

Gen. Murray Named U.S. Aide in Vietnam

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Army Maj. Gen. John E. Murray, director of logistics for the U.S. command in Saigon, was named yesterday to take over the top U.S. military post in Vietnam after the withdrawal of virtually all American troops is completed, the State Department announced.

Murray, 54, a native of Clifton, N.J., will serve as the defense attache in the American Embassy in Saigon, a spokesman said.

Gen. Frederick C. Weyand, commander of the U.S. Military Assistance Command-Vietnam, is the senior American military officer in Saigon and has filled the role of defense attache along with his other duties.

Weyand is to be relieved when the U.S. command is phased out at the end of the 60-day withdrawal period that began a week ago. The command is now concerning principally with the withdrawal of more than 21,000 U.S. servicemen still in Vietnam.

Under terms of the peace agreement with North Vietnam signed Jan. 27, the United States is required to withdraw

all its forces. But Defense Department spokesmen said a relatively small staff would stay behind to serve under the embassy's defense attache.

The size of the staff has not been disclosed, but Pentagon spokesman Jerry W. Friedheim has said it would be no larger than the embassy attache complement in most countries that receive U.S. aid.

In Laos, where the United States has waged a so-called "secret war" for many years, assistant air attaches have regularly flown forward-air-control missions for the Royal Lao armed force. But most attaches in other embassies concern themselves with embassy affairs.

The appointment of Murray reflects a shift in U.S. concern from combat to supply, maintenance and other logistic needs of the South Vietnamese forces.

Murray entered the Army during World War II and has served in staff and command jobs dealing with transportation, warehousing and similar support activities for more than 10 years. He has been director of logistics at MACV since November.