

# The President's Page

"OPERATION CIRCULATION"

RECENT pronouncements of the Secretary of Defense clearly indicate that the National Defense Establishment is determined to go ahead with its efforts to destroy the National Guard. In his press conference concerning the recommendations which he had made to the President of the United States, Secretary Forrestal outlined certain proposals which would divide and conquer the National Guard. Complete Federalization of the Air Guard was listed as the first major step. It was stated further that the National Defense Establishment would not seek Federalization of the ground elements "at this particular time."

However, couched in misleading rhetoric, their plans for usurping control of the ground elements of the National Guard were readily apparent.

THE gravity of the situation confronting the Guard at this time needs no further amplification. Federalization of the Air Guard is to be pushed openly while complete Federal control of the ground elements is to be sought more subtly through a series of moves for greater control. The overall effect is exactly the same as if the Gray Board proposals were followed to the letter.

THE position of the National Guard in opposition to such proposals has been a matter of public record for many years. We shall continue, as we have done in the past, to support any move that will improve the Civilian Components and that will contribute to the strengthening of our National Defense. Federalization of the National Guard cannot be construed as accomplishing either of these objectives. Consequently, we shall actively oppose any and all measures designed to vest complete control of the Civilian Components in the Regular Establishment.

WHILE our opponents have been massing their strength to seek our destruction, we have not been idle. We can boast the strongest and most virile National Guard in our Nation's history. We have not contented ourselves with mere planning measures but have been out getting the job done. In not one instance have we failed to accomplish the missions assigned to us by the Military Establishment and, for the most part, we have gone far beyond the objectives set for us. However, we cannot rest on past accomplishments. We must face the issues confronting us squarely and defeat them soundly.

AS IN the past, the National Guard Association must spearhead this offensive. The Association, in turn, must have the full and complete support of all Guardsmen, if we are to be successful. There still are some Guard officers who have not yet joined the Association. While memberships are coming in daily, the time has come now to accelerate greatly our membership cam-

paign and to close this diminishing gap in our ranks. It will be up to the current members of the Association to assist in promoting Association membership among those officers who have not yet joined. Further, we should endeavor to interest former and inactive Guardsmen in becoming members of the Association.

IT IS even more necessary that all members of the National Guard be kept fully informed on the trend of these events and the action which is being taken to counteract them. The Association is fortunate to have a national medium for disseminating this information in our official publication, THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN. This magazine gives us an integrated, nation-wide spokesman for the Guard. Further, it provides us with an articulate voice to combat the flood of propaganda emanating from those who seek to destroy us. It is the ideal means of keeping Guardsmen informed on the vital issues confronting us.

IF WE are to derive the maximum benefit from the existence of this magazine, immediate steps must be taken to widen its circulation. Association members purchase subscriptions to the magazine as part of their dues; however, we must provide a greater opportunity for our enlisted personnel to read THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN regularly. The pattern for increasing the enlisted readership has been established already through the use of unit subscriptions. At this time, more than 60% of the units in the National Guard are subscribing to the magazine for their men in quantities averaging approximately 15 copies per unit. Therefore, we must not only act now to establish subscriptions for those units not yet subscribing, but we must endeavor to increase the number of copies going to units which already subscribe. To a large extent, we must call upon members of the Association to assist in this circulation drive. However, the staff of the magazine is taking active steps now to promote a wider circulation among the units of the Guard. An intensive promotion program, designated as "OPERATION CIRCULATION", has been undertaken. The purpose of this program is to inform all levels of Guard personnel of the aims and objective of the magazine and to suggest possible methods of establishing unit subscriptions. Full support of "OPERATION CIRCULATION" by members of the Association will insure its success.

NEVER before in our history have we been confronted with a more serious effort to destroy the National Guard. We have defeated such efforts in the past and we shall do it again. However, we cannot underestimate the caliber of our opposition and adopt a purely defensive attitude. This situation calls for immediate and aggressive action, which will be taken. The Association's offensive power will be measured by the support which you, as individual Guardsmen, are prepared to give it.

*E. Walsh*

## THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN



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### OUR COVER

Article I, Section 8, Clause 16 of the Constitution of the United States is the "Militia Clause." It is the legal foundation on which rests the National Guard—the kind of militia George Washington urged be the mainstay of our security. In this month marked by Washington's birth date, at a time when another desperate attempt is being made to destroy the National Guard, we believe our cover will remind all of Washington's and the Constitution's faith in the National Guard system.

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## Dear Guardsmen:

Just had another letter from our good Regular Army friend and frequent contributor, Lt. Col. R. C. Williams, Jr., who has thrown himself so completely into his duties as Instructor for Hawaii's 299th RCT that he's practically an item of organizational equipment. He writes:

"The stuff which you printed on the new training program was a godsend to this outfit. Being 'at the end of the line,' so to speak, we used Colonel Martin's article and the other articles in getting the program rolling. We were in high gear before the official distribution arrived in Hilo."

As those who attended the 3-Year Training Plan conference at St. Louis last Fall know, Colonel Martin's NATIONAL GUARDSMAN article was virtually an official text on the subject.

One of the principal reasons for our existence is to "put out the poop" on instructional and administrative matters in a language and style which, we believe, is a lot easier to "take" than the official jargon of circulars, regulations, etc. We've been told, too, that we're telling the troops what's up, long before the official publications filter down through normal military distribution channels.

Such things as Major Bill Gordon's series on the new T/O, and Pentagon Paragraphs, are intended to help harried instructors and administrators; and smart unit commanders find that men who have access to our growing magazine are learning a lot of things they don't have time to learn on drill night. That's one of the reasons we've launched "OPERATION CIRCULATION"—to stimulate subscriptions to the point where every Guardsman is getting a copy of the magazine to read at his leisure.

Blunt in his remarks, Maj. Gen. James E. Edmonds rang the gong clear across the Nation with his two-part article, "It's Up to Congress," which we printed in December and January. For the information of those who may have missed it (and we suggest you go back and read it), General Edmonds authoritatively backgrounded the reasons for long-standing distrust of the "down-with-the-Guard" clique in the RA.

Anyway, wire services and Washington correspondents, and radio commentators, picked up the piece and went to town with the story. General Edmonds says he's had "letters and clippings from Texas to Massachusetts, from friends and acquaintances . . . none as yet from any Regular!"

And it's interesting to note that a 1941 Army survey into causes of widespread low morale showed that "one reassuring exception to this depressing picture of an unformed Army" was provided by Camp Lee, Va., which General Edmonds then commanded. Arthur Hays Sulzberger, President and Publisher of the New York Times, told about it at an address at the Army Information School a little more than a year ago. Guardsmen maintain that citizen-soldier experience gives them a better understanding of human nature and a better working knowledge of how to deal with their men, than most Regulars ever achieve; and that seems to be pretty well borne-out by Mr. Sulzberger's comments. He said: "I think it's significant that one of the many measures which General Edmonds successfully adopted in maintaining a high level of morale was a policy of explaining international issues to the men."

*The Staff*

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