

HQ USARV (MIDS)
APO SF 96375
15 Jan 1970

COL RN Dallam
Chief, AG Branch, QPD
Tempo A
2d & T Streets SW
Washington, DC 20315

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 27 November. I am very grateful for the interest and concern you show in taking time to write personally. I have grappled with the letter for two months.

This consideration has been intensified by my preparation of a White House Fellowship application. I think my answer to q. 32 of that application is the best summary I can make of myself. I have learned that my own happiness and fulfillment lie in giving all that I can.

From your letter, I believe you feel that my greatest contribution lies in pursuing a fairly fixed career pattern. In addition, I think you feel your duty to the Army directs that you qualify me to eventually be AG of a division.

The Army will change drastically in the next twenty years, due both to technological and management progress. The change you have experienced since 1940 is only a portent of this. I believe there is not only a place but a need for men of my bent and capability in that Army.

I also believe the best possible preparation I can undergo for meeting the needs of the 1986 Army is to be continually challenged to the limits of my abilities. The Army makes Rangers by pushing candidates to their limit; one grows when he has worked to his limit and begins to expand that limit. With regard to preparation, I have commenced studies in the correspondence career course.

I want to continually make the greatest possible contribution to our country and be pushed to my limit while doing so. I ask for government staff on my next assignment because I think in this way I can best meet this dual objective. I am very anxious to meet you and share with you the specific, poignant experiences that lead me to conclude that the Pentagon general staff is no place for a captain bent on bringing objective reason to bear on a problem and that the resident career course would be less than a rewarding experience.

I am risking nothing. In pursuing this course I am simultaneously fulfilled. The desires outlined to you in other letters embrace my own happiness. My CB work is evidence that the Army and our country would profit from your support of my request.

I am anxious to discuss this with you.

Sincerely,

John P. Welch
CPT, GS