

AS WE SEE IT . . .



"I AM THE GUARD"

"Guest Editorialist" for this issue of THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN is Delaware's U S Senator J Allen Frear, Jr. He writes a weekly commentary for his constituents, and has granted permission to reprint one which, while intended primarily for "Military Reserve Week," has applicability every week.

AS MANY of you know, the seven-day period from April 22 to 28 has been designated as Military Reserve Week. The purpose of this activity is to stimulate increased interest and participation in the Reserve components of our Armed Forces and thus help strengthen the National security. I am happy to devote this statement to Military Reserve Week because it provides an opportunity for me to express publicly and proudly a few words of support and encouragement for the National Guard of Delaware and of the Nation as a whole.

The Guard is easily one of America's most famous military institutions. From the earliest beginnings of our Nation, the Guard has functioned in an important and vital role as a partner with other units of our National defense. Known as civilians in peace and soldiers in war, the National Guard has established itself both as a State organization and as a Federalized adjunct of the Country's over-all military system.

From time to time as our military planners review and revise the organization of our Armed Forces, mention is made of the future role which the National Guard may take in the over-all defense picture. One hears rumors from time to time that the necessity for the existence of the National Guard is not as great as heretofore and that in fact the Guard, as a separate organization, can be replaced.

However, those who advocate either replacing or integrating the Guard with the Regular Reserve Forces of the Nation fail to take into account its importance as a unit of the State as much as it is an arm of the National Government. It should be remembered that the National Guard has provided the bulk of our fighting troops at the beginning of almost every National emergency, that is, war. In addition, in times of disaster or internal upheaval of a civilian nature, troops of the National Guard are available and ready for service to their respective States and communities. In Delaware our National Guard organization stands as one of the finest anywhere in the United States. Units of our National Guard, particularly its ground forces, have a long history of prideful accomplishments.

During the current observances of Military Reserve

Week, the Army National Guard will undertake a drive for volunteers for the Army six-months training program and for the enlistment of men who have had previous military service in any of the Armed Forces.

The Air National Guard is seeking enlistment of prior servicemen and young men between 17 and 18½ years without prior service. Members of the National Guard have emphasized to me that young men of Delaware can fulfill their military training and service obligation through membership in the Army National Guard or the Air National Guard. Interested young men in the State may find it of value to discuss the question of new or added military service with members of our National Guard during the present week.

While I am happy to note the recruitment possibilities for the National Guard which are currently being highlighted, I want most of all in this brief message to emphasize the importance of having the National Guard's identity retained by our defense planners. Delawareans who are familiar with my general views on the relationship of the Federal Government to the several States, will know of my inherent belief that the power of our Democracy lies in the authority of the States themselves as 48 separate entities working for the common welfare. As I see it, the National Guard through its long history has been developed to meet the varying requirements which arise from time to time in the States themselves. Secondly, it functions under the Federal Government in time of National crisis.

A significant description of this famous American institution has been prepared against a pictorial background of its many functions over years past. In our office here in Washington we have a framed copy of this declaration which is entitled, "I Am the Guard." In concluding these remarks I want to quote directly from its closing lines:

"Wherever a strong arm and valiant spirit must defend the nation, in peace or war, wherever a child cries or a woman weeps in time of disaster, there I stand . . . I am the Guard. For three centuries a soldier in war, a civilian in peace—of security and honor, I am the custodian, now and forever . . . I am the Guard."

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dear guardsmen:

Few things are more pleasing to your Editors than to receive (unsolicited) out-of-the-ordinary stories of National Guard activities. And more pleasing still is to find that these stories are timely and cover all the essential facts without further digging and follow-up.

Such unsolicited pieces for this issue's "Posting the Guard" came to us from Michigan and from Texas—stories of disaster duty by Guardsmen during the tornadoes which hit Bryan, Tex., and Western Michigan, and during the heavy snowfall in the "Lone Star State's" South Plains. We are grateful for the cooperation of Michigan's Capt Robert J Baird and Texas' Maj Norman K Snodgrass and Capt Joseph Brusse. Their stories covered the What, Why, When, How, Where, and Who—the essential elements of all news stories. And their accompanying glossy photos showed Guardsmen in action, and were not mere static "shots" of the disaster damage with no life shown.

Obvious naturals as stories for THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN are any instances in which Guardsmen as units or individual volunteers render public service. Such service often occurs during tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, fires, snowstorms, prison riots, explosions, and in the search for lost children or adults. But too often we receive news from the units or States concerned only after we have wired or asked for stories and pictures by time-consuming correspondence. And the first clues we have that Guardsmen have been of assistance in such emergencies comes from a single line in newspaper wire stories. We'd be happy if news of such public service would be rushed to us immediately without the Editors having to ask for it.

And remember that photos should reflect Guard activity, and that essential facts should be covered.

THE STAFF

contents

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| As We See It | Inside Front Cover |
| Tell 'em on Tape | 2 |
| The AGs Tackle the Problems | 3 |
| Washington Report | 16 |
| Pentagon Paragraphs | 20 |
| Technical and Tactical | 24 |
| The Batting Averages | 25 |
| Posting the Guard | 26 |
| A Monument Worth Building | 34 |
| Where Beauty Abounds | 35 |
| Sound Off! | 36 |
| Nat Gard | 36 |

our cover

Down the road at Ft Lewis for more squad and platoon tactics training go some of the men of Co B, 208 Inf Bn, from Sitka, Southeast Alaska. The 207 and 208 Inf Bns of the Alaska National Guard have completed their first annual field training camp ever held on the "Outside" in continental United States. (Alaska National Guard Photo)