

Business-Like Reservists Called Up

White-Collar Workers To Don Army Green For 24 Months Of Career

The callup of an Army Reserve company that trains in Livonia will hurt a lot of young business and sports careers, but it will have something less than a catastrophic effect on the suburbs.

To begin with, only 10 of the 153 men in the 424th Personnel Services Company reside in Livonia, Farmington, Plymouth, Redford or Westland.

And, about 15 members of the company won't have to go on active duty because their six-year terms of service will expire by Dec. 12. Thus, four of the 10 local men will not have to go on active duty for that reason, and a fifth is a question mark for medical reasons.

And the company commander, Capt. Edwin J. Duda, of Plymouth, says that many of his men are doing military jobs in personnel, finance and data processing that are similar to their jobs in business.

YET WHEN THE 424th goes on active duty May 13 for a scheduled 24 months, there is no doubt it's going to hurt. There will be separations from families, drastic pay cuts (despite a proposed 6.9 per cent military pay hike set for July 1), the trouble of pulling up stakes for an extended period.

The Army will try to make things as easy as possible, however. Medical care is paid for; commissary prices are lower; there are no state sales and gasoline taxes to pay; the finance office can arrange extensions of payments on home mortgages and appliances. At first, said Capt. Duda, the company will report to the Livonia training center, a brick building at 34451 Schoolcraft that would look like a typical small suburban manufacturing plant except for the green trucks out back.

Afterwards, the company will be shipped to Fort Hood, Texas.

"It's hot, but I think the lower part of Texas is a lot like Florida to travel in. And you don't have to step off the base to find any of the facilities you want," said Capt. Duda.

Whether Fort Hood will be their permanent station, or just temporary, the company doesn't know. During their initial weeks, it will be a "restricted area" as far as the 424th is concerned, and the men won't be able to bring their families down in that period.

Vietnam? No one knows. Hopefully, not.

THE COMPANY'S FULL name is the 424th Adjutant General Personnel Services Company, and it's attached to the 300th Military Police-PW Command. Its mission is the maintenance of the personnel records of 5,000 to 8,000 troops.

The 15 or so men who don't have to go on active duty will be either transferred into other Reserve companies or placed in the Immediate Reserve Reinforcement; they'll have to put in two weeks of summer training at either Camp McCoy, Wis., or Granite City, Ill.

The 424th is a young company. It was organized last Jan. 31 from men in engineer and military police companies in Livonia and Detroit. Their Reserve training schedule was 72 four-hour drills a month — from 7 to 11 p.m. most Mondays and 9:30 to 5 on Saturday and Sunday once a month.

The 424th is the third of the half-dozen or so companies training at the Livonia center to be called to active duty in recent years.

In the 1961 Berlin crisis, the 602nd MP Company went to Fort Polk, La., and the 663rd MP Company to Fort Chaffee, Ark.



CAPT. EDWIN J. DUDA, PLYMOUTH

Both were scheduled for a one-year tour of duty; both were released in 10 months.

ALL SORTS OF MEN are in the 424th — some have 15 years of service, some have done two years of active duty in the Regular Army, some are recent enlistees.

That so many of the suburban dwellers should be getting out soon isn't surprising. The pattern is that a young man joins to fulfill his six-year military obligation and has a home in the suburbs by the time his term of service is ending.

"There's a high percentage of college men in this company," said Capt. Duda. "I'd say 50 per cent have one or more years of college, and 25 per cent are college graduates."

"We have three or four of more certified public accountants and one lawyer. Most of the men are white collar workers or in business. This military occupation coincides with their civilian work more than if we were a military police or engineer company. We're really a business administration company."

Capt. Duda estimates that 80 per cent-plus of the men are "obligated" — that is, haven't completed their required six years in the Reserve — and 20 per cent-minus are "non-obligated."

The news that the 424th would be activated came just three days before Easter and a couple of weeks after President Johnson made a de-escalation gesture to North Viet-

PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL player Frank L. Gable (seated, left) checks another soldier's clothing supply as they prepare to go on active duty, for two years.



THE 424th PERSONNEL SERVICES Company answers roll call at a weekend drill in the Livonia Training Center.

STORY: Tim Richard
PICTURES: Harry Mauthe

nam and announced he wouldn't run again. The Commander-in-Chief said in a few things in that 40-minute speech, and one thing that received little news space was that more Reservists would be called to active duty.

"You know, when you're in the Reserves, that your company could be called up any time. But when it happens, it comes as well — a surprise," says Capt. Duda. Typically, the last to get any official word was the company itself. The news came out of Washington that Thursday. The Observer Newspapers learned more by calling a congressman than the men at the Livonia Training Center knew.

THE MEN ARE JUST LIKE anyone else in suburbia.

Ed Duda, 32, earned his bachelor's and masters degrees at Michigan State University; he's married and has a couple of youngsters, both of whom entered the hospital last week to have their tonsils and adenoids out.

He had worked for the Winkelman store chain before joining Ford Motor Co. 3½ years ago. He's an accountant at the Livonia plant, which isn't far from his home in the southeast part of Plymouth.

Duda has been in the Reserve 11 years; the last 10 in a quartermaster-supply work. This is his second company command.

His executive officer is 1st Lt. Jack Beery, 34, of Farmington. He went to school at the University of Dayton and the National Cash Register school of engineering, and worked for NCR before coming to the Burroughs Corp. plant in Plymouth 1½ years ago.

Beery spent two years on active duty in the Army and has been in the service a total of 14 years. As an enlisted man, he rose to the rank of master sergeant, then got a presidential direct commission as a first lieutenant.

Capt. Duda says of Beery: "Burroughs is losing a good man, and the Army is benefiting quite a bit." Beery smiles as if to say, "Aw, shucks," and then adds: "My work has been in the design rather than the use of this data-processing equipment."

ONE YOUNG MAN trying hard to be philosophical about it is Spec 4 Frank L. Gable of Westland; Gable is a professional baseball player.

"I've been playing in Burlington, N. C. down in the Carolina league. I've played AA and AAA ball the last couple of years — second base."

Continued On Page 4B



SPEC 4 LAWRENCE TODD

KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE MALL

APRIL	
MONDAY	SEE HALLMARK DISPLAY of ANTIQUE CARDS in Mall by Sears Wall
29	
TUESDAY	LADIES DAY 11 a.m. free movie, prizes, Cinema 1. WEIGHT WATCHERS Community Room, 12-15 SQUARED DANCERS in Community Room, 8-15
30	
WEDNESDAY	BRING YOUR CHILD TO SHOP for Mothers' Day Gifts (by themselves) in STORY BOOK HOUSE LAWYERS WIVES OF LIVONIA in Booth in Mall, serving coffee for LAW DAY
1	
THURSDAY	SEE STORY BOOK LADY in STORY BOOK HOUSE for Mothers' Day Gifts. GRINNELL'S ORGAN SOCIETY MEETING, 7:30, Community Room
2	
FRIDAY	NATIONAL MUSIC WEEK, Farmington Singers in Mall 7 p.m. CHILDREN MAY SHOP for Mothers' Gift in STORY BOOK HOUSE
3	
SATURDAY	COIN CLUB in Community Room 10 to 4 p.m. Auction.
4	

Meet You At The Mall
Open MON., THURS., FRI., SAT. to 9 p.m.
Open TUES., WED. until 6:30

There's always something going on at...
LIVONIA MALL 7 MILE AT MIDDLEREE



1st LT. JACK BEERY, FARMINGTON

