

# The Privileges of Rank in the Pentagon

by Jack Anderson

washington, D.C.

ach weekday morning on the shores
of the Potomac, a curious event
takes place. A dozen uniformed
Air Force generals line up single file
on a dock at Bolling Air Force Base—
just four miles downstream from the
Pentagon. Clutching briefcases, the
generals step gingerly over a wooden
plank into a plush, 48-foot motor
launch. Each general sits in his own
comfortable lawn chair. His feet rest

on an expensive red carpet which is vacuumed daily. As the powerful launch pushes off, coffee is served.

What's happening here? The men who run the Pentagon are going to work. All over town, in fact, brass hats and bigwigs enjoy a leisurely ride to the office. The privileges of rank are apparent everywhere.

On the ground, scores of limousines, equipped with telephones and reading lamps, arrive at the Pentagon's mall entrance.

In the air, helicopters begin ferrying the big brass who prefer to keep above the traffic tangles. Enough whirlybirds have been spared from the Vietnam war to provide air taxi service for as many as 125 Pentagon big shots each day. The unwritten Pentagon policy. Three stars are required for a chopper to Andrews Air Force Base; four stars are necessary for the Pentagon's shortest junket to the Army-Navy Country

Club across the turnpike

Aside from the privileged few, most of the Pentagon's employees have to make it to work on their own. Some 10,000 drive cars, thousands more take the bus; about 100 ride bicycles.

Back on the dock at Bolling, as the generals speed off in their staff boat, 40 airmen crowd into a smaller craft that looks like a floating bus. The airmen's schooner, which chugs along at half the speed of the generals' boat, is always crowded. "We try to squeeze in," explained an Air Force major.

# Status symbols

The point made in the early morning is repeated throughout the day: the top brass travel first class. Everyone else goes steerage.

An enclosed city of concrete rings and corridors, the Pentagon is ruled by an almost impenetrable bureaucracy. The place is so top-heavy with officers that one-star generals are treated like captains and captains are treated like thatracks. An exaggeration? Early this year the Pentagon's top brass trooped

PARADE . NOVEMBER 12, 1972

up to Capitol Hill to explain why they wanted billions more next year for defense. As senators and generals argued, a young capitain in the ritar of the conference from caught our eye. He was learning against the wall, staining at the floor, earning his day's salary, holding two armfuls of brass hats.

With so many chiefs, the struggle for status in the Pentagon is fierce. Inthe things begin to count: a fuge desk, a private bathroom, a spy-priod conference morn, functiones status is measured by the number of buttons on a telephone. Adm. Thomas Moorer, Chairman of the foint Chiefs, has a phone with 64. The button that glows with a red halo is for the President.

### Dining in style

We have investigated the special proliteges enjoyed by the military elite. When it comes to supplying themselves with the basic necessities of life, the Pentagon potentates spare no expense. Here is a report:

FOOD: In the Pentagon's private din-

FOOD: In the Pentagon's private dining nosin', 'Amy' generals' dine royally in leather-cushioused chairs'. The day we visited, their menu included salmon criquettes and bearnaise sauce, braised lean iths of beef, Portuguese skinless and, boineless saidines, chilled clams, Mesucan omelettes, asparagus spears, sherry and chocustar snowballs. The portions were generous. The price per meal: \$1. (Nearby, on the same floor, in the public dining room, GL's pay \$1.20. for a hot pastrams sandwich served with cole slaw potato chips' and a pickle slice.)

# **Hearty appetite**

The top civilians, not to be outdone, also dine well on subsidized delicacies. The scoretails of the aimed services wase a daily war with their waistlines. Consider Secretary of the Navy John Warner, for instance. His mess chief, Melvan Williams, told as with considerable pride: The seen Mr. Warner eat a serving of tareb chops, liver, fish, poached eggs and bacon for breakfast—all of one litting.

FRANSPORTATION: A pampered general nesse walks when he can ride, ceven rides when he can riv, Status again is at take, In the name of control business," practically any form of transportation is available, 24 froms a day. A ranking central can take a limousine to the Pentagon where he can catch a helicopter to Andrews Air Force Base where he can fly in a VIP plane anywhere in the world.

continued



At the Pentagon, probably the most chauffeured man is its leader, Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird, who

has a second Cadillac available — just in case something goes wrong mechanically with the first one.



helicopiers leavy the big brass who pieter to keep above Washington traffic tangles. Enough helicopters have

been spared from the Victoam war to provide an air taxt service for as many as 125 big shints every day.

# PENTAGON Programmes

on the engine of an English to the second state of the second sec What shells take a mark the a Lengther and thereof of the process regularly countries for any M. Jerestein support and countries are the specifically per-cept the arts of the specifical and and for a process of process with any for the process of the specifical and t

# An extra Cadillac

and the other his and explicitly discovered and the second of the second the Meller Faed office has a highly facility and or consequentially open as view, with the employ Codellas Faed y medical evolution (C, et William

the story with the migration of Melian Largest constraints that Tour Melian and All and the story of the migration of the mig

## **Elegant mansions**

The second second set of the second s The second of th

the discussion of the end of services of the end of the or trained to garager the modifies elde.



to a butter-cation-i

for a rate \$1. Many wasting with weight profile.



to the transference superiorist with every claim

oli a filologija predse Progressija i prosencio

Mare 3 of the sour develops talents on Excellent's absence in the contract of the community of the source of the s and the art that die praches of a basic heap force or public expresses of be-collected would not made present or when the force the lead of the months of the force of the second and Martines of the Second of the force of the second of the force of the force of the second of the force of the one can be force of the force of the force of the force of the one can be force of the force of the force of the force of the one can be seen that the force of the for

considered only becaused by the throught

that has believe present consider by a 177

dimental for each trial fraging a phonouning for each trial fraging for the constraint of the constrai

# Impressive wardrobes

Could be the property of the p enalización travella

 Solvenier and settle control of the settle control of non-mark as some different uniterims

6. The course of the terrorist encourse of the Service of Capacian and the first of the first of the service of the service

the transfer was income seek to be a seek to be a few points for the few points of t the Alphanist was a street for the street and the street for the s

in a martin stanta and stanta and a construction of the GB services of the care of the construction of the