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## EM Hike Boards May Go

By Bruce Callan

WASHINGTON—Officials are nearing a decision on a promotion question that could affect almost every man in the force—whether not to use selection boards under 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, RVN—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 the 12th, read the citation during ceremonies held on the Seventh AF, presented the award during the period August 1966 through June 1967, read, which flightline Sq. repeatedly encountered members of the 12th in part covered the complexes while flying at very low altitude, heavily defused operations despite the constant personal danger, they proper air speed targets canopy also which concealed hostile forces. Also during the ceremony, General Brown, presented the Bronze Star to Lt. Col. Arthur T. McConnell Jr., commander for the 18th 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 A1C 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.

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WASHINGTON—Secretary of Defense Hubbell pay refresher course before the automatic increase if the continued and about 5 percent— as seems likely. Clifford emphasized by the fact that the budget includes a version to the system— although could be included in the initial budget request to Congress later. Also Chairman Rivers of the House Armed Services Committee in his Times interview that a hurry to hold hearings, Hubbell recommended

At any rate, Clifford is the strongest endorser of the Hubbell proposal, likely by a high figure in the previous administration's message issued early in President Lyndon Johnson's term. Clifford merely asked that the "recommendation" be given to the Senate (see other story on page 1).

Clifford said, "The Hubbell measure proposes an overall retention extension, adoption of the full salary system for all members . . . This increase substantially

(See CLIFFORD, page 1)

## 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

year, and 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.

Several sleeping rooms. Costs will increase from \$2500 to \$2900 per man.

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

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