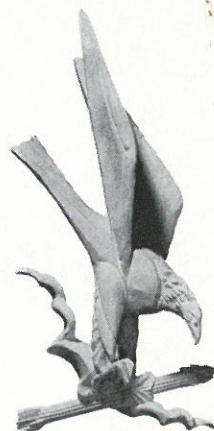




AS WE SEE IT



THE NEW ADMINISTRATION AND OUR NATIONAL GUARD

By Maj Gen William H Harrison, Jr
President, National Guard Association of the United States

ONE thing that can be looked forward to under the new administration of President-Elect Kennedy is some change in the organization of the Department of Defense. In his campaign, Mr Kennedy made it clear on numerous occasions that he favored increased spending for defense to include, among other things, funds for modernization and strengthening of the Nation's limited war forces. Senator Symington of Missouri, a former Secretary of the Air Force and a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, has, at the request of the incoming President, directed a Committee study of the existing defense organization and the Country's overall defense program.

It is difficult to forecast accurately at this point how any changes in organization or defense programming might affect the Army National Guard or the Air National Guard. It may be assumed, however, that the decision of the President-Elect to strengthen the limited war forces and to provide for modernization of ground force equipment will react favorably upon the National Guard. While first priorities, understandably, of modernized Army equipment would go to the Active Forces, a chain reaction would be started which inevitably would result in the Reserve Components receiving additional late-model equipment in sufficient quantities to assure effective training. As the flow of modernized equipment increased, it could be expected that our Army National Guard units would receive the very latest model weapons and vehicles. Any sizeable increase in defense spending most certainly would permit a move from the drawing board to the production line of some of the most advanced types of ground force equipment and weapons.

The President-Elect on many occasions noted the limited airlift capability and has indicated that his defense program would call for an improvement in this vital area. It could be expected that in time our Air National Guard units, which are assigned transport type missions, would receive additional aircraft and eventually might move into aircraft more modern than the C97s with which most Squadrons now are equipped.

The increased emphasis on limited war capability, which can be expected after Mr Kennedy takes office, should serve to highlight the important role of the *very* ready units in the Army National Guard. Senator Chavez, at the recent 82d General Conference of the National Guard Association of the United States, suggested in his address to the delegates that certain high-priority units in the Army National Guard become part of the Strategic Army Corps. Assignment of such a mission, of course, would require that these units be issued equipment and material on the same basis as the Active Army units in STRAC. Increasing the airlift capability intended to move STRAC organizations to trouble areas overseas makes it even more imperative that our Active Army be backed-up by the most efficient and best-equipped Reserve Force possible.

The promise of more realistic defense spending and the probability that defense planning and programming will be carried on in military staffs and not subject to blanket cancellation by the Bureau of the Budget on a dollar basis alone, gives hope of a program for both Active and Reserve forces of sufficient scope to permit carrying-out the defense mission. ♦



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DEAR GUARDSMEN: Every news medium has its special pattern and field of interest. Ours is to interest and inform National Guardsmen primarily, and others (including key governmental and military people) secondarily, about what's going on in the Guard. Since there are more than 5,000 Army Guard and Air Guard units of Company-size, all normally following roughly the same pattern of activity, it's the *unusual* that we always are looking for.

Whether you're a professional PIO type or just a guy who's been stuck with trying to get some publicity for your unit, you might like to know what we *do* (as well as what we *don't*) consider to be good copy *for us*. And that isn't meant to minimize the value of many news stories and pix for your hometown papers, or at Statewide level. So, from time to time, we're going to pass along some thoughts.

Once again: the first key point of our policy is National newsworthiness. A second is the wide spread of interests among our readers: they're everything from 17-year-old Privates and Airmen to long-service General Officers, representing every Arm, Service, and speciality in the Army Guard and Air Guard, with one over-riding common interest: The National Guard.

We'll mention some specifics in later issues. —AGC

OUR COVER: A sense of ominous power—"conventional" or nuclear—is conveyed by the cover shot of an 8" howitzer of Btry D, 4 Rkt/How Bn, 112 Arty, of NJ's 50 Armd Div. Pic is by Sp4 Richard Gigli and the 250 Signal Bn.

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