

## — Army news briefs —

# 21,599 promoted this month

Army officials have announced they will promote, this month, 21,599 soldiers in the top five NCO grades, the largest promotion list since 1971.

Army Times, an unofficial, independent newspaper, said in August the Army plans to promote 8966 E-4s to E-5; 7515 E-5s to E-6; 2846 E-6s to SFC; 1900 SFCs to

E-8 and 372 E-8s to Sergeant Major.

Lt. Gen. Maxwell R. Thurman, Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel said the actual number of promotions to E-6 and E-5 this month will depend on how many soldiers are on unit promotion lists, Army Times reported.

## Starching BDUs will cause problems

Logistics officials warn that starching the BDUs clogs the pores in the cloth preventing the proper ventilation and trapping the body heat.

In addition to causing heat buildup, starching retards the infrared protection of the BDU.

The official said the shrinkage problem "is a dead issue now" and that care instructions have proven successful in reducing the problem.

Army officials are revising care labels and providing care decals for

placement on washers and dryers used by soldiers.

Soldiers who do have shrinkage problems can turn in the BDUs and get a new one at no cost, the spokesman said.

## Combat readiness

Gen. Frederick J. Kroesen, Commander in Chief, Europe, last month said that U.S. troops in Europe are combat ready and very well in a position to defend the Federal Republic of Germany against the East Bloc Forces in the event of an attack.

"We are good now, but we will even be better, since we will be newly equipped and modernized during the next few years," said Kroesen in an interview published by US News and World Report magazine.

## Cocaine users - beware!

The Court of Military Appeals has ruled unanimously that cocaine is a habit-forming drug and has approved prison sentences of up to 10 years for its sale or possession.

The opinion will control military drug cases for only a short time, however, observers said, because an upcoming change to the Uniform Code of Military Justice is expected to rewrite all drug definitions and sentences in military law. (Army Times).

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