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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

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MY PERS FILE
EAC*

MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR PERSONNEL

SUBJECT: General Officer Aviators

1. This responds to your memorandum of 24 August 1968 in which you provided information on the above subject.
2. I do not believe that the present number of aeronautically qualified general officers (27) is sufficient to support our expanded Army Aviation program. This is partly indicated by the fact that the key positions of the Director of Army Aviation, OACSFOR, and the Deputy Commanding General, 1st Aviation Brigade, are not filled by general officers. Additionally, non-rated general officers are assigned as an ADC of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) and as Deputy Commanding General, AVSCOM, positions which should be filled by rated general officers. The forecast for the future shows a steady decline to 13 rated general officers in 1974, if the assumption is made that two aviators per year will be selected for promotion to brigadier general. This number would be only four greater than the number of rated general officers which the Army had in 1959.
3. The present magnitude and the planned expansion of the Army Aviation program necessitate an increase in the number of positions filled by rated general officers. At Tab A is a list of general officer positions which I believe should be filled by qualified Army aviators. At Tab B is a list of additional positions which should, when practicable, be filled by rated general officers and a list of colonel Army aviation positions which should be considered for upgrading to brigadier general.
4. The present distribution of the 27 Army aviator generals appears to be about what we can expect in the future. With these 27 rated generals we have filled 10 of the 14 supported positions shown at Tab A and 7 of those shown at Tab B. This would indicate that a ratio of two general officers per position would be an absolute minimum with a higher ratio justifiable. I consider it highly desirable to have general officers with Army aviation experience assigned throughout commands, staffs and schools.

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS

DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS

DOD DIR 5200.10


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5. I believe the Army would have little difficulty in justifying a considerable increase in the number of general officer aviators based on: one, the magnitude of the Army Aviation program; two, the ratio of Army aviator generals to Army aviators compared to the ratio of general officers to total officer strength; and three, the number of generals on flying status in the other services (Tab C). The present program to provide flight training for 25 selected colonels or lieutenant colonels (P) is a step toward providing an adequate number of general officers in the future.

6. I would like to have your analysis and recommendations on courses of action which would increase the number of aviation qualified general officers to a minimum of 34 (twice the number of positions shown at Tab A) and maintain it at that level or higher. I do not believe that we should exceed, at least in the near future, a ratio greater than that which results from a straight line comparison of aviators with total officers and warrant officers. A part of this analysis should be a specific plan to support the requirement for three major generals and five brigadier generals in USARV.


BRUCE PALMER, JR.
General, U. S. Army
Vice Chief of Staff

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ARMY GENERAL OFFICER REQUIREMENTS THAT SHOULD BE FILLED BY AVIATORS

<u>Position</u>	<u>Auth Grade</u>	<u>Incumbent</u>
1. Director, Army Aviation, OACSFOR, DA	MG	COL Hemingway
2. Commanding General, Aviation Center	MG	MG Oden
3. Deputy Commandant, Aviation School and Commanding General, Flight Training Center	BG	BG Beatty
4. Assistant Commandant, Aviation School	BG	Not Supported
5. Commanding General, USA Primary Helicopter Training Center	BG	Not Supported
6. Commanding General, 1st Aviation Brigade	MG	BG Burdett
7. Deputy Commanding General, 1st Aviation Bde	BG	COL Boehm
8. Commanding General, Aviation Systems Cmd	MG	MG Norton
9. Deputy Commanding General, Aviation Systems Command	BG	* BG Traylor
10. Commanding General, USACDC, Combined Arms Agency	BG	BG Casey
11. Commanding General, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile)	MG	MG Roberts
12. ADC, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile)	BG	BG Shedd
13. ADC, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile)	BG	BG Meszar
14. Commanding General, 101st Airborne Div. (Airmobile)	MG	MG Wright
15. ADC, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile)	BG	COL (P) Smith
16. ADC, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile)	BG	* BG Muller
17. Commanding General, Army Aero Depot Maintenance Center	BG	Not supported

*Not rated

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GENERAL OFFICER POSITIONS THAT SHOULD BE
FILLED BY ARMY AVIATORS WHEN PRACTICABLE

Commandant or Assistant Commandant of:

Command and General Staff College

- * Infantry School
- Armor School
- Artillery School
- Transportation School

- * DCSOPS or Assistant
- * DCSLOG or Assistant
- DCSPER or Assistant
- * ACSFOR or Deputy
- CRD or Deputy
- ACSI or Deputy
- * ACSC-E or Deputy
- CORC or Deputy
- * CGCDC or Deputy
- * CG, XVIII Airborne Corps or Chief of Staff
Headquarters, AMC (at least one position)
- DCofS, Individual Training or Assistant, CONARC
- DCofS, Unit Training or Assistant, CONARC
- G-3 or Deputy of USAREUR and USARPAC
- Appropriate J-Staff positions in the Joint Staff,
EUCOM, PACOM, and STRICOM

Aviation positions that should be considered for upgrading to
Brigadier General:

In AVSCOM:

Deputy for Research, Engineering and Data
Deputy for Acquisition
Deputy for Logistical Support
Commander, Army Aviation Research Center (now AVLABS)

C.O., 34th General Support Group in USARV

* General Officer aviator presently assigned.

Tab C

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JUSTIFICATION OF GENERAL OFFICER AVIATORS

1. An increase in the number of aviator general officers is defensible solely on the basis of sound management. The size of the Army aviation program in comparison to the rest of the Army and the infusion of aviation throughout all branches and elements necessitate an expansion in the number of rated general officers. In Vietnam we have proved and have improved upon the airmobile concept. Airmobile operations and techniques are now taught in most service schools and training centers. About 25 per cent of Army training dollars are spent in Aviation related fields. The technical aspects of supporting and replenishing a large aircraft inventory demand intensive management. For this we need general officer logisticians who have had experience in maintaining and supporting aircraft and aviation units. Similar needs for rated general officers exist in joint dealings. Many of the key areas of inter-service disagreement involve aviation (airspace control, tactical airlift and close air support). Aviation research and development will take about 7 per cent of our current R&D budget. All told, approximately one-eighth to the total Army budget for FY 70 is devoted to aviation and aviation oriented personnel comprise about 6 per cent of the total Army strength. The following paragraphs elaborate on Army officer/general officer strengths and on the situation in the other services.

2. A comparison of the ratio of aviation qualified general officers to total officers and warrant officer aviators with the ratio of total general officers to total officer personnel reveals the following:

a. Total General Officer Aviators	27	=	1
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Total Aviators (Off/WO)(FY 69)	22,254		824

NOTE: By end FY 70 the ratio will become 1:931

Total General Officers	501	=	1
	-----		-----
Total Officers (Male & WAC, Nurses & Med Spec)	170,700		340

b. If the objective for general officer aviators were directly proportional to relative aviator and total officer/WO strengths, 65 would be authorized for FY 69 and 77 for FY 70.

	<u>FY 69</u>		<u>FY 70</u>				
Aviators	22,254	=	65	=	26,192	=	77
	-----		-----		-----		-----
Total Off/WO	170,700		501		170,700		501

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- c. If the objective general officer aviator strength were established using the ratio of commissioned officer aviators to total commissioned, the FY 69 objective would be 40; for end-FY 70: 53.

	<u>FY 69</u>		<u>FY 70</u>	
Off. aviators	11,236	40	14,928	53
	-----	=	-----	=
Total officers	141,200	501	141,200	501

- d. If established on the ratio of aviators to total officer/WO strength (less nurses and Army medical specialists) the current objective would be 67; for end-FY 70: 79.

	<u>FY 69</u>		<u>FY 70</u>	
Total aviators	22,254	67	26,192	79
	-----	=	-----	=
Total Off/WO (less nurses & med spec)	165,100	501	165,100	501

3. In comparison with other services, the Army has more aircraft than the Navy and Marines combined and 85 per cent as many as the USAF, yet the ratios of Army rated general officers to numbers of aircraft and numbers of aviators is considerably less.

	<u>Rated General Officers</u>	<u>Aircraft</u>	<u>Total Aviators</u>	<u>GO:Acft</u>	<u>GO:Aviator</u>
USAF	363	12,088	41,139	1:33.6	1:112
USN	95	6,437	14,848	1:67.8	1:156
USMC	26	1,472	4,574	1:56.6	1:175
Army	27	10,453	22,254	1:381.5	1:824

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