Career Compensation Act of 1949," P.L. 351, 81st Congress. It is doubtful whether this Act fully reflected the inflation that had occurred since 1942. In any event, the ink was barely dry on this piece of legislation when the "Korean Crisis of 1950" erupted, bringing further inflation in its wake. Some financial relief was given to the Armed Forces in 1952 (P.L. 346, 82d Congress). This legislation brought the Armed Forces Congressional ratios to approximately those existing in 1922. (See Table of Ratios before 1955 increase, first installment of this series). Nevertheless, that scale of pay did not reflect the increased cost of living over that existing in the 1922-1942 period. In fact, it could not have been done consistently at that time because the Armed Forces pay was pushing against the ceiling of Congressional compensation.

Congress had not taken action to adjust its own pay at the time the new pay scales, now incorporated in the "Career Incentive Act of 1955," P.L. 20, 84th Congress, were under study. The failure of Congress previously to raise the pay of its own members to a level consistent with the cost of living had the same telescoping effect on upper Armed Forces pay scales as an accordion being pushed upward from its bottom with the top held firmly in position. Since 1942, substantial increases were made in the lower grades with decreasingly smaller increases in the upper grades. Now that the first session, 84th Congress, has revised upward the former comparatively fixed level of Congressional compensation, a review of the Armed Forces pay scale is indicated, with adjustment as in those instances where they are shown to be too low. Such action would restore the ratios which dropped so drastically following action by the first session, 84th Congress. (See ratios before and after 1955 increases, first installment).

## Per Diem Keeps Up

The numerous crises of the past twenty years have produced serious inflationary effects on the economy of the United States. Their evaluation has been difficult due to the rapidity with which one crisis followed another. Plans made twenty years ago, or even ten years ago, for life insurance, pensions, annuities, and other provisions for old age security, education, or inheritances, have become so obsolete as to require revision. In fact, savings invested years ago in savings bonds and allowed to remain there until today, are worth but a fraction of the original investment in terms of today's purchasing value. For a time these inflationary effects appeared to have been temporarily stabilized. Now there is some evidence the upward spiral is to be resumed, in which case the remedy sought in this article will be inadequate even before some subsequent Congress takes action. At the moment, there appears to be no plan to reduce the national debt. Any emergency of slightly greater degree than the one now existing would present the problem of greater taxes and/or increases in the national debt. Either would reduce Armed Forces take-home pay. At the moment, the 1922 dollar of 100 cents has a value of about forty-five cents. Otherwise expressed, the 1922 pay scales should be increased two and one-quarter (2.25) times to maintain the 1922 dollar value, before taxes. Per diem of \$5.00 authorized in the 'good old days' has been increased to \$12.00. This is two and four-tenths times the old rate or slightly greater than the factor of 2.25 used in this series of articles.

Some may contend that present compensation of members of Congress is too high and that of the Armed Forces about right; others may have the viewpoint that Armed Forces pay is too low and the Congressional pay is right. The latter view is subscribed to here and this view seems to conform to general opinion. In view of the inflationary effects that have taken place, congressional pay certainly is not too high. Actually, after taxes, the purchasing power of their dollar is probably less than at the beginning of this third of a century. That will also be true of the net compensation of members of the Armed Forces to be proposed as a solution to the lag in their pay. Surely all will agree that Members of Congress work more than they did thirty-three years ago. That is also true of members of the Armed Forces. That bird of the 'piping days of peace' stretched its wings in 1939, took to flight in 1940, and does not seem likely to return to its roost in the near future.

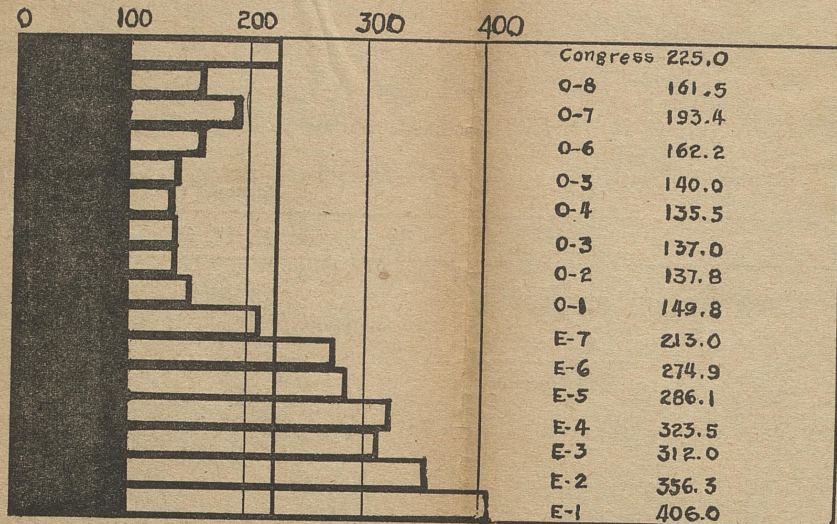
## Basis for Comparison

Two distinct bases are available to compare Congressional and Armed Forces pay increases. The most recent basis is represented by the increases approved by the 84th Congress in relation to the pay scales existing just before adoption of the 1955 rates. Such a comparison is shown in CHART 'B' below. The data recorded on this chart is not considered appropriate in all instances for use in proposing new

CHART 'A'—Showing the relation of increases in pay between Members of Congress and personnel of the Armed Forces during the period 1922-1955, including the "Career Incentive Act of 1955" and Congressional increase of 1955. Armed Forces pay for maximum years of service, mostly 30 years, has been used. Pay for grades E-7 to O-8 lags behind all others.

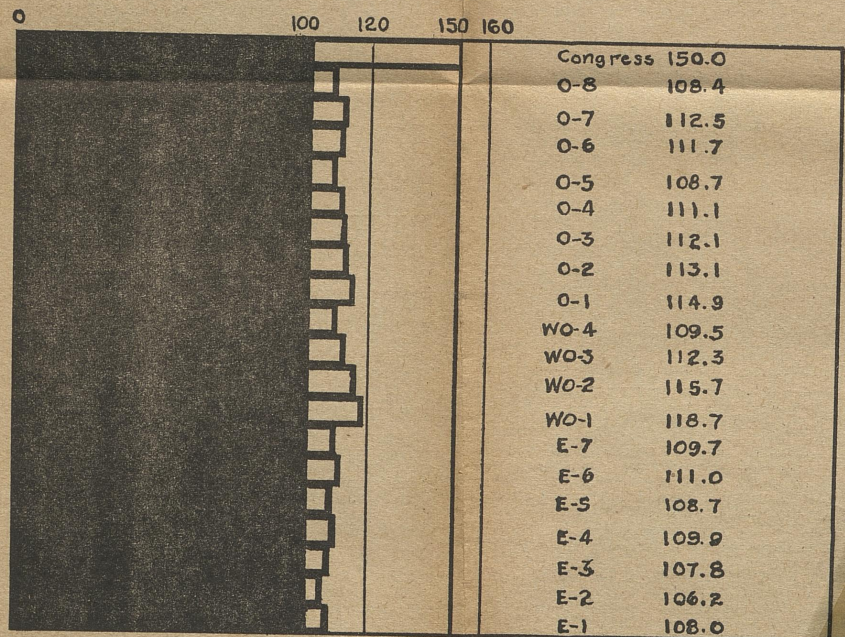
CHART 'B'—Showing the relation of increases between Members of Congress and personnel of the Armed Forces authorized in the first session, 84th Congress. For a more accurate presentation of the long range effect see Chart 'A'. As in Chart 'A' maximum years of service has been used.

CHART A



KEY: 1922 PAY = 100 %.  
 PERCENT INCREASE SINCE 1922.

CHART B



KEY: PAY PRIOR TO 1955 INCREASES. BASIS 100%.  
 PERCENT INCREASE IN 1955.

pay scales. As stated in the first two paragraphs of this installment, the Armed Forces pay scales were pushing against the Congressional pay ceiling and a fifty per cent increase in all grades and ranks could not be justified. Also substantial increases for grades E-1 to E-6 in pay previous to 1955, notably 1942, make it difficult to justify increases of such an amount in equalizing pay. A more accurate picture of the situation of lag in pay scales over the thirty-three year period is presented in CHART 'A' on this page. This chart covers the whole period from 1922 to include the "Career Incentive Act of 1955." The data on this

chart relates specifically to the maximum rate of pay for over thirty (30) years of service. Examples of other years of service would be similar to that shown. The pay of grades E-7 to O-8 is shown to lag behind others recorded on the chart. Grades E-1 through E-6 justly have received substantial pay increases since 1942. As a result, their compensation has been increased by factors of from 2.75 to 4.06, or greater than the factor of 2.25 used in comparing the pay increases in grades E-7 and O-1 to O-8 with the Congressional increase.