

Help Cut Your Utility Bill

Experts in the federal government estimate that half of all the energy used in the United States every day is wasted. Wasting natural resources that can't be replaced will mean that future generations will have to either develop alternative sources of energy or go without.

Because many of your daily activities are centered around the home, you can be a prime mover in helping to conserve energy. There are several routine steps you can take to reduce the amount of electricity, coal or gas used in heating your home.

For instance, a periodic checkup and maintenance of household heating equipment can reduce your fuel consumption—and your cost—by about 10 percent each year.

With a forced hot air heating system, you should clean and replace the air filters every 30 to 60 days during the winter. You should also clean the fan blade because its efficiency in moving the air through your home drops as it becomes dirty. Just be sure the power is off before the fan is touched. Every few weeks, registers should be vacuumed to make sure that the warm air has a smooth path.

If you have a hot water heating system, you should bleed air from the system. Do this even though you have an annual service call. Over time, a certain amount of air will get into the pipes of the system. Eventually, it will find its way to the radiators at the top of

the house. Wherever air is trapped, water is kept out. Once or twice a year, open the small valve found at the top of each radiator, hold a bucket under it, and keep the valve open until water comes out.

There are two important items on your checklist if your home has a steam heat system. First, insulate steam pipes that run through spaces where heat is not required—that is, places like the attic, basement, and crawl space. Drain a bucket of water from the boiler every three weeks during the winter to keep sediment from building up in the boiler. If sediment is allowed to remain in the boiler, it will actually insulate the boiler from the burner and a lot of heat will go up the chimney instead of into the house.

The servicing of hot water heaters is important since these appliances consume a great deal of the energy used in your home. Once or twice a year, you should drain a bucket of water from the bottom of the heater tank to rid it of sediment. Also, monitor the burner temperature. Don't set a water heater any higher than necessary since the heater burns fuel to keep water hot when it is not being used. Depending on the type of fuel used, you could save \$5 to \$45 a year by lowering the temperature 10 degrees.

You should regulate household heat for your family's comfort. But remember, saving money and helping to save our national resources is nothing to sneeze about.

Webster College

Grade Congratulations

Orienteer

DEFENSE MAPPING AGENCY AEROSPACE CENTER

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Disaster Preparedness Tests Bring Questions to Employees

Realistic tests of the Center's Disaster/Contingency Preparedness Plan have been conducted during the past few weeks by the Center's Plans Office to determine the workability of the plan and the knowledge of employees about disaster preparedness.

Exercises have included severe weather, bomb threats, recall of auxiliary work force, first aid teams and others.

As a result of the tests it was apparent that all employees should become more knowledgeable of the plan and how it pertains to their respective work environments.

Andregg To Speak To ACSM Meet

Charles Andregg, DMA Deputy Director for Management and Technology, will be the featured speaker at the March 8th meeting of the St. Louis Section of ACSM.

The meeting will be held in the DMAAC Dining Hall at 2nd Street beginning with a social hour at 3:15 p.m. The program is scheduled for 4:30.



Questions which employees should ask themselves and seek out the answers to include:

Do I know how to exit my area and building in case of fire or other emergency?

Do I know where the shelter areas are for my area?

Do I know where the nearest fire extinguisher is located and what type of fires it can be used for?

Do I know the procedures for handling a bomb threat?

Do I know the numbers to call to report a fire or other emergency?

Do I know what to do in the event of an explosion in my area?

Do I know the siren warning signals and what they mean?

Do I know the agency procedures for various emergencies as they relate to my job?

Do I know where to find out the necessary information?

The last question we can help you with. The answers to all those questions and many more regarding disaster preparedness can be found in the DMAAC Disaster/Contingency Preparedness Plan which is available currently in all divisions. Reprints of the plan are now in work and organizations desiring additional copies should contact the Disaster Preparedness Officer in PRP.

A related document, the DMAAC Continuity of Operations Plan deals with pre-attack and post-attack situations.

All employees are encouraged to

employees so that if an emergency arises their actions can be quick and correct.

The Director has indicated that

Grads Congratulated

During a recent informal visit to the Center Joseph Olszewski, assistant coordinator and dean of the Webster College Master of Arts program, congratulated the present and past DMAAC graduates upon their completion of the program.

The Webster MAI Program includes seven core areas of concentration, although our DMAAC personnel mainly concentrated in four of these core area. In some cases dual degrees were received by taking all electives in another core area. Below are the names of the graduates, their degree and organizational listing.

Business Administration — Maurice Daniell, ACMP; Larry Dotson, GDGP; William Fischer, ACMDA; Sandral Jones, GDGW; Robert Johnson, GDCBD; Russell Kappesser, SDDLTL; Col. Wallace Keehr; Donald Marohl, GDCCA; Sharon Soliz, ADIBA; and Donald Tisdell, ACMCE.

Public Administration — Benjamin Braley, PPGD.

Management — Gerald Breville, SD; Major Myron Carlson, PRRS; Ronald Cramer, GDGGA; Robert Day, ACCDB; Edward De La Pena, PPIB; Mikel Jackson, GDCP; Robert Maes, GDCBC; Feltón Mitchell, GDCBA; Cleveland Mooney, ADMDB; Malcolm J. Murphy, ACIP; and Nelson Osborne, ACIP.

Business Administration/Human Relations — John Milligan,

SDDT; and William Wall, GD.

Management/Business Administration — Arthur Lynam, ACIP; Bernal Powers, GDCBA; Wayne Prosser, ACMBB; Esther Smith, SDC; Neil VanDermeulen, GDCCB.

Management/Human Relations — Jackie Parks, POD; Ralph Price, GDDDC.

Gen. Albro Coming to DMA; District Engineer in Korea

Brigadier General Ames Scribner Albro, Jr., USA, who is completing a tour as District Engineer of the U.S. Army District, Far East-Korea, is scheduled to become the head of the Directorate for Plans and Requirements in Hq DMA in April.

A native of San Antonio, Texas, General Albro graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in June 1954. His new assignment will be bringing him back to the Washington, D.C., area for the fourth time in the past ten years.

Prior to going to Korea, General Albro served as Commanding Officer of the 36th Engineer Group at the Army Infantry Center, Fort Benning, GA. He served in Vietnam from April to December 1967 as an Operations Officer with the U.S. Army Pacific-Vietnam before taking command of the 815th Engineer Battalion (Con-

struction). He left Vietnam in June 1968 to attend the Army Command and General Staff College.

From June 1971 to November 1973, General Albro was with the Office of the Army Chief of Staff, serving first as a staff officer, then as Assistant Secretary of the General Staff, and finally as Chief of the Coordination Division, Office of the Deputy Secretary of the General Staff.

General Albro was Project Chief of the Commission Staff in the Office of the Assistant Vice Chief of Staff, USA, from May 1969 to July 1970, and Staff Analyst in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) from April 1966 to March 1967.

General Albro also holds BA and MA degrees in political science from Oxford University, England.

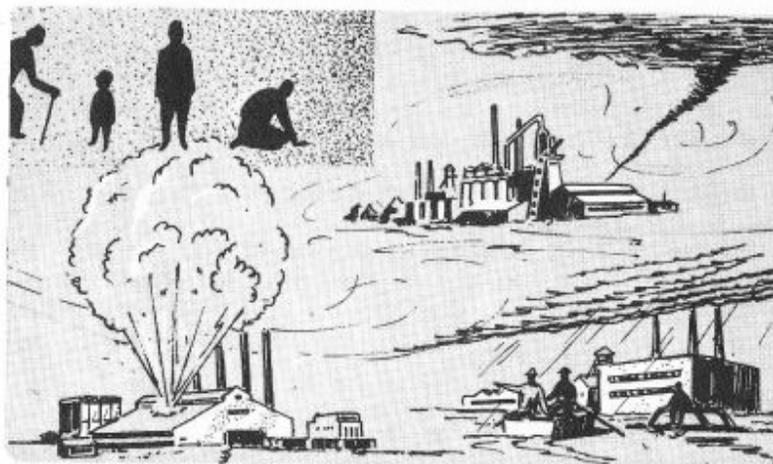
Andregg will speak on "DMA and International MC&G Activities."

He recently returned from a six-week tour in Southeast Asia which included the attendance at the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference in Bangkok, Thailand.

All employees are encouraged to familiarize themselves with proper procedures and talk them over with supervisors and fellow em-

The Director has indicated that the tests will continue periodically to assure that the workforce is prepared.

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Sergeant Hamilton Named First Shirt

Recently promoted SMSgt Arthur Hamilton has been named as the First Sergeant for the DMAAC squadron.

His regular duties are in the supply field as assistant chief of supply. He first came to the Center in 1975 as a property management officer.

He lists his home state as West Virginia. He and his wife, Lizzie, have three daughters.

Prior to coming to the Aerospace Center he was assigned to Camp Darby, Pisa, Italy.

He recently completed his associates degree in business at St. Louis Community College.



DOLLAR\$ and CENTS of METRIC

In 1790, President Washington urged Congress to adopt a uniform system for currency, weights and measures. Congress responded in 1975 by passing the Metric Conversion Act, which was signed into law in December of that year.

Transition to metric may cause some problems and confusion for consumers, but much of the transition will involve dual use of both systems of measurement. For example, more States are using road signs that give distances and/or speed limits in metric as well as customary units. And many radio and television stations give the temperature in both Fahrenheit and Celsius in their weather forecasts.

When metrication is complete, however, it should make little difference to consumers that gasoline will be sold by the liter instead of the gallon, that distance will be measured by kilometers instead of miles, or that food will be packaged and sold by kilograms instead of ounces and pounds. Consumers plan purchases, says the National Office of Consumer Affairs, by visually sizing products: Is that roast large enough? Is that jar of mayonnaise sufficient? So buying on the basis of anticipated need should not cause any problems. Package sizes will remain about the same: If a quart of milk lasts two days, a liter of milk should also.

If problems do arise, they probably will stem from businesses that try to hide price increases—or quantity decreases—in the confusion of transition to metric measures and weights. Also, there may be problems of finding replacement parts for pre-metric products.

Many companies are making an effort to keep the consumer's trust through responsible metric transition policies and products. Several bottlers, for instance, have begun selling soft drinks in metric liter-size bottles (33.8 ounces), instead of the 28- and 32-ounce sizes, without increasing prices.

To protect themselves and their money, however, consumers should learn the metric system, read labels carefully and keep informed of products changing to metric measurement.

Bits And Pieces

From the Black book:

The last of February gave forth with high winds that ushered in the month of March with a salutation befitting the windy month. We can only suppose that March will try to top February's tribute. But as one person said as they were being blown across the parking lot, "It sure beats 10 below zero."

-0-

The warm balmy days that we have had lately have brought the itch to the seats of fishermen's pants. You can spot a fisherman a mile away. He's the guy that has to get up and go take a walk outside every hour or so. He's the one who uses his shoelaces to practice tying flies. He's the one that starts off every conversation with "... last year down at the lake . . ." He's also the one who begins to day dream when the temperature exceeds 70 degrees. Perhaps you have one in your work area, if you do, don't disturb him, it'll only make matters worse and you'll have to listen to another fish story.

-0-

We kidded Sergeant Wayman a few weeks ago in this column about his terrific bowling score. The other day he brought in proof that bowling runs in his family. His children, Venus, age 7, and Connie, 18, recently were on winning teams in the qualifying tournament over in Illinois. Both bowl in Junior league and were on second and

SYMBOL QUIZ

These 33 symbols make up an international sign language for travellers. They will be used throughout the United States and the world, along highways and in places such as air, bus and train terminals. How many can you recognize? (Answers to the quiz below.)



Calendar of Events

March	Event	Where	Info
8	FBA Lunch & Meeting	Carpenters Hall	D. Black/4142
8	ACSM Meeting	Dining Hall	A. West/4436
10	DMAAC Women's Club	Inn St. Louis	Mrs. R. Burns/ 227-3994 Mrs. K. Swehla/ 631-5569
15	BAG Meeting	Dining Hall	L. Williams/ 4424
18	Bloodmobile	2nd Street	D. James/8364
24	FEW Meeting	Dining Hall	E. Sinnwell/ 4783
24	ION Meeting	Flaming Pit	J. Schweitzer/ 8494

Contact Marge Wisneski/4142, to have your April events listed.

Dining Hall Construction

The heating and the cooling construction work that is being done in the Dining Hall at 2nd & Arsenal will cause minor adjustments in food handling. Preparation of all food during the construction period will be done at the South Annex.

No changes in the menu or quality of the food should be experienced. The end result of the construction will eliminate the existing negative air pressure when entering the Dining Hall and provide a more comfortable temperature.

third place qualifying teams respectively. So I guess his 713 was an honest one.

dib . .

In Sympathy

Funeral services for Michael Needham, son of Colonel and Mrs. Paul Needham, were held February 15 at St. Joseph's Church in Ballwin. Interment was in Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery.

Former Center employee, Arville F. Boyd, died February 13. He had been assigned to the boiler room at South Annex at the time of his disability retirement in 1963.

Services were held in Farmington, MO. on February 16.

He is survived by his wife Gerretta, a daughter and two stepsons.

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Col. James H. St. Clair
Director

David L. Black
Chief, Public Affairs Office
Editor



Answers to Travel Quiz: (1) telephone, (2) mail, (3) currency exchange, (4) first aid, (5) lost and found, (6) baggage, (7) elevator, (8) toilets for men, (9) toilets for women, (10) toilets, (11) information, (12) hotel information, (13) taxi, (14) bus, (15) ground transportation, (16) rail transportation, (17) air transportation, (18) helpout, (19) water transportation, (20) car rental, (21) restaurant, (22) coffee shop, (23) bar, (24) shops, (25) ticket purchase, (26) baggage check in-baggage claim, (27) customs, (28) immigration, (29) no smoking, (30) smoking, (31) no parking, (32) parking, (33) no entry.

DMA Receives Savings Bond Award

Once again in 1976, DMA achieved Honor Roll status in the Federal Savings Bonds Program. This year the Honor Roll percentage of participation was raised from 70 percent to 75 percent. DMA's overall percentage of participation was 75.1 percent, up from 70.6 percent in December 1975.

In early December, Admiral Cramer, Director, DMA, represented the Agency at the 1976

Savings Bonds Awards Ceremony. DMA was presented a silver plate for achieving Honor Roll status. Admiral Cramer accepted the award on behalf of all the DMA people who made it possible through their participation in the Savings Bonds Program.

Secretary of the Interior, Thomas Kleppe, Chairman, Interdepartmental Savings Bonds Committee, presented the award to Admiral Cramer.

Early Year Retirements

JAMES M. BOWENS', FEMPA, disability retirement was effected on January 25. He had 18 years, 4 months total Federal service with almost 13 years at DMAAC. He served in the Army from May until August 1945. He returned to Federal service in 1958 at the Veterans Hospital, Jefferson Barracks where he was assigned to the Food Service Department. He transferred to DMAAC in 1964 and was assigned as custodian until his retirement.

LOIS F. SWINFORD, ACCD, retired on February 4 with 23-1/2 years total Federal service.

She worked at the Internal Revenue Service, Veterans Hospital at Jefferson Barracks and the Department of Agriculture prior to transferring to DMAAC in April 1955, as a clerk-stenographer. All her service at DMAAC has been within the Cartography, now Aerospace Cartography, Department. She was assigned to the Automated Services Branch, Type Shop, at time of retirement.

KENNETH G. BOLING, GDCB-B, retired on February 25 with 16 years, 9 months Federal service. His first job was as a rodman with the U.S. Geological Survey's Topographic Branch.

He joined an Oil Company in 1937 as a petroleum geologist and left to serve with the U.S. Army's 654th Topographic Engineers Bn during WW II. He served in the European Theater before his discharge in 1945.

For many years he had a successful career as a petroleum geologist in the Tri-State Basin of Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky. In 1963 he came to work for DMAAC as a cartographer in the Photogrammetry Department. He

was assigned to the Geopositional Department at time of retirement.

Mr. Boling said, "First, Bets and I plan to 'Sack out' for several weeks with 'No Alarm clocks!' I may get back into petroleum geology and find some more oil in Illinois, but for now, Bette and I plan to take each day as it comes.

I enjoyed my years with DMAAC, and will try to keep in touch with the friends I've made here."

EDWARD R. JAISSE, SDDAB, retired with 29 years total Federal service, with all but his military service at DMAAC. He was called to active duty with the 32nd Inf Div, AUS (NG) on October 15, 1940. He transferred to the Engineer's and after attending OCS was commissioned in June 1942. He was relieved from active duty in October 1943.

He joined ACS, Washington Office on February 5, 1951 and was assigned to the Chart Research Division, transferring to St. Louis with the Division in 1957.

All his years here have been with the Research Division until the reorganization and he was assigned as a supervisory cartographer in the Scientific Data Department.

Mr. Jaissle said his retirement plans include: "Remain at 1465 Verlene Drive and do some traveling, fishing, hunting, golf and gardening. Also, do part-time upholstery at home."

MARGARET M. KELLY, ADD-N-3, retired on February 25, just a month before reaching the 30 year mark.

She worked at the Army Records Center as a clerk-typist in 1942 and 1943. She returned to Federal service at the Aeronautical Chart Plant at 12th & Delmar in November 1949 and was assigned

as a clerk, then carto aid and finally aero information specialist in the Aeronautical Information Division.

Miss Kelly added that she had worked at four different locations—12th Street, 22nd Street, 2d & Arsenal and now 8900 S. Broadway. She said she had no retirement plans except to just take it easy.

UDELL F. STEINMEYER, PDA, retired on February 25, a month after reaching the 35 year mark. His Federal service began with the St. Louis Ordnance Department in January 1942 as an ordnance inspector. He was furloughed for military service in December 1942 and served with the Engineers attached to the Air Force in a map reproduction unit, receiving his discharge in December 1945.

After furlough, he was reemployed at the Army Records Center but transferred to the Army Printing Service in July 1946 as a platemaker. He transferred to DMAAC in April 1954 as a platemaker in Printing Department where he worked until retirement.

Steinmeyer said his future plans are indefinite.

RALPH L. CAMPBELL, ADDP-5, retired on February 27 with over 34 years Federal service. He entered military service in June 1941. He completed pilot training and was commissioned in the Army Air

Corps in February 1943 and served combat duty tour flying B-17s with the 8th Air Force in England, completing 27 missions before returning to the U.S.

He completed Communications Officer training in 1946 and was assigned to Great Falls AFB, Montana through 1949 with time out for a tour in Germany flying C-54's on the Berlin airlift. He was assigned to SAC Hq. Offutt, AFB as a communications officer throughout the Korean conflict before returning to civilian life in 1953.

He came to DMAAC in February 1955 and has been assigned to the Aeronautical Information Department since that time as an air information specialist.

Mr. Campbell said: "Foresee a summer of travel visiting friends and family before migrating to Florida to establish a retirement home. Then perhaps some part-time work with plenty of time for rest and relaxation."

Retirements effected in January for which no information was furnished the **Orienteer**, include:

JOHN C. WHITESIDE, SDRCA, retired on January 14 with 30 years total Federal service. All but four of those years were at DMAAC, where he had been assigned as a photographer.

CARL F. BECKER, ADDP-2, retired on January 28, lacking one month for 31 years total Federal service. He was an aeronautical information specialist and had been at DMAAC 19-1/2 years.

New Supply Officer Shipped In



Capt. Dennis K. Finch, USAF, has reported for duty as the new DMAAC Chief of Supply.

He is a graduate of Drake University with a bachelors degree in business and a master's degree in management from Troy State.

A native of Iowa, the Captain has been in the Air Force since 1962 and was last assigned in Turkey.

He is married to the former Constance Mohr of Davenport, Iowa.

Give Blood To Help Others

Directive Reissued

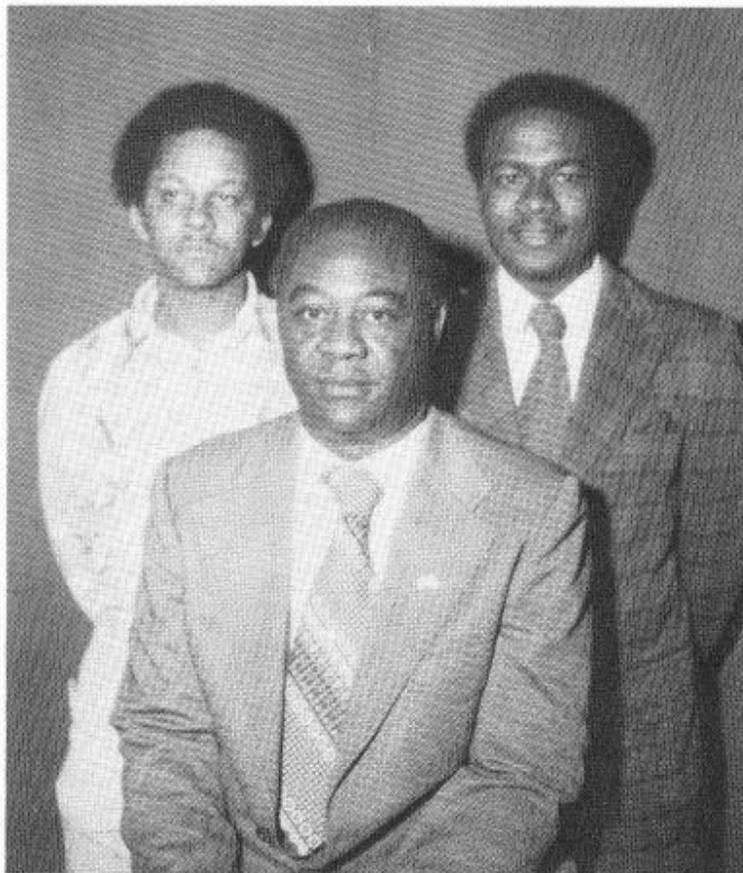
DoD Tightens Standards of Conduct

A complete restatement of

• More detailed informa-

tion for attendance at local

BAG Elects New Officers



Elected as new officers for the Black Awareness Group are: Louis Foster, president (seated); James O. Williams, vice-president (left) and Lonzell Williams, Jr., Secretary-treasurer. The election was held at the regular meeting February 8. Foster is from ACNCC, James Williams from ACIBA and Lonzell Williams from ACNCA.

A complete restatement of the Department of Defense Directive 5500.7, "Standards of Conduct," signed Jan. 18, 1977, contains the most comprehensive changes in that directive since 1967.

Changes of policy and procedure seek to improve procedures for monitoring and enforcing standards of conduct requirements, eliminate conflicts of interest and ensure that all DoD personnel adhere to the legal and ethical standards demanded of those in Government service. These changes, for the most part, have been previously implemented throughout the past year.

Following are the major revisions in DoD Directive 5500.7:

Financial Interest

The Financial Interest Statement (DD Form 1555) has been made more comprehensive and precise as to the information required including:

- All relevant transactions during the year between annual reports.
- Continuing interests in previous employers such as termination payments and re-employment understandings.
- A broader range of affiliations.

• More detailed information as to real estate interests.

• Interests in commodities.

The procedures for reviewing financial interest statements have been tightened. As an example, all supervisors throughout the Department of Defense must review the financial interest statement of their subordinates. (Previously, this was required only in some DoD components.) Also, personnel required to file financial interest statements must disqualify themselves from performing duties which might affect contractors in which they have an interest. In addition, all required financial interest statements must be filed and reviewed prior to hiring of civilian personnel, including special Government employees.

Gratuities

The prohibition against the acceptance of gratuities and the exceptions to those prohibitions have been clarified and made more restrictive, particularly in the area of associations. As an example, only bona fide official participants in association functions may have their travel, accommodations, and subsistence paid for by the association. This does not change the present excep-

tion for attendance at local dinners, luncheons, and gatherings sponsored by associations and approved in advance by the Department of Defense.

Applicable to All

The revised directive now requires that all DoD personnel, other than some enlisted military members, be briefed on the Standards of Conduct, receive a copy of the Standards of Conduct, and acknowledge their receipt and understanding of the Standards. These requirements are to be performed by DoD personnel prior to hiring or assumption of duty.

The Department of Defense has addressed for more than a year all aspects of Standards of Conduct interpretation and enforcement. During this period, the Secretary of Defense has taken measures to uncover and take appropriate action on violations of the Standards of Conduct.

The ultimate objective reflected in this directive is formalization of those procedures already in effect as well as those recently developed to ensure proper respect for and a consistent enforcement of the Standards of Conduct throughout the Department of Defense.

Returns May Be More Difficult But Benefits Increase Under The

TAX REFORM ACT

Completing your Federal income tax returns could be more difficult this year, according to the Treasury Department's Internal Revenue Service, but most taxpayers will receive better benefits as a result of the new Tax Reform Act of 1976. Military families can look forward to possible additional savings on moving expenses, dependent medical/dental costs, and child care expenses.

Here are some highlights of tax law changes and other pointers that should be noted when filing your 1976 Federal tax returns:

- **Standard Deduction**—The percentage standard deduction has been increased to 16 percent of the taxpayer's adjusted gross income, or a maximum of \$2,400 for single individuals, \$2,800 for married persons filing jointly or qualifying widows or widowers, and

\$1,400 for married persons filing separately.

- **General Tax Credit**—In addition to the \$750 deduction for each dependent listed on a tax form, an increased general tax credit allows a taxpayer to claim \$35 credit for each dependent or a credit of two percent of the first \$9,000 taxable income, whichever is greater.

- **Child Care Costs**—The itemized deduction allowed for child and disabled dependent care has been eliminated and replaced with a credit which reduces tax liability but not gross income. A maximum credit of 20 percent of \$2,000 of employment-related expenses may be claimed for the care of one qualifying dependent (\$4,000 for two or more), but the credit is not refundable. Thus, if you qualify for a \$400 child-care credit and compute your overall taxes at

\$390, for example, you pay nothing but receive no refund.

- **Moving Expenses**—Before 1975, a Servicemember's new duty station had to be at least 50 miles from the old one and his or her orders had to be for at least 39 weeks to permit deduction of out-of-pocket moving expenses from gross income. The Tax Reform Act of 1976 exempts military moves from the time and mileage requirements so that military personnel transferring within a district or attending military schools on PCS orders, for example, may exclude from income on their 1976 Federal tax returns cash reimbursements or allowances to the extent of expenses actually incurred, as well as all in-kind services provided by the military. Legal assistance officers should be contacted, however, on the specifics of these rules.

The 1976 Tax Reform Act changes the minimum distance requirement for business-related moves from 50 to 35 miles for all taxpayers filing returns on 1977 income; additionally, the maximum deductions for moving expenses increases next year.

- **Medical Expenses**—Although it is normally cheaper for military couples to file jointly, separate returns may provide savings when a Servicemember's spouse has a taxable income and the family has dental/medical expenses not covered by mili-

tary facilities. For taxpayers itemizing deductions (and if one mate itemizes, both must itemize) the law states that medical/dental expenses in excess of three percent of the adjusted gross income and part of the cost of medical insurance may be deducted. So, for example, if a wife's adjusted gross income is \$5,000 and her husband's adjusted gross income is \$12,000, it may be beneficial for her to claim the \$700 medical expenses on her tax return. This would provide her a deduction of approximately \$550, instead of the \$190 she and her husband could have deducted for medical expenses if they filed jointly.

- **Filing Extension**—Military personnel and all U.S. citizens who are outside the United States or Puerto Rico on April 15 are allowed an automatic two month extension until June 15, 1977, to file their returns for the preceding calendar year. Persons using this automatic extension must attach a statement to their tax return form indicating they were outside the United States or Puerto Rico on April 15.

There are numerous benefits for taxpayers in the new Tax Reform Act. Servicemembers should read the material accompanying their Federal tax return forms carefully, and consult their tax advisors or legal assistance officers if additional help is needed.



Don't forget STATE TAXES



Seven new laws affecting Federal personnel were passed during the 94th Congress's Second Session. A brief summary includes:

Cost of Living

The formula for calculating cost-of-living increases in annuities was changed. Instead of the previous periodic adjustments plus a 1-percent add-on future adjustments will be made at specific dates twice a year, after a single transitional increase in March 1977. (See "Federal News Clip Sheet," No. 167, October 1976 for further information, or see Public Law 94-440.)

Sunshine

The "Sunshine Act" requires that meetings of agencies headed by a body such as a commission be open to the public 180 days after enactment on Sept. 13, 1976.

Any agency headed by a body of two or more persons holding equal authority (such as a commission), a majority of whom are appointed by the President with the consent of the Senate, shall be open to the public, with limited exceptions. (P.L. 94-409.)

Political Contributions

Persons are prohibited from directly or indirectly getting or attempting to get a political contribution of money or services to benefit any political party by either threatening to, or actually, denying or depriving a person of (1) employment in any Federal agency or any federally funded agency of a state or local government, or (2) any benefit of such employment or program of the United States. (P.L. 94-453.)

Unemployment Compensation

States were required to extend unemployment compensation to certain workers not previously covered; were also given final responsibility to review the validity of findings by Federal agencies on performance, periods of employment and cause of separation from employment. (P.L. 94-566.)

Sick Pay

The Internal Revenue Code was amended in an extensive change of tax laws. Section 503 of the new law amends Section 37 of the tax code relating to retirement income to provide a credit for the elderly.

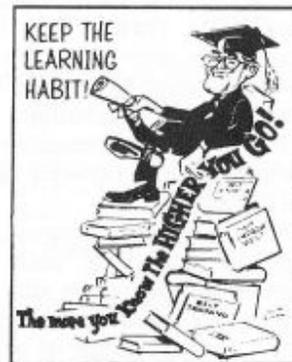
Section 506 provides for exclusions for disabled annuitants. (P.L. 94-455.)

Attorney Fees

Courts were required to allow payment of attorney's fees to a winning party in suits brought to enforce certain civil rights acts and to winning defendants in actions brought by the Internal Revenue Service. (P.L. 94-559.)

Health Insurance

Any survivor annuitant, who was covered under the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) program when his or her survivor annuity was terminated because of remarriage shall be eligible to reenroll in one of the FEHB's plans if the survivor annuity is restored because of the dissolution of the remarriage or due to other applicable law. (P.L. 94-342.)



Communications Satellite

A \$76.6 million Air Force contract has been awarded General Electric Co., Space Division, Philadelphia, for new, longer lasting, more powerful communications satellites with greater communications handling capabilities.

The contract was awarded by the Air Force Space and Missile System Organization (SAMSO). General Electric will build one test model and two demonstration flight model spacecraft.

The new satellites will be Phase III of the Defense Satellite Communications System (DSCS III), a continuing program providing the Department of Defense with satellite communication. The DSCS Program Office said that the DSCS III satellites will be designed for a potential life span of 10 years—twice as long as Phase II spacecraft presently on orbit and longer than any other U.S. military spacecraft.

The DSCS III will have six communication channels instead of the four of DSCS II. These channels will carry voice, teletype and computer data.

When the DSCS III system becomes operational in the early 1980s, it will handle communications traffic from small, mobile terminals as well as large fixed terminals.

One antenna design will allow the DSCS III user to switch between fixed, Earth-coverage antennas and antennas with electronically maneuverable spot beams. In this way, the communications beam is tailored to suit the needs of users almost anywhere on Earth.

The DOD manager of DSCS satellites is the Defense Communications Agency (DCA), which provides communications support to DOD and other government agencies through a worldwide network of communications terminals.

SAMSO officials said the contractor for DSCS III will be required to design a satellite communications control system for incorporation into the DCA terminals. This arrangement will increase the flexibility of DSCS, give direct control of spacecraft communications to the user and reduce dependence on the Satellite Test Center.

The first DSCS IIIs, scheduled for launch in 1979 and 1980, are called "demonstration flight satellites" and will be used as prototypes to test the new Phase III satellite design in a fly-before-buy approach. If proved successful, further DSCS III production may be authorized.