



THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN

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BARBARA JEAN CUMMINS	INSIDE BACK COVER

DEAR GUARDSMEN: Sizing up our current crop of prospects for Calendar Girl of the Month honors (See Inside Back Cover), we came up with some enlightening information: of nine photos now in the file we've labelled "Future Possibilities," three are of Texas beauties—one-third! And leafing through the past year's issues, we note that three out of 12 also were from the Lone Star State—one-fourth!

There's no doubt in our mind how Texans will interpret our findings. "It just proves what we've said all along, that most beautiful American women (and most of the Country's best photographers) are from Texas," they'll claim.

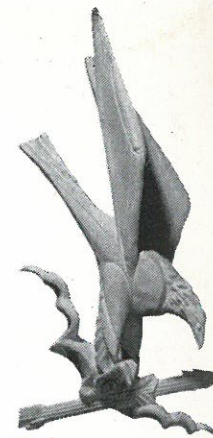
But we're going to take the risks that go with contradicting a Texan and say we disagree. All the figures prove to us is that Texas does have its fair share of pretty girls and of good photographers, but that Texas Guardsmen are a lot more imaginative and energetic when it comes to putting the two in working proximity to each other—and to Guard activities.

Which reminds us—we haven't yet seen any samples of what the 49th—and largest—State has to offer in the way of Guard-oriented pulchritude. How about it, Alaska? —WDMcC



AS WE SEE IT

KNOWLEDGE = UNDERSTANDING = HARMONY



FOR as long as the Militia and its successor, the National Guard, have existed, the citizen-soldier has wanted to be accepted and respected by his professional Service comrades as a member of the one Army. The same desire has applied, during the shorter existence of a separate Air Force, to the citizen-airman—Guardian or Reservist.

It takes no student of military history to recognize that the wish never has been completely fulfilled. In the stress of battle and the sharing of common peril, the distinctions nearly disappear. But such is the frailty of human nature that even the awards and decorations and citations that attest to bravery and outstanding service of Regulars, Guardians and Reservists alike, tend to be overlooked as the wars in which they were earned, fade into the past. And the invisible line dividing the "amateur" from the "professional" becomes almost real.

For a solid decade, the Air Force and its reserve forces have had generally close and harmonious relations.

In that same span of time, unfortunately, the going has been much rougher among the Army components.

Be that as it may: In the past year in particular, there have been encouraging signs of a change for the better. Veteran Guardians have become cynical over hearing nice words—they've been hearing speeches for years—for too infrequently have they seen matching action. But today, Guardians in a position to know are aware of specific things that have been done by Army Secretary Brucker and by his key Service subordinates in support of a strong Army National Guard.

The "One Army" theme has been emphasized and re-emphasized, under his leadership. Steps to translate this fine-sounding slogan into a series of actions were being taken at a Pentagon conference among Mr Brucker and ranking officers of the RA, the Guard and the Res, at our press time. It could—and we hope, will—provide a solid pivot point to turn Army-Guard-Reserve relations permanently down the right road.

It was unfortunate, then, that one high-ranking officer of the Air Force should reopen old wounds that seemed to have been healing nicely. It was doubly unfortunate that his reported remarks, though possibly intended to cover only the Air reserve forces, with emphasis on the Air National Guard—which was bad enough, in itself—could be interpreted as a roundhouse swing at the entire National Guard system.

On the credit side, there were powerful indications that

his admittedly personal views—though expressed while pinch-hitting for his Chief—were 180° off the topmost policy line. They ran counter to the expressions of reliance upon the National Guard system, from the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Air Force, the Secretary of the Army, and others in high policy positions.

There were other healthy evidences, too, of a more solid basis for mutual respect and confidence among all components. A common phenomenon is the way in which Advisors and other Active personnel who have a long exposure to the Guard, become, generally, thoroughly sold on the system. This is important in the long range, for a proportion of those who undergo this experience while in the company and early field grades, may be destined for important policy-influencing positions later during their careers.

There is the fine mutual respect engendered by close association among members of the Active and Reserve Forces at Service schools and during other extended periods of active training.

But, these things take time to flower into full effect. One of the immediate problems lies in man's resistance to giving up fixed notions. While the Chief—civilian or military—lays down a certain policy line, subordinates follow it, though sometimes with mental reservation. With the inevitable turnover of Chiefs as well as of Indians, a certain number of those who dutifully keep silent though disagreeing with the policy, rise to positions where their contrary notions can be made to prevail. And trouble pops up again.

One remedy often propounded by Guardians but rarely applied, lies in education at an early military age. Half-hearted gestures have been made from time to time—never, we have reason to believe, pushed energetically at all echelons. The "future general" following the West Point route gets but one hour, in his four years, of instruction about the Guard. Here, and at the Air Force Academy are the points, of all others, where should be laid an academic foundation of knowledge about the Guard and Reserve, on which the young officer then can build by shoulder-to-shoulder contact with his citizen-comrades in his way up the career ladder.

Through knowledge comes understanding. Through understanding comes harmony. With harmony, we at last can have what we all fervently desire: One Army! One Air Force!



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