

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

compelled to sound the warning that the concept of voluntary military service to State and Nation, a principle which has been preserved by the National Guard since Colonial days, is in jeopardy. Too few of our young men will volunteer for part-time military service purely out of patriotic motivation. As Gen Hershey will tell you, a very small percentage of young men today are being called upon to serve in the military forces. It is our duty as National Guard officers, and indeed we must succeed in this effort if we are to continue as a strong and vital force, to convince the young men of America that the principle of voluntary military service and training in times of peace is as important today as it was in the early days of this Nation.

I am concerned that certain policies of the Dept of Defense in matters of military service are such that they place upon too many young citizens a requirement for double service, but upon the vast majority a call for no service at all. I am addressing myself to that particular provision which requires that a man who serves two or three years of active duty continues to be required to serve in the Ready Reserve for a specified period after completing his active duty, while so many of his friends and neighbors are not called upon for any type of service. . . . Aside from the inequities involved, there is serious doubt in many minds of the wisdom of giving too much training to too few at the expense of no training for a great many.

As we must continue to be concerned with the enlistment of young Americans in the Army and Air National Guard—and I might add at this point that my emphasis on young men must not discourage any efforts in the enlistment of men who have had prior military service—we must also give attention to the matter of developing leadership for our organizations . . . the Reserve Officer Personnel Act, as amended in this past session of the Congress, has as its basic premise the orderly progression of a young man through career stages in a reserve component. Because of those provisions and certain natural restrictions which exist, particularly in the Army National Guard, it will be necessary that we keep an adequate and continuing flow of qualified young officers into the system. It is very fortunate that nearly every one of our States is now conducting Officer Candidate Schools, which are in addition to the special reserve component Officer Candidate courses conducted at the Infantry and Artillery Schools. These schools produce a large number of eminently-qualified young 2d Lts. It is imperative, however, that we increase the input into these schools in order to assure the filling of spaces that will become vacant as a result of the mandatory promotion provisions of ROPA.

I feel that there is an urgent need for greater Federal support of our State Officer Candidate Schools, and I hope that the Chief of the National Guard Bureau will agree with me in this respect.

RESERVE OFFICER PERSONNEL ACT

A great deal has been written in recent months about ROPA, particularly the amendments to that Act which became law this year. You know that this Assn fought strenuously for certain provisions which would have maintained the efficiency of the Guard and which we felt were generally beneficial to the National defense. Although a number of studies have been made, and there is currently one underway in the National Guard Bureau, of the impact of ROPA on our Army and Air National Guard Technicians, only time and experience will give us the answers we are seeking. We did not get everything that we had hoped to have included in the amendments. It is distressing that we were not able to convince the Congress of the need for a moratorium on the effective date of the Act as it applied to the time-in-grade and total service provisions, which forced

the retirement in recent months of so many competent Army National Guard officers. It is also distressing to realize that these provisions will force the early retirement of several thousand Army National Guard officers in the next few years, but I have been assured that once we are over the hump in this respect, we shall have an orderly career progression and a leveling-off of officer losses. We are all delighted, of course, that the log jam on promotions in the Air National Guard has been relieved and so many of our splendid Air officers are at long last wearing new insignia of the rank they so well deserve.

The positions I took before the various Committees of the Congress studying this Act were supported unanimously, I am happy to say, by the Adjutants General meeting in Asheville last Spring. I am hopeful that there will shortly be appointed an ad hoc committee to study this entire problem, and that there shall be at the same time a committee study of the overall manpower procurement problem as it affects the reserve components.

There are other areas in the Army program to which I feel the Military Depts should direct their attention in the very near future and seek to provide solutions in the interest of sustained efficient administration and training of our organizations. Principal among these is the matter of stabilization of our Army and Air National Guard Technician programs with respect to career incentives and on-time funding for salary increases, which are matters of vital importance to the many thousands who are included in these programs. Long-range funding for Technician support would assure increased morale and greater efficiency. It is understandably difficult under existing, uncertain funding policies to recruit and retain qualified personnel to fill authorized vacancies. The problems in this area became critical during the past year and the Assn was called upon to fight hard on the Hill to obtain appropriations over and above what the Dept of Defense was requesting to meet in-step and Wage Board pay increases for Technicians and to provide enough money to permit filling authorized spaces. While we were successful in obtaining the necessary appropriations, a large portion of these have been and are currently frozen by the Dept of Defense. This, to my mind, is a most wasteful and inefficient practice.

There is concern that the Dept of the Army, in establishing priorities for the call-up of combat forces, is seeking to assign priorities to organizations of the Army Reserve, which rightly and by law are reserved to the organizations of the Army National Guard. I have been in correspondence with the Secretary of the Army with regard to this and I have lodged in the name of the Assn a protest over assignment to certain organizations of the Army Reserve higher mobilization priorities than more effective organizations of the Army National Guard. This matter, which is of tremendous importance, has been considered also by the Army General Staff Committee on National Guard and Reserve Policy.

THE GUARD'S RECOVERY ROLE

Something more than a year ago, the Conference Advisory Committee on the National Guard of the Conference of United States Governors, the Chairman of which was Gov S Ernest Vandiver of Georgia, who is well known to most of us from the days when he served with such distinction as the Adjutant General of that State, called attention to what he described as a failure in the defense program. This failure, he contended, was the lack of planning for recovery from nuclear attack. . . . There was unfortunately by some of the Press a misinterpretation of the National Guard's interest in this area of defense. There was an assumption that the National Guard was interested in

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DEAR GUARDSMEN: "Goodbye dear, I'll be home in a year," was the theme song 20 years ago for 180,000 Guardsmen.

The "phony war" had turned-out to be very real, and Congress had authorized mobilization of the Guard and reservists for a year, enacted Selective Service for a one-year period.

Training camps weren't ready; there wasn't enough equipment (stove-pipe "mortars," coal truck "tanks," in that Summer's maneuvers had awakened the public to the low ebb on our defenses); units were at peacetime understrength and the draft was just beginning to supply fillers for war strength. So Guard units were phased-in from Sep 1940 to the Spring of 41. They doubled the Army's strength, provided from enlisted ranks tens of thousands of new officers, cadred hundreds of new units.

Five years later, Secy of War Robert P Patterson declared: "The soldiers of the Guard fought in every action in which the Army participated from Bataan to Okinawa. They proved once more the value of the trained citizen-soldier."

The campaign-hatted doughboys on our front cover, it seems to us, epitomize the feeling of the pre-mobilization maneuvers of 1940, and the intensified training which followed mobilization.

By the way: this issue was being put to bed before the NGAUS' 82d General Conference started, though it didn't reach you until after it ended. Thorough coverage of the Honolulu "doins" will be in our December issue.—AGC

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