

*7-1-69*  
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**UNITED STATES ARMY  
THE CHIEF OF STAFF**

17 February 1969

Dear Colonel Metzner:

One of the most important factors for success in our Revolutionary Development and Pacification Program in the Republic of Vietnam is the work accomplished by the Province Advisors. Because of the inherent relationship of the senior military representative with the governing official in the geographically and politically scattered provinces, no other single element of the military structure in that country is so important to the furtherance of our objectives there. For this reason, selection of the highest caliber of officers for assignment as Province Senior Advisors and Deputy Province Senior Advisors is necessary.

I am aware of your long service in Vietnam and recent return from a Province Advisor assignment. Your knowledge of the country and its people would be most valuable in our efforts to ensure success. Prior to his departure from Vietnam, Ambassador Komer requested your return in February 1970 as a member of the Province Senior Advisor Program.

If you accept, you will undergo a period of special training at the Foreign Service Institute here in Washington. You will later be ordered to MACV for an 18-month tour of duty, with an option of extending for an additional 6 months, as a Province Senior Advisor or Deputy Province Senior Advisor. Although we must ensure that each of these 44 key positions is occupied, every effort will be made to assign you to the one you prefer. Naturally, COMUSMACV will have to decide where you will serve.

Should you be selected for attendance at a senior service college during your tour or while undergoing training for this assignment, you will be placed in a deferred principal category and will attend upon completion of your tour as a Province Senior Advisor.

I recognize that this professional demand may create personal hardships. However, the assignment is not without reward and compensation to counter some of the disadvantages.

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The training phase is oriented to specific individual requirements, and if you accept this assignment you will report to Washington in October for approximately 15 weeks for training in TDY status. The course normally consists of 7 weeks of common subjects and a maximum of 26 weeks of language training. However, because of your knowledge and background in Vietnam, the course will be adjusted to facilitate your arrival in-country by approximately February 1970.

During your training, the Chief of Personnel Operations will arrange for you to spend some time with me to discuss your assignment. Upon your arrival in Vietnam, Headquarters, United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, will arrange for you to visit the Commander and our Ambassador to Vietnam, or their respective deputies.

If you wish to participate in this program, I would like to be informed within the next 2 weeks. Should you have any questions, Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. Morrissey, Executive for Career Planning, Plans and Programs Branch, telephone OXFORD 6-8538, will be happy to provide the answers.

The fact that you have been nominated for this assignment is a salute to your professional competence and outstanding record of past performance, and I congratulate you for such achievement.

Sincerely,

  
W. C. WESTMORELAND  
General, United States Army  
Chief of Staff

Lieutenant Colonel Edward P. Metzner  
4th Battalion, 80th Artillery  
Fort Carson, Colorado 80913

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