

NOV 8 1971

NYTimes

HERBERT TO LEAVE ARMY IN 3 MONTHS

Colonel Cites 'Intolerable'
Pressures on Family

By JAMES T. WOOTEN

Special to The New York Times

ATLANTA, Nov. 7—Lieut. Col. Anthony B. Herbert, a combat hero of two wars who charged two superior officers with covering up atrocities in Vietnam, announced today that he would retire from the United States Army in February because of "intolerable" pressures on his family.

The 41-year-old career soldier, who was this country's most decorated enlisted man in the Korean war, released a statement through his civilian attorney in which he described his decision to leave the military as more painful than the eight wounds he received over 20 years of active duty.

Colonel Herbert, who will submit his request for retirement tomorrow, is eligible to leave the Army next Feb. 29. He will receive the retirement pay of a major, which is his permanent rank.

Colonel Herbert's formal charges against a general and a lieutenant colonel were dismissed by the Army for "lack of evidence." And on Friday, the Army issued a 2,500-word "fact sheet" that said there was no documentary support for his complaint.

"For two and a half years I have struggled to help the Army eliminate the stigma of the concealment of war crimes which I personally saw or had knowledge of," Colonel Herbert said.

"The actions taken by certain members of the Army at both local and the Pentagon level have convinced me that to continue seeking correction within the military would be useless.

Army authorities here at Fort McPherson, where Colonel Herbert is now stationed, were unavailable for comment.

The colonel, who gained national notice through an appearance on a network television talk show, also said he would advise the Army tomorrow

that he had "no present intention of violating those restrictions which have been placed upon me, which forbid me to state my views to the media, although I do believe the public has every right to know what is happening in the Army."

Because the Army has ordered him to have all contact with the news media approved by the Pentagon, he said he would no longer grant interviews with reporters or broadcast journalists.

"The strain of the last two years and the pressures placed upon our family during the last week have proved intolerable," his statement said.

Last Sunday, he was told he was under suspicion of being absent without leave. On Monday and Tuesday, three requests for leave were denied, although he has 63 days of leave accrued. On Wednesday, his military attorney for the last seven months was relieved and Colonel Herbert was given lessons on saluting and military posture from Col. Tom Reid, the deputy commander of Fort McPherson.

To All Congress Members

Then, after ordering Colonel Herbert to stop talking with the press, the Army released its fact sheet to the media and mailed it to every member of Congress.

"I have been advised this weekend by my wife's personal physician that the stress placed upon us can no longer safely be borne by my family," Colonel Herbert said in his statement.

He also disclosed plans to apply for leave status tomorrow "so that I may remove my wife and daughter from the strain to which, through me, they have been subjected. Additionally, I must plan for adjustment to civilian life and the beginning of a new career."

The colonel holds a masters' degree in psychology from the University of Georgia and is scheduled to receive a doctorate in the same field in 1972.

"On the field of battle, both as an enlisted man and as an officer, I have served at the best of my ability," said in his statement. "In that service I have been shot five times and bayoneted three times, none of which was as painful to me as the decision I must now announce."

"Thus I end a career," he concluded.