

Palmer
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HIS OWN TEAM

William Westmoreland, rewarded by Lyndon Johnson for his four years in Vietnam with the position of Army Chief of Staff, is rapidly building up his own staff with buddies who served side by side with him in Southeast Asia. He now has with him Lt. Gen. Bruce Palmer, his former deputy commanding General in Vietnam; Lt. Gen. William Rosson, former commander of the first field force in Vietnam; Lt. Gen. F. C. Weyand, and Maj. Gen. Joseph Christian.

Whether these appointments are good or bad for the Army depends upon how one views the performance of these generals in Vietnam. Unlike civilian life, the military is one occupation where failure is frequently rewarded by promotion. It has long been accepted

by foreign military observers in Southeast Asia that from the very beginning, the U.S. trained the South Vietnamese for the wrong type of war, believing that the major threat lay not in guerrilla warfare but in a conventional Korean-style war from the North. General Westmoreland keeps saying that eventually the South Vietnamese are going to permit some token reduction in American troops; but the simple truth is that the South Vietnamese Army will not be able to replace American units in the predictable future. Not without losing the war.

The ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) is corrupt from the top down. It is almost impossible for officers who steal in combat to inspire their men to fight to their death.



GENERALS WESTMORELAND AND PALMER IN VIETNAM, NOW BACK TOGETHER AT PENTAGON.