

# The President's Page

A Condensation of the National Guard Association's Formal Presentation to the Brooks Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee, on Problems of the Civilian Components.

IT IS timely that there has been brought into being by the House of Representatives a Special Committee to deal with matters pertaining to the Reserve Components, for there has been much doubt in the minds of the personnel of the National Guard, and certainly by a substantial segment of the people, as to just what is the mission of the National Guard and of the other Reserve Components, and to what extent and in what manner they are to be utilized. As a result of the establishment of this Committee and the hearings now in progress, the representatives of the National Guard will be able to tell a story which will thoroughly acquaint this Committee, the Congress and the American people of the composition, organizational and training status of the Army and Air National Guard of the United States, its readiness and willingness for service pursuant to the will of Congress or of the President, and the problems which it is encountering. It is unfortunate, but nonetheless true, that the States and the personnel of the National Guard are confused in their thinking, and it is equally unfortunate that much of this confused thinking is traceable to individuals expressing opinions relative to the mission and effectiveness of the Reserve Components when the very nature of their writings disclose a scant knowledge of these Components and their missions.

In the Selective Service Act of 1948 the Congress declared:

"The Congress further declares, in accordance with our traditional military policy as expressed in the National Defense Act of 1916, as amended, that it is essential that the strength and organization of the National Guard, both Ground and Air, as an integral part of the first line of defense of this Nation, be at all times maintained and assured. To this end, it is the intent of Congress that whenever Congress shall determine that units and organizations are needed for the national security in excess of those of the Regular components of the Ground Forces and the Air Force and those in active service under this title, the National Guard of the United States, both Ground and Air, or such parts thereof as may be necessary, together with such units of the Reserve Components as are necessary for a balanced force shall be ordered to active Federal service and continued therein so long as such necessity exists."

The foregoing Congressional Statement of Policy has, however, been nullified for a period of one year by the enactment of Section 21 of Public Law 599, 81st Congress. This Section provides:

"Sec. 21. Until July 9, 1951, and subject to the limitations imposed by Section 2 of the Selective

Service Act of 1948, as amended, the President shall be authorized to order into the active military or naval service of the United States for a period of not to exceed twenty-one consecutive months, with or without their consent, any or all members and units of any or all Reserve Components of the Armed Forces of the United States and retired personnel of the Regular Armed Forces."

It would appear that the foregoing provision was presented to the Congress at a time when the situation in Korea was extremely critical, and practically no time elapsed between the presentation and the enactment thereof, and as a result it was adopted hurriedly and under duress of the times. Representatives of the States and the National Guard Association were not afforded an opportunity to be heard. Had that opportunity been afforded, they would have pointed out to the Armed Services Committees that if this provision was enacted into law and was implemented, the National Guard and the Class "A" units of the Organized Reserve would, in short order, cease to exist for the reason that they could be inducted into the active military service of the United States as individuals and not as units. Since the Selective Service Act will expire on July 9, it is presumed that it will have to be extended and probably amended in other particulars. In that connection, the National Guard Association recommends to this Committee that if Section 21 is retained, it be amended to conform to the Congressional Statement of Policy.

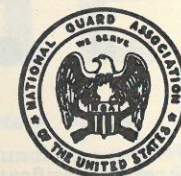
The attention of this Committee is invited to the fact that under the Selective Service Act there are three categories of exemptions authorized for the National Guard as follows:

1. Those who served in the Armed Forces for a period in excess of 90 days between Sept. 16, 1940, and Sept. 2, 1945.
2. Persons who, on the effective date of the title, were members of the Federally recognized National Guard.
3. Those who enlisted in the National Guard prior to reaching the age of 18 years and 6 months, based on a proclamation issued by the Governor of the State concerned in order to maintain the authorized strength thereof and subject to satisfactory service therein.

Efforts were made during the time the hearings incident to the proposed Selective Service Act were underway to deny these exemptions to the National Guard, but the Congress held with the representations made by the National Guard Association and with the Congressional Statement of Policy, and

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FEBRUARY, 1951

Dear Guardsmen;

Sometimes, it works out that even a monthly magazine can be timely with its copy, and that's all to the good. For example, Bill Ragan's piece last month, entitled "But Sam Is No Santa," already has proven helpful (we're told) to quite a number of Guardsmen. Unit COs and Personnel Officers have been using it as the basis for their "personal affairs" briefing of officers and men during the "alert" period prior to official entry into the active military service of the U.S.

Captain Frederick H. Black's series, "These Are Your Weapons," while obviously not intended to serve as text for assembly, disassembly and functioning (the FMs take care of that quite adequately) is whetting the interest of Guardsmen, in and out of the Service, in the various tools of their trade. There's more to come, by the way.

This month, we have "M-Day . . . The Reality," a compilation of reports from two divisions and one RCT, recounting the problems they ran into during their mobilization, and the early days of their active duty training. Out of what they have found, and passed on, others may be able to avoid some headaches.

There have been times when we thought the sources of "Pentagon Paragraphs" were drying-up, but the Pentagon must have put on an extra shift of regulation-writers, for we're hard-put to keep up with the flow. While we're not trying to give exhaustive reports on the contents of all the new ARs, SRs, ARFs, etc., we're told frequently that we are getting "the word" to the units long before (in many cases) the regs themselves find their way down through the distribution system.

There's one thing we can't tell you though: when you're going to be mobilized!!

The Staff

#### ON THE COVER

A Colonel of the Regular Army, who started in the National Guard and who since has retired, gave us this picture many months ago. Occasionally discouraged and depressed by many problems and difficulties in a working day that had stretched into the late hours of the night, he made it a practice to choose a longer route homeward but one that pointed the radiator ornament on his car toward the spotlighted, gleaming white dome of the Capitol. "It always gives a 'lift'; makes me feel that, after all, there is something bigger than any one of us, that's worth fighting for," he explained. And, especially in this period of stress and worry, we heartily agree.

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