

# Air Force Times

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## EM Hike Boards May Go

By Bruce Callor

WASHINGTON—Officials are nearing a decision on a promotion question that could affect almost every man in the force—whether to use selection boards or the new “weighted factors” system. Early indications are that AF is leaning toward eliminating boards below the supergrades.

If boards are used, they will award up to 100 of the possible 530 promotion points in the scoring for grades E-4 through E-7 and 150 of the 505 points for supergrades. This means the board scores would carry about 18 percent of the weight for selection through E-7 and 30 percent for the supergrades.

If boards are not used, the point scores for other factors would remain the same but each would have added importance. The two tests (promotion fitness and skill exams) would carry a combined weight of about 34 percent if boards are used. With no boards, tests would make up about 42 percent of the total score.

Officials are making no predictions about the future of the boards in the promotion system. They are saying that a decision will be made by the end of February, possibly sooner.

There also is strong evidence that whatever the decision is for

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## Ranch Hands' Receive Presidential Unit Citation

BIEN HOA AB—The 12th Special Operations Sq. “Ranch Hands” recently received the Presidential Unit Citation for their courage, airmanship, esprit de corps and successful accomplishment of their mission.

Gen. George S. Brown, commander of Seventh AF, presented the award during ceremonies held on the Bien Hoa flightline. The citation August 1968 through June 1967, read in part: “During this period, members of the 12th Special Operations Sq. repeatedly encountered extremely heavily defended target complexes while flying at very low altitude and air speed replete for constant personal danger, they defoliated the jungle canopy which concealed hostile forces.”

Also during the ceremony, General Brown presented the Bronze Star to Lt. Col. Arthur T. McConnell Jr., the outgoing commander for the 19th SOS.

Lt. Col. Rex K. Stoner assumed command of the Ranch Hands.

## Fun Ahead

QUIETLY WAITING, a small patient at the Lin Kuang Children's Polio Hospital watches AIC James T. Kerrigan, 4220th Air Refueling Sq., Ching Chuan Kang ROCAF, Taiwan, as he puts together a swing set for the children. She was soon enjoying the results of the airman's labor as the squadron continued its project of aiding the hospital.

posed overhaul of to Congress, the the overhaul prop Group headed by merely said: “Consideration modernizing the full salary system The overall b

Endorse

# Hull Ok

WASHINGTON—Secretary of Defense Hubbell pay reform them before the July 1. That automatic increase if the continued and about as — as seems likely the Clifford endorsed by the fact on budget inclusion version to the system — although could be included in the budget request later. Also Chairman Rivers of the House of Representatives Committee in Times interview that a hurry to hold the Hubbell recommended.

At any rate, Clifford is the strongest endorsement the Hubbell proposal by a high figure in previous administration message issued earlier. President Lyndon B. Johnson merely asked that “generation” be given time (see other story on Clifford asked action).

Clifford said, “The tant measure proposed overall retention of the adoption of the full salary system for members . . . This increase substantially

(See CLIFFORD)

## Family, EM Housing Pushed

WASHINGTON — Construction of family and troop housing will zoom up in fiscal 1970, if the proposals submitted to Congress last week by Defense are approved. New construction of bachelor officer housing will decrease.

The new Defense bill would more than double the number of dwellings built this

of new family housing construction in the bill is \$114 million.

New troop housing construction in 1969 will accommodate only 15,000 men, but the fiscal 1970 proposal asks for 45,000 spaces.

Furthermore, the barracks will allow more room for each man.

eral sleeping rooms. Costs will drop from \$2500 to \$2900 per man.

The number of BOQs to be cut drop from 15,000 spaces in fiscal 1969 to 10,000 in fiscal 1970. The cost will go up from \$9200 to \$10,000 in building construction prices, but will remain about the same.