

AS WE SEE IT . . .



## A FATEFUL NEW YEAR

UNIVERSALLY, the onset of a new calendar year traditionally occasions a pause for reflection and conjecture as to what lies ahead for individuals, for institutions, and for nations.

As this is written, it appears perhaps more significantly so, insofar as the Armed Services as a whole, and the Army National Guard and Air National Guard, are concerned.

Ever since the first V1 dropped on England, and the first A-bomb dropped on Japan, we have been aware of the fact that a new revolution in methods of warfare was starting. The dust of that revolution now is settling, and we can begin to perceive the actual shape and substance of the military forces that were conceived in the closing months of World War II.

We can see actual troop formations in the Regular Services, Army and Air, patterned and armed to use the new missiles, weapons, tactics and systems. We think we can begin to see an ironic evolution of our air forces, wherein the great majority of the men in blue never will leave the ground to fire intercontinental ballistic missiles, and the wild blue yonder will be the realm only of troop carrier and aerial supply forces. As for the Army, already, in special-type units, we see conventional artillery laid aside in favor of recoilless weapons, rockets, and guided missiles.

The impact of change even now is felt to some degree in the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard. It promises to become more pronounced in the not-too-distant future.

Even while the transition from piston-engined to jet aircraft in the ANG remains incomplete, thoughtful men are getting down to cases as to

just what kinds of roles and missions properly can be assigned to and executed by the Air Reserve Forces in light of technological developments.

Comparably, on the brown-suit side, the nearness of sweeping organizational change is measured by the current slow-down on activation of new units, in order to minimize the extent of major conversions when the new pattern is cut.

While people are wondering just what's going to come out of all this, it is wise to keep in mind the famous saying: "The more things change, the more they are the same."

A half-century ago, much emphasis was being placed on the fact that the Coast Artillery was an ideal branch of service for the National Guard. The small RA couldn't man all the coastal defenses that had guns waiting in caretaker status; citizen-soldiers of the Guard, living nearby, were assigned to serve them upon mobilization. Today, that same principle is being applied to an increased degree by the Guard's AA and Fighter-Interceptor units in their "on-site" and "runway alert" programs, and in Hawaii's manning of an operational aircraft control and warning post. Tomorrow, what will it be?

Weapons, equipment, tactics, techniques, constantly change, and they will continue to change; Man doesn't.

Whether we belong to the Umpty-Umpth Infantry Regt, or the Doozy-Doost Pushbutton Control Group, doesn't matter a bit except for the transitory wrench to our sentiments.

The important fact that remains is that as National Guardsmen, airborne or groundbound, we continue to serve, as we have served for three centuries past.

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### dear guardsmen:

One way our little editorial staff has of keeping its collective fingers on the pulse of the National Guard (besides serving actively in it) is through correspondence with Guardsmen throughout the Country. And with constantly growing awareness of THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN as a sounding-board for opinion on matters of general interest, that correspondence keeps growing.

But more often than we'd like, we're asked to intervene in distinctly personal matters. A noncom gets busted to Pvt and wants us to do something about it. Someone takes exception to the fact that one officer was promoted over another. A fulltime employe is deeply pained because someone else got the higher-paid job he thought he should have.

Granting that individual injustices and inequities will crop up at times in the Guard—as they will in the Regular Services, or in Gesundheit's Dept Store, or thousands of other places in civilian life—we, sitting here in Washington, can't possibly pretend to know as much as, or more than, the people intimately involved in a local situation in Little Bent Elbow, Pennsylvtucky. Besides which we'd be horning into so many other people's affairs that we wouldn't be able to get our own work done. And getting told to mind our own so-and-so business.

We're mentioning this only to point-up the fact that we still are interested and will try to provide helpful information if the matter that's on your mind might be useful or interesting to many other Guardsmen.

THE STAFF

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Patty Hayes . . . . .	Inside Back Cover

### our cover

"Aim where you want to hit"—not at the bottom of a round bull's-eye—is one of the principles of TRAIN-FIRE method of marksmanship instruction. That's why the half-bull's-eye on which Ft Carson, Colo, instructor is analyzing trainee's hits. New system, described in this issue, emphasizes combat-type firing, saving traditional PRI methods for those with sniper potentiality. (Army Photo).