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WASHINGTON AP - Maj. Gen. John Lavelle, former Air Force commander in Vietnam fired for ordering unauthorized strikes over North Vietnam, was declared 70-per-cent disabled and will receive \$23,000 in tax-free pension per year, Rep. Les Aspin said Wednesday.

Aspin said Lavelle was declared 70-per-cent disabled by three examining military physicians. As a result, more than \$23,000 of his \$25,000 retirement pension will be tax-exempt, the Wisconsin Democrat said.

Aspin said the general's most recent military records showed that Lavelle is in "relatively good health, certainly not anything like 70 per cent disabled."

"It is quite clear that Lavelle was given a very special gift as a retirement present—a 70-per-cent disability which will give him a \$23,500 tax exemption each year," Aspin added.

The congressman noted that Lavelle "was in good enough health to receive flight pay the month before he retired," and called on the Pentagon to investigate.

"It strikes me as rather strange that a general who was, in effect, demoted for an extremely serious disobeying of the President's orders concerning the bombing of North Vietnam should be given such a big going-away present," Aspin said.

Aspin said the disability was based on a heart murmur "which was described by the doctor as not serious."

The medical records showed also that Lavelle has a slipped disc and a mild case of emphysema, Aspin said.

"There is no question that he is not 70-per-cent disabled," Aspin said. "He plays a very good game of tennis and, all in all, appears to be in good shape for a man of 55."

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