

JUN 7 1971

SFChronicle

## Accused General Promoted

Washington

The Army has promoted a brigadier general to major general while investigating alleged atrocities that occurred under his command in South Vietnam in 1969.

Major General John W. Barnes, formerly commander of the 173rd Airborne Infantry Brigade, was promoted to the two-star rank on March 1, 1971, five months after the start of an investigation into the alleged crimes or their coverup.

In most investigations, the Army "flags" the files of officers involved until the inquiry has been completed and the case dismissed or settled court-martial. No favorable action, such as promotion, may be taken while a file is flagged.

The Army said that, technically, Barnes himself was not under investigation at the time of his promotion. The spokesman said that Barnes did not become the subject of investigation until March 12, 1971, subsequent to his promotion. At that time, formal charges of dereliction of duty were filed against him by Lieutenant Colonel Anthony B. Herbert, a commander of one of the battalions of the 173rd.

*L.A. Times Service*