

Top Beret in Viet Spy Case Quits

Washington

Colonel Robert Rheault, a key figure in the Green Beret murder case in Vietnam, retired from military service yesterday for personal reasons, the Defense Department announced.

Rheault, 44, a West Point graduate with 23 years in the Army, will receive retire-

ment pay of \$9747 a year, or 57½ per cent of his regular base pay of \$17,100.

Rheault's release from the service came on his 44th birthday.

A former commander of all Green Berets in Vietnam, Rheault was one of eight of them charged with murder or conspiracy to murder Thai

Khac Chuyen, a suspected Vietnamese double agent, last July.

Rheault and five other officers were ordered court-martialed, but the charges against all eight subsequently were dropped. The Army said they could not receive a fair trial because the Central Intelligence Agency would

not permit its representatives to testify.

In contrast to the usual weeks it takes to process retirement papers, the Army rushed Rheault's application through on a priority basis. He submitted his request on Tuesday and it was approved late Thursday. 28 OCT.

A Pentagon spokesman

San Francisco Chronicle 9
 ☆ Sat., Nov. 1, 1969

said. Rheault was offered his choice of a new military assignment after he returned from Vietnam but that he chose retirement. Six of the others have taken new posts.

The eighth, Captain Robert Marasco of Bloomfield, N.J., the reported trigger man in the Vietnamese's death, has been granted an honorable discharge. United Press