

# The C-5A Critic Gets Job Back

Washington

Complying with a Civil Service order, the Air Force yesterday rehired A. E r n e s t Fitzgerald, whose job was "terminated" after he told Congress about costs exceeding projections in the C-5A cargo plane project.

The Defense Department said Fitzgerald is being returned to his job as a cost analyst, with back pay to the time he was removed from his job in 1970.

Fitzgerald, 46, holds a GS-17 civil service job classification — the second highest grade — which currently pays \$36,000 a year. He will draw \$125,000 in back pay, but the Air Force will sub-

tract from that a sum equal to his earnings since he lost his Pentagon job.

Fitzgerald testified Nov. 13, 1968, that the C-5A project would cost \$5 billion rather than the \$3.2 billion because cost estimates were exceeded.

His job was then "terminated" Jan. 5, 1970, on grounds that it was eliminated as part of a force reduction. But Civil Service examiner Harold D. Staiman ruled on September 18 that in reality he lost his job in retaliation for exposing the extra costs.

In restoring Fitzgerald to his job, the Air Force said it does not intend to appeal Staiman's ruling.

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