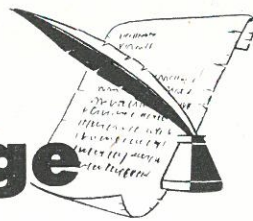


# The President's Page



## UMT&S VS. STRENGTH OF THE NATIONAL GUARD

WHEN the House of Representatives gave the kiss of death to the National Security Training Corps Act during the evening of 4 March on a vote to recommit the measure to its Armed Services Committee by a margin of 236-164, the fate of universal military training and service was sealed for this session of the Congress and, probably, for some time to come.

Year in and year out, the National Guard Association, together with the other major Reserve and veterans' groups, has supported the principle of UMT&S on the grounds that military service to the Nation was an attribute of citizenship and that the obligation of service should be borne alike by all and without reservation or exemption. In any sound system of UMT&S that might be established, the principal concern of the National Guard was with the proposition that provision be made for the maintenance of the strength of Army and Air National Guard units, as prescribed by the Congress, and thus ensure a continuation of the National Guard system as now constituted.

It would be unrealistic to ignore the fact that whatever UMT&S Act was presented would not, of necessity, be satisfactory in toto to those who supported the principle of the universality of training. During the months of January and February when UMT&S Bills were being considered by the Armed Services Committees of both Houses, the National Guard Association, speaking for the Army and Air National Guard, was not satisfied with the bills in their entirety, and insisted that provision be made for the maintenance of the strength of the National Guard. The Association recommended that this could be accomplished in two ways, firstly, by providing an inducement for Trainees of the National Security Training Corps to enlist in the National Guard or a unit of an organized reserve for a period of three years, and secondly, by providing that once an individual enlisted in the National Guard or a unit of an organized reserve before reaching the age 26 and prior to notification of an induction physical examination, he be exempt from induction by Selective Service so long as he continued to serve satisfactorily therein.

The first-mentioned proposal was opposed by the Reserve Officers' Association and the Veterans of Foreign Wars on the ground that it would kill the Standby Reserve. The National Guard Association contended that if UMT&S was in full operation, the product would be so great that the limited numbers required for organized units would not adversely effect the Standby Reserve. Nevertheless, the National Guard Association offered an alternate proposal, namely, that the enlistment period for Trainees going into organized units be reduced to two years or even 18 months, followed by a comparable period of service in the Standby Reserve, and then discharge from any further service obligation.

As a long-range program, the National Guard Association recommended that the Congress consider the matter of inductions by Selective Service into the National Guard of the several States, Territories and the District of Columbia, based on the power of Congress to do so. In support of this proposal, the National Guard Association filed a voluminous brief but made it clear that it did not expect action by the 82nd Congress.

Neither of the bills reported by the Armed Services Committees contained the proposals recommended by the National Guard Association and supported by the American Legion, but the Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee did agree that these proposals would be considered in connection with the Armed Forces Reserve Act. The action of the House in connection with UMT&S, naturally, voids these proposals as UMT&S is out for this session of Congress, at least.

As the National Guard Association sees it, the principal concern of the National Guard is the maintenance of the strength prescribed for it by the Congress, and to that end it will submit amendments in connection with the Armed Forces Reserve Act to accomplish this purpose. The first approach will be to offer some inducement to the product of Selective Service after the 24 months' service has been completed, whereby they can enlist in the Army or Air National Guard or a unit of an organized reserve for a period of two years and thus discharge all further service obligation. The second proposal will involve striking from Public Law 51, the date of 1 Feb. 1951, and inserting in lieu thereof the effective date of the Armed Forces Reserve Act. This will, in effect, restore the status quo of the Selective Service Act of 1948 before it was amended.

Careful consideration should, now, be given to the fact that the Proclamation of a Governor of a State relative to a unit under strength still has full power and effect, provided an individual enlists prior to reaching the age of 18½ years. Since UMT&S has been rejected by the House, an adverse administrative determination to the effect that ample manpower is available within a State cannot now be made. At this writing, notice is awaited of the commencement of hearings on the Armed Forces Reserve Act by the Senate Armed Services Committee, at which time the National Guard Association will be prepared to submit a formal statement relative thereto and submit amendments which will accomplish our aims with reference to the maintenance of the strength of the Army and Air National Guard.

*E. Walsh*



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### dear guardsmen:

During the course of the past five years, we've thrown in frequent reminders that THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN lends itself beautifully to use as a recruiting "tool." Evidence that it registered with at least one outfit comes in a letter from 1st Lt. Fred Anderson, CO of Hq. & Hq. Co., 1st Bn., 128 Inf. This Hudson, Wis., outfit held an open house, had visitors observe various sections at their normal functions, served them lunch (prepared by the Mess Section) and gave each visitor a copy of THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN. Result: 20 recruits. We won't try to grab all the credit, but Lieutenant Anderson wrote: "This unit is an ardent subscriber of THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN and found it was a great help in recruiting new men."

For nigh onto five years, one of the meanest chores for our Circulation staff has been that of hand-punching expiration dates in the address stencils. Each stencil is bound in a tough cardboard frame. Two holes have to be punched in the frame, to show the year and the month in which your subscription expires. When the stencils are run through the addressing machine, those that expire that month drop into one hopper, the rest feed on through into another.

All these years, the girls have had to wield hand punches. It takes no Sandow to punch a stencil, but after a few hundred—you hand's ready to drop off.

So we bowed to the girls' entreaties, scanned the budget, bought us a fine, new, motor-driven machine. It's marvelous: you feed in a hopper full of stencils, turn on the switch, press a plunger into the right hole in a mental template—tailor-made to meet our special requirements—a pantagraph arm reaches out and, in due course, the stencil is properly punched. The only trouble is, the damn thing don't work. There's gotta be another adjustment made.

Once it gets to working right, we know the girls will be delighted to have you come in and see the mechanical marvel.

THE STAFF

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### our cover

Army photographers seem to have a knack for catching the self-propelled 155 "Long Toms" of Arkansas' 937th FA Bn in spectacular action shots. The locale—Korea—is the same, but the snow-covered ground provides a marked contrast with conditions on another occasion (THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN, June 1951).

