

Black Admiral Chosen for Fleet Command

Rear Adm. Samuel L. Gravely Jr., a World War II Navy enlisted man and later a railway postal clerk, became yesterday the first black admiral nominated for a vice admiral's three stars and command of a United States fleet.

President Ford has sent Admiral Gravely's name for Senate confirmation as commander of the 3d Fleet, based at Pearl Harbor and consisting of 100 warships and 60,000 sailors and Marines. He is now commandant of the 11th Naval District at San Diego.

Born in Richmond 54 years ago, he was commissioned an ensign in 1944 and, after four years as a civilian, returned to the Navy in 1949.

In 1971 he was commanding guided-missile frigate off Vietnam when, in a period of

confrontations between whites and blacks in the service, he was chosen as the first black admiral in the Navy.

There are now three black generals in the Army. Daniel

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Associated Press

Rear Adm. Samuel L. Gravely Jr.

it "so fast it was almost unrecognizable."

"I really don't know what I'm going to do with myself now," confessed Brig. Gen. J. Robinson Risner, retiring this week from an eventful 33-year Air Force

career that included 88 months as a P.O.W. in North Vietnam — 54 of them in solitary confinement. In 1957 the Oklahoma-born flier set speed records for crossing both the United States and the Atlantic Ocean and he was an early "ace" in the Korean War. Most recently vice-commander of the Technical Fighter Weapons Center at Las Vegas, General Risner said, "Eventually I want to get into youth work of some kind."

Columbia University awarded honors yesterday to Chief Justice Warren E. Burger of the Supreme Court and Lord Chancellor Frederick Elwyn-Jones, Britain's highest judge. At a Bicentennial ceremony they received honorary law doctorates, as did Britain's Lord Chief Justice, John Widgery, and the Master of the Rolls, Alfred T. Denning. Noting that Columbia was established as King's College and that its first graduates fought for American independence, Michael I. Sovern, dean of the Columbia Law School, said, "Even more important than nationhood, we are celebrat-

ing the system of law and government we inherited from Great Britain."

Although her name had been mentioned little if at all in print, both the father and the coach of Carol Lindner, a University of Indiana diver, denied yesterday that she had had anything to do with the defection of Sergei Nemtsanov, the Olympic diver from the Soviet Union. Miss Lindner finished seventh in the Olympic Trials in June but attended the Montreal games with her father, Richard Lindner, president of an Ohio supermarket chain. He said that Mr. Nemtsanov attended a party the Lindners gave for divers at an international meet at Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., also in June, and that his daughter and a friend spoke with the 177-year-old Russian in Montreal but "only casually."

Said Hobie Billingsley, the Indiana diving coach, "A lot of our kids talked to him—he was a very friendly youngster. I think he was just exposed to a new way of living in Florida and decided to get out."

LAURIE JOHNSTON