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Beret Accused as Trigger Man In Agent's Death Quits Army

WASHINGTON (AP) — Capt. Robert F. Marasco, once accused by the Army of killing a South Vietnamese double agent, is quitting the Army, the Pentagon announced today.

Marasco, one of eight Green Berets originally involved in the controversial case, will be released from the Army at his request by the end of this month, a spokesman said.

Marasco applied for "immediate release from active duty" last Wednesday.

The Bloomfield, N.J., man was ordered to report for duty with the 24th Infantry Division at Ft. Riley, Kan., in early November. Those orders have been rescinded, the Pentagon said.

Marasco will receive an honorable discharge and retain his commission in the Army reserve. He will be processed for release at Ft. Monmouth, N.J.

SEVEN OF the eight members of the 5th Special Forces group in Vietnam who were accused originally are back in the United States pre-

paring for new assignments.

The one exception is Col. Robert B. Rheault, former Special Forces commander in Vietnam, whose next assignment has not yet been determined.

The Army dropped charges against the men last month just as the first of several courts-martial on murder and conspiracy charges were about to begin.

THE CHARGES were dropped after the Central Intelligence Agency, which was indirectly involved, refused to allow its agents to testify.

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