



JAMES F. CANTWELL  
President  
National Guard Association  
of the United States

## Recognition from the Top

FROM the time the President decided to commit sizeable combat forces to Southeast Asia, nearly two years ago, the National Guard and other Reserve Components have assumed a more important place in National defense than ever before. We have become, in fact if not always in name, a major segment of the Nation's strategic reserve.

Such a mission is not easy to dramatize, and thus it has not been easy to convey a sense of its real importance to the American public—nor even, in some cases, to Guardsmen themselves.

That the highest officials in the Department of Defense likewise are aware of the lack of understanding and of its potentially serious consequence is evidenced by a recent memorandum from Cyrus Vance, Deputy Secretary of Defense. It defines the mission of the Reserve Forces in relation to the conflict in Southeast Asia and extends recognition to citizen-soldiers and airmen for the important contribution they are making to National security.

I am delighted, therefore, to reproduce Mr. Vance's memorandum in its entirety below, and hope that Guardsmen at every level will draw from it a renewed understanding of the key role assigned to them and their units.

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON

1 Mar 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR Secretaries of the Military Departments  
SUBJECT: The Reserve Components of the Armed Forces

I have been keenly aware for several years of the vital part played by the Nation's Reserve Forces in our national security. Now that large segments of our active forces are deployed overseas, the Reserve Forces serve a vitally important role in national defense. They shall always be needed as an integral part of our military posture. Despite the fact that we have deployed nearly a half million men of our active forces to Southeast Asia, our capability for meeting treaty commitments and reacting to other contingencies elsewhere in the world has not been diminished. This is primarily because we have retained our Reserve Forces as a ready force in being and have increased their strength and readiness to respond promptly when and where needed.

The size and capability of our Reserve Forces are powerful factors in:

- (1) Reflecting the determination of the United States to remain militarily strong in order to fulfill our political and military commitments;
- (2) Deterring political and military actions by foreign nations which would be inimical to United States' national interests; and
- (3) Providing a credible military foundation for United States' political and diplomatic actions in international affairs toward the attainment of United States' national objectives.

I continue to note with great pride and satisfaction the increasing role and the important contributions which the Ready Reserve units make in supporting and assisting the active forces.

The activities of the Ready Reserve units reflect the dedication and selfless devotion to duty of our reservists and clearly demonstrate the capability of those reservists to perform mobilization missions assigned them.

Please convey to the men of the Ready Reserve my recognition of the job they are so ably doing.

*Cyrus Vance*  
DEPUTY



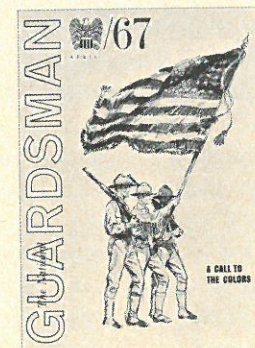
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Spirit of 1917 is captured by cover drawing, based on photo, as the 50th anniversary of Declaration of War against Germany approaches.

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