

Peninsula Officer Named SAMSO Head

A veteran officer with more than 20 years in the Air Force, 15 of which have been in Air Force research and development activities, has been named director of the Medium Launch Vehicle Program Office at Air Force Space and Missile Systems Organization (SAMSO) in El Segundo.

Lt. Col. Jack E. Downhill of Palos Verdes Estates is the new head of SAMSO's program office responsible for development of the Thor

space booster, which has earned the title "workhorse of the space age" because of its constant use in supporting U. S. space exploration.

A native of Rochester, N. Y., Colonel Downhill was commissioned a second lieutenant in December, 1942. During World War II he was assigned to the European-North African Theater.

He has attended Sampson College in Geneva, N. Y., Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the Air Force Command and Staff College at Maxwell AFB, Ala. His decorations and awards include the Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, and Presidential Unit Citation.

Colonel Downhill is married to the former Gwendolyn Haigt of Lancaster, Canada.

Pancake Breakfast Planned

Boy Scouts of Troop 242, North Torrance, and their dads met recently to prepare for the 6th annual Scout Benefit Pancake Breakfast scheduled for Saturday morning, Sept. 21.

The Benefit Pancake Breakfast will again be held at the parking lot of Boys Market, corner of Van Ness and Redondo Beach Boulevard, Gardena.

As grand prize, a portable television set will be given away.

Many other valuable prizes will also be given away.

Committeemen of Troop 242 attending the preparation meeting included Dave Meyer, William Nakagawa, Harold Kutzbach, Mike Long, Phillip Bonde, Zane Baughman, Ich Yanagihara, Bob Toft, and Lloyd Sorenson.

Crimes Involving Drugs Top Superior Court Cases

Capitol News Service
SACRAMENTO — Cases involving drugs constituted the major role in felony prosecutions in California courts during 1967, the State Department of Justice indicated today when it released the second portion of a comprehensive statistical report on crime and delinquency in California.

Highlights of the report, prepared under the direction of Attorney General Thomas C. Lynch, director of the Department of Justice, pointed out that almost one out of each four felony defendants disposed of by the courts during 1967 was a drug violator.

THE REPORT also said: "About 78 per cent of the convicted drug offenders received probation and only 11 per cent were sent to prison, chiefly the more seasoned and experienced crim-

inals. Another 11 per cent were sent to jail or to the Department of Youth Authority treatment centers.

Funds for Highway Increased

The improvement of Carson Boulevard between Orick Avenue and the San Diego Freeway should be given the highest priority of any east-west street in the county, according to Supervisor Kenneth Hahn.

Hahn has authorized an additional \$90,000 in county funds for the project to be added to the already-budgeted \$280,000.

The additional allocation will extend the planned improvement from Avalon Boulevard east to the San Diego Freeway and make sure the job can be advertised for bids the first week in August.

The city of Carson is providing half the funds for the complete widening of Carson Street to six lanes throughout this area.

Public Administrator Wins Praise for Work

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn has commended Public Administrator Baldo Kristovich for his "efficiency and economy" in directing his department.

Kristovich, in a report to Hahn, pointed out his office this year operated at a cost to the taxpayers of less than \$300,000, the same as during his first year in office in 1960-61.

This is despite the fact that total expenditures of the office rose from \$470,237 to \$985,000.

"This accomplishment of keeping the cost to the taxpayers at this level has been achieved for six of Kristovich's eight years in office, even though his budget has more than doubled, and his caseload tripled," Hahn said.

Hahn credited the savings

to increased efficiency under Kristovich, changes in the law allowing the public administrator to collect fees, and revised policies regarding extraordinary fees and storage charges.

Functions of the public administrator-public guardian include acting as administrator under court appointment of estates where deceased persons leave no resident heirs, protecting property of deceased persons until estates are settled, and acting as guardian of persons who are patients in county institutions.

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