

Chief of Intelligence Transferred by Army

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The commanding officer of the United States Army Intelligence Command, which is responsible for all personnel security investigations conducted by the Army, is being transferred Feb. 1 after less than a year on the job, Army spokesmen confirmed Thursday night.

Brig. Gen. Jack B. Matthews, 52 will be reassigned from Ft. Holabird in Baltimore to an Army infantry training center at Ft. Lewis, Wash. His replacement will be Brig. Gen. Orlando C. Epp, 50 currently stationed in Hawaii.

Army intelligence has come under increasing criticism recently as a result of charges that its agents were investigating such nonmilitary targets as political conventions and members of Congress.

A spokesman at Ft. Holabird declined to comment on whether there is any relationship between Gen. Matthews'

transfer and those charges. However, the spokesman said, "all that publicity (about nonmilitary investigations) did concern in Intelligence Command."

Other sources said that Matthews, a longtime infantry officer, had received his new assignment within the past week, considered short notice. His tenure at Ft. Holabird is considered unusually short for such an assignment.

Epp is a longtime Army intelligence officer and one of the few in that specialty to achieve the rank of general. He has considerable experience in European military intelligence operations.

The transfer comes after a major shakeup of military intelligence operations designed to bring them under tighter civilian control, was announced by Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird last December.