

AS WE SEE IT

"The Guard is still the principal source of tactical units for immediate reinforcement of the Active Army and Air Force."

Our "Guest Editor," in effect, this month, is GEN BRUCE CLARKE, Commanding General, Continental Army Command. His observations here are his adaption of a well-received address to the 80th General Conference of the National Guard Assn of the US, Atlantic City, NJ, 29 Sep 1958.



COMBAT-READINESS

COMBAT-READINESS is a relative status. Broadly speaking, it is related to three main factors: The intentions and capabilities of potential enemies; the conditions of warfare imposed by scientific progress; the military role assigned by defense plans.

So related, the combat-readiness of the National Guard today is a matter of utmost urgency to our Nation's security.

The announced intention of our potential enemies is World conquest. Their military capabilities for carrying out this intention are the strongest of any aggressor in history.

The conditions of warfare imposed by scientific progress have changed more drastically this decade than during any previous century.

Since the Korean conflict, the casualty radius of the most powerful tactical shell has gone from yardage to mileage. Just since 1956, the maximum range of heavy artillery has advanced from 20 to 200 miles or more!

Both strategically and tactically, the impact has been revolutionary. Everywhere, modern technology has sliced our protective cushion of time and space wafer-thin.

No longer do broad oceans and strong allies provide years to mobilize and train our forces in wartime. The military shield of the Free World will need immediate reinforcement if attacked. This need cannot be met by units that require prolonged periods of training after M-Day.

Never again will the pace of battle permit the gradual seasoning of units under fire. Committing a unit before it has all of the team skills to cope with atomic blows would invite disaster. In the future a unit must be combat-ready for the enemy's best or it is not deployable.

Only the vital role of the National Guard in National defense has remained constant. The Guard is still the principal source of tactical units for immediate reinforcement of the Active Army and Air Force. But

era poses the gravest challenge the Guard has ever faced.

What does this challenge mean to Army units in terms of training?

Fundamentally, it means attaining the degrees of readiness that will permit combat deployment of Guard units according to the mobilization schedule. This schedule is established by war plans timed to the pace and possibilities of modern warfare. Compared with previous mobilization schedules, its timing is greatly foreshortened. So must be the process for meeting it.

The process involves these five concurrent steps:

STEP ONE—Maintain every unit at maximum authorized peacetime strength with trained personnel.

STEP TWO—Develop the plans and ability to absorb fillers and mold them into full-strength teams with minimum delay. It is not enough that peacetime personnel know their own jobs. They must know how to teach others quickly.

Training for the purpose must be *habitual*. This applies to all ranks—especially the noncommissioned officers. They must be able to assume much more responsibility on M-Day. Men who can't develop this ability should be weeded-out now.

STEP THREE—Prepare to utilize full equipment concurrently with full-strength personnel augmentation. This involves a new approach to the problem of individual care and maintenance of equipment.

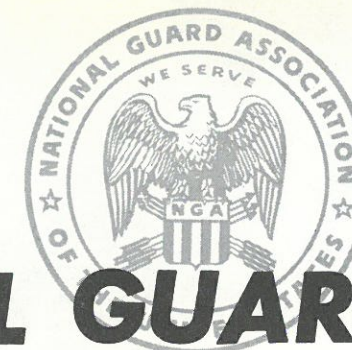
Present procedures are pitched toward maintenance by a few experts rather than by the organizational maintenance necessary in extended field use. Maintenance is everyone's business—not just that of a few civilian employees!

STEP FOUR—Train commanders and staffs at schools, by extension courses, during Armory training periods, and by CPXs, to employ full-strength units tactically and logistically. Considerable progress already has been made in doing this.

STEP FIVE—Advance tactical training and the



"When I visited many Guard camps late this Summer, I was highly encouraged by the progress in over-all proficiency that I observed." (Gen Clarke with Brig Gen George Trousdale, 39 Inf Div).



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AS WE SEE IT	INSIDE FRONT COVER
A REBIRTH OF THE MINUTE MAN	2
DEFENSE—OR DAYDREAMS?	6
WASHINGTON REPORT	10
GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD	12
PENTAGON PARAGRAPHS	16
TECHNICAL AND TACTICAL	17
GUARD TEAM WINS ROCKET MEET	18
THERE'S NO CEILING ON IMAGINATION	20
FOs, SMOs GET BUREAU PLAQUES	23
POSTING THE GUARD	24
SOUND OFF	32

DEAR GUARDSMEN: Reminiscing with some other "old soldiers" about the good, old days, we recalled our dependence on the familiar atmosphere of our own "outfit," and the absolute awe in which we held any echelon higher than Regt. Div Hq, to us, was a military "Silk Stocking Row."

But the years passed and "higher Hq" became, successively, Div, Corps, Army, etc, and now we frequently tread the halls of the Pentagon, the holy of holies, in search of information for Guardsmen. There's little awe anymore, but more curiosity—a desire to turn in to some office with an involved name and ask: "Just what do you do?"

Imagine the strange fields into which you might stray were you to ask that question of the Director, National Indications Center—or the Army Packaging Board. Or try to envision the confusion into which you'd throw the Chief of Ordnance were you to try to pin down the difference between the Competitive Civilian Awards Committee, the Incentive Awards Committee, and the Incentive Awards Review Committee, and their relationship to Pvt Joe Blow, Rifleman. We also have a ghoully urge to turn in someday at the Eligibility and Inscription Section, Headstone Branch, Memorial Division, Office of The QMG, and ask: "Well, what's new?"

But however often we walk past the door of the Army Chief of Staff, we always reach up to button our coat and straighten our tie. It's an automatic gesture which still links us to "the troops" and a day 17 years ago when, on one of our rare and involuntary trips to Div Hq, we were hauled up in the hall by the CG himself and instructed in no uncertain terms to "Button that overcoat, soldier!"

WDMcG

OUR COVER: Artist Lou Nolan has captured the feel of what *could* happen here: an aggressor force, flown in huge jet transports on the heels of a stunning missile attack, seizing an airhead for the main occupation force. It ties-in with a theme of Garrett Underhill's series of articles on the revolution in air transportation.

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