

Franz

Date: Mon, 13 Oct 97 20:28:41 -0500
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Subject: No subject given

Matt,

13 Oct 97

If you don't mind, I would like to give you some background and then call in a few days or a week, at your convenience, and ask your advice on these issues. All of this relates to the fact that I have NEARLY decided to retire from the military next summer when my three-year command is completed. I am talking to you about this not only because I trust your judgment, but because I have always hoped to become involved with education and young people upon retirement.

Background:

-I will have been Deputy (3yr) or Commander (3yr) of RIID for 6 years next summer. For the first time in my 26 years of active service, I don't have a next army job in mind. Although I'm sure I could probably stay on as Commander for another year, next summer also appears to be timely for the person I would most like to see become the next RIID commander. (When I talked to General Zajtchuk last week about this, he asked me to consider the deputy job in his command, but I just don't want to get that far away from the science; that job is mostly politics.) I would probably turn over this command in Aug 98, but because I will have ca. 80-90 days of leave accrued, actually retire in Oct or Nov. I would be free sometime in Aug. I will be 53 in Nov of 98.

-As stated above, I have always wanted to teach physiology and related subjects (anatomy, immunology, maybe micro etc.) in a college or university setting where I can work with young people. I taught P&A at the Frederick Community college a few years ago and loved it.

-Although I have only discussed retirement, in very general terms, with Pat, BGZ and a couple of close friends, I have recently received calls from two beltway organizations regarding my retirement and availability post. It is likely that, once I announce my retirement, I will have other opportunities with several government contractors around the beltway. Some of my colleagues, most of whom have not had the interesting opportunities I've been blessed with, are signing with them for \$85-100K. The Dean of the vet school at Kansas State University recently told a friend of mine that one of these organizations, which happens to have its headquarters in Kansas City is very interested in hiring me. I don't believe I would be happy in such a job, unless it would be managing a research program, etc. Although I understand the importance of the free enterprise system, I absolutely could never go back to my DoD friends or organizations and ask for contracts, etc. I wouldn't mind continuing some involvement in biodefense or the technical aspects of arms control, if I felt it would benefit the country, but could also leave that behind. I tell you all this because I may have to do some odd jobs until I find what I really want to do.

-Regarding location, as I think I have mentioned, Pat and I would eventually like to live in Lawrence, Kansas. I only want to move Pat--and her piano studio--one more time. Therefore, I would prefer to either move to Lawrence next summer (the military will move us anytime within 12 months of my retirement) or stay in Frederick for a given number of years (preferably not more than ca. 5) and then move. KU, the medical school and 5-6 small 4-year or community colleges are within commuting range of where we plan to retire. Another factor in our wanting to move to that area is our aging parents, from whom we have been away since we left for college. Pat's are in their early 80s and mine ca. 90.

-Regarding income, \$50K/year before taxes plus my military retirement would approximately maintain my present take-home. Our second, and last, son is finishing university this fall so that is behind us and I did invest reasonably wisely over the years, so it's more important to me that I do something that I believe in than that I make more money than we need to live.

-Regarding unfinished projects:, the only one I would still like to complete is a book that I have had in mind for 6-7 years, entitled Biology for Leaders. Its audience would be military leaders who understand so little biology. It would be designed to provide them an infantry-friendly reference to the human body, its function and the effects of environmental, operational and volitional factors and counterfactors. I believe one of the academies or war colleges would work with me and I have a whole list of colleagues from the various environmental and operational research disciplines to write individual chapters. All I have at this point is an outline of 23 chapter titles, considerable interest from almost everyone in the military to whom I have mentioned my idea and a list of exceptional friends and colleagues who would be happy to help. I would really like to see that through. I assume it could be done wherever I am.

-I have heard that there are hundreds of applicants for most announced jobs in small colleges across America--and many are never announced. I have been monitoring the Internet edition of the Chronicle for the past year or so and don't really expect to see more than a couple of job announcements in my technical areas and geographical region of interest in the next 6 months. The only lead of any kind I have today is the mention of the planned retirement, next year, of the elderly physician who is now teaching physiology, anatomy and immunology at the KU medical school nursing program. I know one of the staff in that program and I plan to look into that further after talking to you. I would also suspect that I might be able to pick up some jobs teaching at night and subsequently work my way into a regular job. By they way, I'm not afraid of administration, but assume I would have to prove myself--and I do really want to teach and keep learning.

-I have recently wondered if I might even be able to contribute to a political science department in addition to a biology department in the context of arms control and other activities with which I have been involved since 1992.

In summary, I know that painting ourselves into Lawrence, Kansas complicates an already difficult job hunting task. However, we're not ready to change the geographic dreams without at least a try. I would like to give you a call sometime after you have had a chance to read this I would be interested in your thoughts on mine and any ideas you might have as to an approach to this transition. For the past 26 years I have been handed jobs and told exactly what to wear every morning. I have had so much fun and worked with so many good people...I am really going to miss it and them, but I know there is life after the one I'm enjoying now.

Sorry about the epistle, but thanks, Dave

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