

Armed Forces Report

Terry J. Tipton, 26, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elbert L. Tipton, Route 1, Green Mountain, recently was commissioned an Army Second Lieutenant upon graduation from the Artillery Officer Candidate School at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma.

Gunnery Training was emphasized during the 23-week course, designed to prepare men for officer duties in Artillery units. He was also trained in Artillery Survey and Transport, Communications, Map and Aerial-Photo Reading, Electronics, Counterinsurgency, and Leadership.

Lt. Tipton is a 1964 graduate of Tipton Hill High School, Relief, N.C. and a 1968 graduate of Appalachian State University, Boone, N.C.

The Lieutenant's wife, Maureen, lived at the Fort during his training.

Three Year Enlistment

The Navy is now accepting qualified young men for challenging Three Year Enlistments.

Three enlistment options, titled the "Seafarer", "Airman" and "Constructionman" programs are designed specifically for the young man who desires to serve in the challenging environment of the Navy, without incurring the longer active duty commitment imposed by attendance at an advanced training school.

Under the Seafarer program, young men will be guaranteed duty on board a ship operating from the coast of their choice. Rather than attending a "Class A," or an advance training school, after recruit training, men will receive on-the-job training in one of two apprenticeships. Seaman (general shipboard duties) or Fireman (engineering assignments).

A young man in the Airman program is guaranteed assignment to an aviation unit on the coast of his choice. Duty may be to a Naval Air Station, aircraft carrier crew, or an aircraft squadron embarked in an aircraft carrier.

The young man who chooses the Constructionman program will be assigned to a Construction Battalion with the United States Navy. He may operate a bulldozer, or build bridges, repair power lines, erect a radio tower or many other jobs.

These three programs are open to 17-year-olds who are high school graduates, or 18 to 31-year-olds who hold a high school diploma or equivalency. (Waivers may be granted to non-high school graduates who score high enough on entrance exams.)

All enlistments will be to paygrade E-1, E-2 or E-3, depending on the individual's educational attainment. Salaries begin at \$288.00 as E-1, \$320.70 as E-2, and \$333.60 as E-3, plus housing, meals, medical care, uniform allowances and other military benefits.

Qualified men in these programs who later desire to attend an advanced training school will be permitted to apply.

The Seafarer, Airman and Constructionman programs are the minimum enlistment offered by the regular Navy. The normal enlistment with a guarantee of advanced schooling remains four years. Programs are available which offer up to two years advanced schooling in the electronics or nuclear propulsion fields.

Additional information on these and other programs is available from any Navy Recruiter.

The Navy Recruiter for this area is Sonar Technician First Class James H. Currie, USN.



Navy Facts

Numerous facts about the Navy are not commonly known and may be of interest to the young men and women who are considering a possible career in the Armed Forces. Here-with are a few facts about the Navy:

In the Navy, "A, B, C" means the type of schools now available for extensive training in any one of more than 70 job specialties.

Navy SEALS take their name from the elements--Sea, Air and Land--in and from which they operate. They are trained in underwater demolition, parachuting, and amphibious operations.

There are two opportunities available to undergraduates in NROTC--the college program which provides a subsistence al-

lowance during the junior and senior years, and the scholarship program which provides all tuition and fees.

The ability to swim is not required for new recruits, but by the end of Recruit Training every Navy "Boot Camp" graduate has learned to swim.

Life aboard a Navy aircraft carrier is much like living in a small city. Carriers have their own radio and television stations, movie theatres, libraries, soda fountains, laundries, tailors and barbershops.

High School graduates can apply for Navy enlistment in numerous career fields, including electronics, nuclear-propulsion, aviation and hospital/dental.

The Navy's nuclear-propulsion training is divided into two areas: nuclear field electronics and nuclear field technician.

Deadlines for NROTC College Scholarship applications is December 1st.

Prospective nurses can complete their final two years of collegiate training at Navy expense prior to becoming both a commissioned officer and a Navy Nurse.

Graduates of accredited four-year nursing schools can become commissioned officers in the Navy Nurse Corps.

By John McLain

Ranger Column



Recently I visited a company of Marines on a training exercise in the Big Ivy section of the Pisgah National Forest. This area is located about 5 miles south of Barnardsville and is part of the Toecane Ranger District.

Each spring Marines from Camp Lejeune are detailed to this area for field training in rock climbing and mountain reconnaissance. Although there are a number of possible climbing sites in this area, their favorite spot is known as Snake Den Rock. Snake Den is a sheer cliff that rises some 150 feet above the Big Ivy Road.

Upon arriving at the Marine encampment I met Lt. Jim Lovingood who was in charge of the training company. Lt. Lovingood, a career Marine and veteran of the Vietnam War, gave me a tour of their encampment. In typical Marine style, all the tents and equipment were uniformly placed, even down to the last tooth brush. He said his men received 1 cooked meal a day and the other two were of the "C" ration type. He said the diet was spiced up a bit the night before by a meal of trout that was given to them by local fishermen.

Leaving the campsite on Set Rock Creek we travel to Snake Den Rock. As we arrive at the climbing site a Sargeant was standing in the road bellowing orders to trainees as they made the long descent down the rock. According to the Sargeant the men had to learn to climb up the rock as well as to come down. The Sargeant said that occasionally a young Marine would freeze about half way down and he would have to go up and talk him off the rock.

When the Sargeant was asked why the rock was named Snake Den he stated that a number of Copperheads and Rattlesnakes had been killed by Marines near the top of the climbing area. The rock was soon given the name Snake Den.

The Marine training exercise is only one of many uses of National Forest in the Big Ivy section. This area affords the visitor some fine trout fishing and hunting during season and has some of Western North Carolina's most outstanding scenery for people who just want to drive and look.

One area of special scenic beauty is the Waterfall Scenic Area. This area covers over 1000 acres and has been set aside by the Forest Service for its outstanding scenic value. I plan to cover this area in detail in the next ranger column.

For more information about your National Forest please feel free to call at our office in Burnsville or write P.O. Box 128.



Marine Encampment in Pisgah National Forest

SENIOR CITIZENS

MONTH MAY 1-31



Social Security Questions-Answers

By D. H. Butler
Field Representative

Q. I thought that when I filed with the Internal Revenue Service my tax return that this was also a report to Social Security. Is this correct?

A. No. This is not correct. If an annual report of your earnings is due, it must be filed with the Social Security Administration. A tax return filed with the Internal Revenue Service is not a report to Social Security. Be sure to file a report by April 15 of the current year, because failure to file a report on time can cause you to be penalized for late filing and you could lose a month's Social Security check.

Q. I am 27 years old and I have a wife and two small children. It takes all I earn to support my family. As my immediate need is so great and my retirement is so far in the future, may I cease to contribute to the program for a few years even though my work is covered under Social Security?

A. Regardless of your age or your current family needs you must contribute to the program while you work under covered employment. While it is true that your retirement will be quite a few years off, the fact that you are currently working on a job that is covered under Social Security means that you are building valuable protection so benefits could be paid to your wife and children in the event you become disabled or die before you reach retirement age.

Q. What is the minimum benefit paid to a worker?

A. The minimum benefit for a worker at age 65 is \$70.40 per month. If he elects to

receive a reduced benefit at age 62, the amount is \$56.40. At the present time the average benefit is \$128 a month, but some retirees, who had maximum earnings are receiving a little over \$200 a month.

Q. I'm getting Social Security retirement checks. Recently I moved to a new address in the same city. Since I've already notified the post office of my new address, must I also notify the Social Security Office?

A. Yes, immediately notify the Social Security Office of your new address.

Q. I am a 19 year old college student, getting monthly Social Security checks. I will be married next month and just learned that my benefits will stop because of my marriage. Why can't married students continue to get monthly checks?

A. Students who marry are no longer considered dependant on their parents. That's why their benefits stop.

Q. If monthly Social Security retirement checks do not arrive on the 3rd of the month as it usually does, what should I do?

A. Wait a few days. The mail could be late. If you have not received the check by then, call the nearest Social Security office.

Q. I'm getting monthly Social Security retirement

checks and working part-time. Last month I told the Social Security office I expected to earn \$1,700 this year, but now I've gotten a raise and find that I'll make \$2,100 this year.

When should I tell Social Security about my higher income?

A. Immediately. Call or visit any Social Security office. The dollar amount of your Social Security checks this year depends on the amount you earn. By immediately notifying Social Security of your raise, you avoid the financial burden of having to refund an overpayment.

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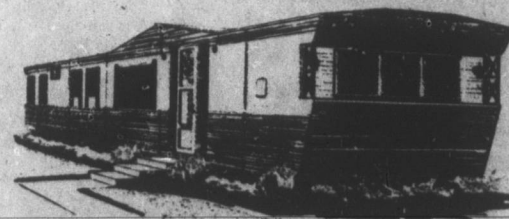
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