

# AIR RESERVE ENROLLMENT HAS TRIPLED

Enrollment in Air Force reserve programs has practically tripled in the last year, John I. Lerom, deputy assistant defense secretary for air, said here yesterday.

The sandy haired, young defense official declared that new membership in the Air Force Reserve, the Air National Guard, college air ROTC programs and the Civil Air Patrol has been growing at the rate of 3,200 a month.

**NEAR 320,000.**

The over all reserve force, in training, or ready to take to the skies at a moment's notice in some fifty-one combat and cargo wings, now totals close to 320,000 men, Lerom said.

Lerom, here for today's opening of the Air Force Association convention, attributed the phenomenal growth of the Nation's air reserve force to "the national importance of the armed forces reserve program which President Eisenhower has highlighted by his statements to Congress."

In the last year Air Force reserve training centers have been established in seventy cities. One of these centers, commanded by Col. Sam Moisie, is located at Ft. Miley in San Francisco.

**MODERN PLANES.**

Reserve flying training is carried on at Hamilton Air Force Base under command of Brig. Gen. Harold Little.

At Hamilton, as at flight training fields throughout the country, the reservists utilize up to date jet planes. They train side by side with regular Air Force personnel of the Air Defense Command.

Lerom, who joined the Department of Defense fifteen months ago to head up the reserve program, is a native of Buxton, N. D. He was a pilot in World War II, achieving the rank of colonel.

At 41, Lerom continues to be active in flying, serving as group commander of the 113th Fighter Wing of the Air National Guard at Washington, D. C.