



How come nobody picks on the hummingbird? He's tiny, he's inoffensive, and he spends his time tranquilly fooling around among the flowers while bigger birds battle noisily for survival. By rights he ought to be extinct, but he's left alone because he packs a fearsome weapon and knows how to use it. With his rapier-like beak and darting speed, he is feared by would-be intruders as a veritable D'Artagnan of the honeysuckle. Until the happy day comes when lions will lie by lambs and predators are out of politics, the cause of peace is best served by those equipped to defend it.

✧ We at REPUBLIC take pride in the long roster of accomplishment which Thundercraft have written... such as the Thunderbolt, Thunderjet, Thunderstreak and Thunderflash... the potential of the new F 103 and F 105 emphasizes again the touch of engineering genius and production skills which have long been the pride mark of this famed fighter family.



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THE National Guardian



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dear guardsmen:

We don't get a "cut" out of subscriptions to THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN, but we possess a missionary-type fervor that wants to see the National Guard's story read and absorbed by as many people as we possibly can reach.

And we have a special zeal for spreading the word to the enlisted men—to help inculcate in them a pride in their component that always has been a strong characteristic of the Guard.

From time to time we've put out the idea that one way to stimulate enlisted readership of THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN is to use individual subscriptions as recruiting prizes; to use the magazine as a recruiting aid, and so on. One instance of this came to mind the other day, while digging through some correspondence. We ran across a letter from 1st Lt Robert C Ward of Utah. He had sent his check covering a subscription for Airman Gerald J Young, with the comment:

"I personally have been reading and getting the magazine for over eight years and have appreciated the advance information it contains as well as the latest in legislative matters and what is going on in other units, therefore I felt that there could be no better gift to a young recruit in the Air National Guard for a Christmas gift than to start him off on the right foot with a subscription to THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN."

You needn't wait until next Christmas to apply Lieutenant Ward's idea: you can adapt it as a gift in recognition of an exceptional Service school rating, 100% drill attendance, recruiting, "Soldier of the Year" achievement, or any other outstanding performance. The National Guardsman who "shines" in one way or another is the one you especially want to keep shining. Your gift of a subscription will help cultivate and maintain his interest and participation.

THE STAFF

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our cover

In a scene as far removed from the average GI's experience as the Fourth Dimension is from 2-plus-2, technicians rig an enormous Redstone guided missile on its still more enormous static test stand under the glare of searchlights. Science marches along with Close Order drill as the Army prepares for the war of tomorrow while still stressing the fundamentals in the cold war of Today. (US Army photo)