

Burns Retires From The Service After 34 Years

Major General Robert W. Burns will end a 34-year-military career July 31 during a retirement ceremony in his honor at the U.S. Air Force Aerospace Defense Command (ADC) headquarters, Ent Air Force Base, Colo.

The general has served as ADC's chief of staff since August 1969.

Replacing General Burns in the chief of staff position will be Major General Arthur G. Salisbury. He is presently serving as director of the Joint Continental Defense Systems Integration Planning Staff in the office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington, D. C.

General Burns is a native of Nettleton, Miss. He was graduated from high school in Ecu in 1933. He received a bachelor of science degree in 1938 from Mississippi State Teachers College and a master of arts degree from George Washington University in 1965.

Following three years as an enlisted man in the Army National Guard, the general enlisted in the Army as an aviation cadet. He received his pilot wings and commission as a second lieutenant in the Air Corps in November 1939 at Kelly Field, Tex.

The following month, he was assigned to the 7th Reconnaissance Squadron in the Panama

Canal Zone. He assumed command of Headquarters Squadron, 6th Bombardment Group, in February 1942 and in June of that year took command of the 74th Bombardment Squadron in Guatemala City, Guatemala.

The general returned to the United States in November 1942 and was assigned as deputy commander of the 351st Bombardment Group at Geiger Field, Wash. In April 1943, he moved with the 351st to England as part of the Eighth Air Force and in September 1944 he became group commander. During this tour of duty with the 351st, he flew 24 combat missions in the B-17 Flying Fortress.

General Burns returned to the United States in May 1945 and since then has held various command and deputy chief of staff positions in New York, Washington, North Carolina, Colorado, Florida and California. He also served tours as deputy and then chief of the Air Force Section of the Joint U. S. Military Advisory Group in Greece and chief of the Military Assistance Advisory Group in Pakistan.

The general's military decorations include the Silver Star, Legion of Merit with one oak leaf cluster, Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters.