

Nixon Role In an Army Promotion

Washington

The Pentagon acknowledged yesterday that a military aide to former White House adviser John D. Ehrlichman had been ordered promoted over the objections of the Army.

A spokesman said the order to promote Lieutenant Colonel Dana G. Mead came from President Nixon. He said the promotion board had been reversed, adding "the directions came from the commander in chief and we were acting on them."

Mead's name was not on a list of newly selected colonels routinely handed down by an Army promotion board last September.

VETERAN

He is a ten-year Army veteran who has been working in the White House for the past three years.

The Washington Post, which first reported the Mead story, said former Army Secretary Robert F. Froehlke and Major General Dewitt C. Smith, chief of the promotion board, attempted to resist the presidential order. The Post quoted Froehlke as saying he wrote former Defense Secretary Elliot L. Richardson protesting the promotion.

Froehlke said he carried out the order only after Richardson put it in writing, according to the Post.

DEGREE

Mead, 35, is a West Point graduate with a doctoral degree in political science. Most of his military career has been spent in non-combat assignments like attending school or working at the White House.

Much of the time in the White House, Mead worked on domestic matters under Ehrlichman, who resigned April 30. His most recent task was that of White House "coordinator" for District of Columbia affairs.

Associated Press