



MAJOR GENERAL THOMAS F. REW

Retired Oct. 1, 1976.

Major General Thomas F. Rew is commander, 3d Air Division, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. He is responsible for all Strategic Air Command operations in the Western Pacific and Southeast Asia.

General Rew was born in 1922, in New York City and graduated from Brooklyn Technical High School in 1940. He received a bachelor of science degree in education from Springfield College, Mass., in 1950, and graduated from the Squadron Officer Course in 1956, and from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in 1970.

During World War II, General Rew entered the U.S. Army Air Corps in September 1942 and served as an aircraft mechanic. In November 1943 he completed aviation cadet training and was commissioned as a second lieutenant with duty as a B-26 pilot. From March 1944 to February 1946, he was a B-17 and B-29 instructor pilot and aircraft commander. He was relieved from active military duty to attend college.

In May 1951, during the Korean War, General Rew was recalled to active duty with the Air Force and served as a B-29 aircraft commander with the 375th Bombardment Squadron, 308th Bombardment Wing, at Hunter Air Force Base, Ga. In 1953 he completed aircraft observer-bombardier-navigator training and became a B-47 aircraft commander with the 308th Wing.

In September 1957 he was transferred to Altus Air Force Base, Okla., as a B-52 instructor pilot. In 1960 he was assigned to the 4043rd Strategic Wing, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, as a B-52 instructor pilot and aircraft commander. In February 1963 he became chief, Standardization Division, for the 17th Bombardment Wing, and in July 1964 he was named operations officer for the 34th Bombardment Squadron.

General Rew was named commander of the 596th Bombardment Squadron at Dow Air Force Base, Maine, in August 1966, and transferred with the squadron to Barksdale Air Force Base,

La., in July 1968. He later became assistant deputy commander for operations of the 2d Bombardment Wing at Barksdale Air Force Base, and in April 1969 was named deputy commander for operations.

In July 1970 General Rew was transferred to Plattsburgh Air Force Base, N.Y., as deputy commander for operations of the 380th Strategic Aerospace Wing. In June 1971 he became commander, 17th Bombardment Wing at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, and in June 1972 assumed command of the 97th Bombardment Wing at Blytheville Air Force Base, Ark.

General Rew commanded the 72d Bombardment Wing (Provisional) while on temporary duty at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, from October 1972 through March 1973. During this period, he flew two B-52 missions over North Vietnam during Linebacker II, commanding the first wave of Stratofortress sorties over Hanoi on Dec. 18, 1972. He became chief of staff of the 2d Air Force, at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., in April 1973 and later was commander of the 19th Air Division at Carswell Air Force Base, Texas.

In January 1974 he was again assigned as chief of staff of the 2d Air Force. In June 1974 General Rew was selected to command the 45th Air Division at Pease Air Force Base, N.H. He assumed command of the 3d Air Division on Aug. 20, 1975.

He holds command pilot and navigator ratings, and has more than 8,000 flying hours. His military decorations and awards include the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Air Force Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award Ribbon with oak leaf cluster and "V" device, and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with palm.

He was promoted to the grade of major general Feb. 6, 1976, with date of rank June 17, 1973