



CHIEF CHAT

RETIRED CHIEF MASTER SERGEANTS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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George

Attached for your use is a copy of the AF Times article that announced the original selections to Chief. It is dated 9 December 1959.

Also, I have attached an alpha list of the 620 promoted to Chief on 1 December 1959.

Hope they are of some value to you. Additional data will be forthcoming as it develops.

Sincerely


James J. Flaschenriem
CMSgt, USAF, Retired

2 Atchs
1-News Article
2-First Chief List



pride in the past...faith in the future



1700 Due Highest EM Rank

By BRUCE CALLANDER

WASHINGTON — Commands are ordering this week elevating more than 6000 airmen to supergrades, about 1700 of them to become the first CMSgts (E-9s) in Air Force history.

Effects of the promotions, aside from salary increases ranging from \$20 to \$60 per month, will include (1) reassignment for some, (2) quicker overseas duty for others.

(Names begin on Page 29)

(3) as much as a year's delay for those who want both the promotion and retirement and (4) added responsibilities. Supergrade airmen assume many duties formerly performed by warrant officers.

Of the 4500 MSgts selected for SMSgt and the 1700 senior masters picked for CMSgt, only about one third were actually eligible to sew on their new stripes Dec. 1. The rest have been selected for the higher grades, but the effective date of promotion will be June 1.

Reassignment may follow selection for both the December and June groups; however, assignment instructions passed to the field by late last week apply generally to all airmen selected.

Chief master sergeants, the let-ter rank, will be assigned to E-9 positions. Senior masters will be assigned to either E-8 or E-9 positions until future promotions to E-9 have filled all slots at that grade.

PCS moves will not be ordered

(See COMMANDS, Page 18)

For Supergrade Hikes

(Continued from Page 1)

to put the new top graders into supergrade slots unless necessary. But, when it is necessary to move them, intra command reassignment will be used as far as possible.

If commands cannot find slots for the supergraders within their own units, however, they will ask Headquarters for assignment instructions, giving the airmen a chance to express a preference for assignment areas in the ZI and overseas.

Overseas assignment will be made if the airman is vulnerable for overseas and a requirement exists for him there. This may mean some airmen are tapped earlier, particularly those moving from the MSgt to SMSgt grades since they will be changing AFSCs along with rank.

The CMSgts already hold the higher level AFSCs and theoretically have been eligible for overseas under the higher AFSCs since they earned the E-8 rank.

Airmen enroute to a new PCS assignment when they are picked for promotion are subject of separate instructions. Where they are moving, whether they are picked to move or forecast to return, and the PCS is not directed by Headquarters, but the commander will make sure the airman can be used at the gaining unit in his new grade. If not, the major command involved will change the assignment. Headquarters directed PCSs will be handled differently. The commander will hold the airman in alert status until Headquarters supplies instructions.

Retraining airmen, being schooled out of the skills in which they were picked for promotion will also be referred to Headquarters. The Pentagon will then supply assignment instructions. Airmen already trained may hold new three or five level skills different from the seven levels from which they were promoted.

Normally, Headquarters says, retrained airmen will be immediately returned to duty in the promotion skills. Where another action is suggested by long training time, requirements and other factors, these too will be reported to Headquarters for a decision.

MOVING AIRMEN who are on PCS at the time of the selection or promotion may find they are listed as promoted by two commands. Earlier instructions told losing commands to pass both the airman and the promotion space on to the gaining command. They were also to tell the gaining command whether the airman was to be promoted in December or June.

Now instructions this week also told commands to name on their selection lists only the airmen to be promoted by that command in June. Those moved before Dec. 1 are supposed to be reported by the

Headquarters has not published special instructions for those selected this month for June promotion, officials say the same rules will doubtless apply.

This would mean that a selectee could probably retire before June at his present grade and just ignore the promotion. But, if he remains until June 1 and accepts the higher grade, he will have to remain on active duty until at least next December.

This choice could be an expensive one. A SMSgt with 25 years service when he is promoted to CMSgt, for example, draws an increase in pay of \$60 per month.

His retirement pay would be 2.5 percent of his base pay for each of his 25 years or a total of 62.5 percent of his active duty pay. The difference in retired pay between SMSgt and CMSgt amounts to some \$37.50 per month for life.

PAY RATES overall will make some of the new CMSgts the highest paid enlisted men in history. Top base pay (for over 22 years) is \$440 per month. Neither subsistence nor quarters allowances increase in the top grades.

Air pay of \$105 is the same for MSgts with over 12 years and higher grades and \$100 for masters with over 10 years. Theoretically, a flying MSgt with the minimum 11 years service which is needed for a SMSgt hike, could gain \$5 per month in flight money. Otherwise, the rate will remain unchanged.

Proficiency pay, payable to supergrade airmen in listed skills, will up the take of some by another \$30 per month. Combined with base, top quarters money (over two dependents), subsistence at the "mess not available" rate, flight, proficiency and overseas pay, promotion of a long service airman to CMSgt could push his annual salary to the \$6000 mark, before taxes.

For this or the more average CMSgt pay (from \$6000 to \$7000), the new top graders will assume duties generally comparable to those of warrant officers. Despite their continued status as airmen, their positions include both technical and military leadership, broad responsibility and authority just below the commissioned level.

For at least a year they will be part of the second most elite rank group in the Air Force. The ratio of almost two CMSgts per 1000 members is second only to that of general officers.