

1964 —
Year of
Achievement



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

AS the holiday season approaches and with it, the end of another year, I want to express to every Guardsman my thanks and those of the other Association Officers for the individual and collective effort that has made 1964 a year of solid accomplishment for the Guard.

By your exertions, mental and physical, you have established the Guard, more firmly than ever before, as a forward-thinking, forward-moving organization that deserves its place as America's first-ranking Reserve Force.

Since most Guardsmen are far too busy meeting the demands placed on them, individually, to see in full perspective the overall results of their collective endeavors, a review of these 12 months may be in order.

The U.S. Strike Command's Exercise DESERT STRIKE saw some 11,500 Army and Air National Guardsmen take part for the first time in many years, in a maneuver of such vast scope—and their performance drew little but praise from Gen Paul L. Adams and others.

GUARDLIFT I found Army Guardsmen ferried to such faraway regions as Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico by Air Guardsmen in their growing fleet of global transports, to gain the multiple training benefits thus made available to them by airlift.

Exercise READY GO took jet Squadrons from Alabama and the District of Columbia non-stop to Germany for a sizeable share of their annual field training, with their deployment supported by transports and flying tankers from Air Guard elements in several other States. A fleet of fighters from Colorado, Iowa, Kansas and New Mexico flew non-stop to Alaska to play an important role in the Army-Air Force Exercise DIAMOND LIL XIV/DENALI EAGLE.

These are only the most spectacular from a lengthy list of impressive training feats. All across the nation, National Guardsmen were experimenting with new techniques (off-season training in 50-below Alaska, for example), trying new approaches to old techniques (week-end training for the Army Guard as well as for the Air, in place of the traditional evening drills), and developing entirely new concepts (officer training for students in colleges without ROTC). Each of these will add its share to the Guard's unparalleled level of operational-readiness.

In all this, the most significant element is not any single achievement, but the spirit and vitality which collectively such accomplishments represent.

They tell our mentors in the Active Military Establishment, our legislators on Capitol Hill, and our fellow-citizens, that the Guard is dynamic, positive; unwilling to settle for obsolescence and mediocrity when it has within itself the brainpower and the dedication to produce modernity and excellence. These feats speak of high purpose, and of pride, as well as of professional competence. They speak of all qualities of the spirit that constitute the fiber of a great military organization.

Not the least of the many factors which helped solidify this highly-favorable image of the Guard was the study conducted by the NGAUS' own Special Committee on Roles and Missions, under the chairmanship of Major General Frederick A. Daugherty of Oklahoma. With full support from the Department of the Army and the National Guard Bureau, the Committee dug deeply into the Army's requirements for the decade ahead, and produced a plan for utilizing the Army Guard's capabilities to the best advantage.

The significance of this plan, and of the study from whence it grew, is that it was developed by *Guardsmen*, for the Guard, with the full backing of the Department of Defense and of the Army. It has given the Guard a voice in its own future as initiators and planners, and as trusted associates on the defense team.

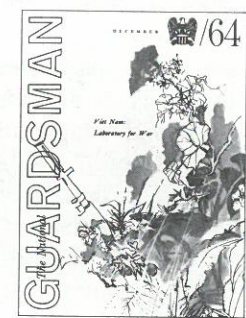
This has been a hectic and crowded year for the Guard, and one whose effects may be felt by Guardsmen years hence. The goals we achieved, the new and greater stature we attained among our military peers, were products of the loyalty and devotion and hard labor of each Guardsman. In that, each one of you can take pride.

Merry Christmas to all of you, and to all, the happiest of New Years.



The National GUARDSMAN

CONTENTS



The professional soldier in Viet Nam is both student and teacher in a school of unconventional warfare.

December XVIII 12

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE INSIDE FRONT COVER

VIET NAM: LABORATORY FOR WAR 2
Out of the rice paddies and jungles, the Army is developing new tactics and new gear with which to fight a "different" kind of war.

THE TERRIERS 8
Britain's counterpart of our National Guard, centuries in the making, shows full vigor today. (Another in a series on Reserve Forces of other nations.)

MODERN MAGELLANS MAP THE WORLD 14
In lonely, isolated ends of the World, skilled airmen with modern techniques erase ancient mapping errors.

AIR GUARD WINS THE BIG "A" 21
Crack Maine Group captures Air Defense Command's hardest-to-earn award.

"TALES OF A SIX-BY" 22

GUARDSMAN ON ARMY TEAM AGAIN BESTS RUSSIAN MARKSMEN 28

AIR GUARDSMEN TRACK SATELLITES FOR USAF 32

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