

# The President's Page

THROUGH the medium of the current appropriation bill, the 1st Session of the 81st Congress fixed the aggregate strength of the National Guard at 399,500 by 30 June 1950, and for the maintenance of this force, appropriated \$331,000,000. When the hearings incident to the National Guard items of the Department of Defense appropriations were under way, representatives of the National Guard Association conceded that while \$331,000,000 was generous, it would, nevertheless, not adequately support the strength authorized. Now that eight months of the current fiscal year have passed, it is only too evident that the amount appropriated will not suffice.

In view of the foregoing, it was only natural that the States and the National Guard would scrutinize carefully the Budget estimates for the National Guard for Fiscal 1951 as transmitted to the Congress last January. They found that, notwithstanding the fact that the authorized strength of the National Guard was to remain fixed at 399,500, and that the 1950 appropriations had proven to be inadequate, nevertheless, the Bureau of the Budget had recommended a total of \$17,000,000 less for 1951 than was appropriated for 1950; and, furthermore, no provisions had been made for the erection of new armories and additions to existing armories, and the construction item for the Army National Guard had been reduced by \$1,000,000 and no amount recommended whatsoever for Air National Guard construction notwithstanding the fact that the overall requirements approximated \$30,000,000.

Accordingly, representatives of the Association and the Adjutants General appearing before the Subcommittee of the House Committee on Defense Appropriations on 9 March 1950, submitted strongly supporting data for increases in various items of the National Guard Budget for Fiscal 1951, and specifically as follows:

<i>Army National Guard:</i>	
Armory Construction, new and additions .....	\$35,000,000
Armory Drills, 80% enlisted, 90% Officers .....	3,562,784
Field Training, based on 90% attendance .....	1,385,795
School Program .....	2,000,000
Repairs and Utilities:	
Service Contracts ..	\$1,700,000
Construction .....	5,000,000
Total .....	6,700,000
Administrative Assistants, Project 412 .....	1,600,000
Total Army National Guard .....	\$50,248,579
<i>Air National Guard:</i>	
Construction .....	\$10,466,744
Increased flying time, 110 to 125 hours .....	3,679,831
Air Technicians, 5,814 to 7,143 ..	4,500,000
Total for Air National Guard .....	18,646,575
Total for Army and Air National Guard .....	\$68,646,154

In support of the Armory Construction Program, the N.G.A. and Adjutants General Association representatives pointed out that the States were utilizing 1,969 armories classified as follows:

State-owned .....	956
State-leased .....	480
State-rented .....	533

On 1 July 1948, the States had reported that 370 of these armories were in need of and capable of expansion, and that organization of additional units would bring the total requiring expansion up to 500. Approximately 469 of the armories would have to be replaced for various reasons, such as temporary occupation, poor construction, or being inadequate and unexpandable. Approximately 1,000 will continue to be utilized in their present form. It is estimated that 3,000 armories will be required to adequately house the National Guard of which 1,000 are now adequate; 500 require extensive alterations and additions, leaving 1,500 to be built in a future armory construction program of which 1,000 are required immediately. As stated by the Chief, National Guard Bureau, before the Senate Armed Services Committee on 23 March 1949, such a program would house approximately 1,400 units in single-unit armories, and some 200 units in two-unit structures.

Based on the foregoing, the N.G.A. has developed an Armory Construction Program substantially as follows:

Alterations and Additions to 500 armories at \$40,000 each .....	\$ 20,000,000
1,000 new armories at \$278,000 each .....	278,000,000
Minimum equipment, 1,000 armories at \$10,000 each .....	10,000,000
Total .....	\$308,000,000

Assuming that the Congress enacts an armory construction measure at this session based on a formula of the Federal Government contributing 75% and the States 25% of the cost for new construction and equipment, the Federal Government would contribute approximately \$231,000,000 and the States \$77,000,000. Cognizance should be taken of the fact that since the cessation of hostilities incident to World War II, 38 States have expended \$35,982,818 on new armory construction or additions and alterations to existing structures. As of 23 February 1950, 29 States have available \$38,747,013 for new armory construction which can be used to match any Federal amounts made available. It will be noted that the two Associations have recommended that \$35,000,000 be made available for armory construction for fiscal 1951, and every effort will be made to obtain this sum.

*E. Walsh*

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Dear Guardsmen;

Well, it was kind of nice to get away from the Washington scene for a while, but it's tough to try to catch up with two weeks' accumulation of mail, with a deadline looming ever larger.

The Editorial Staff—100% of it—took off simultaneously last month. Ed Hogan found himself wearing a great big badge identifying him as a guest of Defense Secretary Johnson (along with about 700 other guys) to observe Operation PORTREX at Vieques Island, off Puerto Rico. Had a grand time, saw a fine show of Army-Air Force-Navy teamwork, came back with a good story.

Al Crist had a chance to become reacquainted with the Armored Force, his first and lasting love, by taking the 15-day Armored Cavalry Orientation Course at Fort Knox. It was a sort of busman's holiday, for while there, he turned out a piece on the new field training inspection report (it got crowded out of this issue), made some contacts that may develop future articles on the Armored branch and, of course, wrote a story about the "quickie" course.

Even if they'd stayed away another couple of weeks, we could have put out the April issue without a bit of trouble, for we find ourselves once more with about 64 pages of copy for a 32-page magazine. Oh well, the Composing Room will find some place to keep the overset until we can use it.

It's reassuring to learn from various sources that THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN is of concrete service to others. For instance, Lt. Sid Stein, writing in "The Arizona Guardsman," passes the word that Co. E of the 158th Inf. was quick to pick up the idea gleaned from "Food for Thought" in our January issue, and is having its kitchen mechanics serve chow once a month, "as long as the dough holds out."

In the "Wisconsin National Guard Review," we read that units of the 121st F.A. Bn., taking a tip from Florida outfits ("Pooled Personnel," November, 1949) have put all unit Administrative Assistants in one Personnel Office.

A clipping from the Torrington, Conn., "Register," advises that at a meeting of the local National Guard Auxiliary, "Several interesting articles on the activities of other auxiliaries, taken from THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN, were read by Mrs. Lois West, Secretary."

And the Information Bulletin of New York's 71st Inf. lets us know that if we drop in at Joe Graziano's barbershop at 130 E. 34th St., just around the corner from the Armory, we can read THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN while waiting for our haircut. Mr. Graziano is a veteran of the 71st's Co. B.

*The Staff*

### OUR COVER

Out in the vast reaches of the Pacific Ocean lie the Hawaiian Islands; to many, a romantic vacation land; to others, a strategic outpost guarding our Western sea frontier. The Hawaii National Guard, as a feature article in this issue recounts, occupies that outpost. In the cover picture from the U. S. Army we show Co. D, 289th RCT, at Central Range, Schofield Barracks, Honolulu.

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