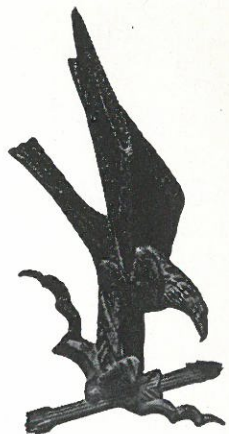


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AS WE SEE IT

MOBILIZATION



AND now, as so many, many times before, mobilization has come. An actual mobilization for many (the third in 21 years or less for a goodly proportion of the Guardsmen and others involved); a status of augmented strength and intensified training for many others, falling just short of mobilization. (And regardless of the play on words—that technically and legally, those in the latter group weren't "alerted;" regardless of the fact that the Army leaned over backwards to disclaim any implication that mobilization was in the offing for them, the press and others logically jumped to the conclusion that they'd be next to go if a bad situation in Berlin turned *really* foul).

A number of lessons were highlighted by the pattern of actions and words:

1—The Nation could thank its lucky stars that the senseless drive to downgrade the National Guard and other Reserve Forces had been successfully resisted. The very existence of organized, functioning units as well as a mass of individual "fillers," would materially shorten the lead-time between mobilization and operational readiness.

2—The Army Guard and the Air Guard were depended upon for the bulk of the combat forces required. The Air Guard was the Air Force's *only* source for the additional fighter aircraft that would be needed to cover another Berlin airlift or support ground action, for a major portion of the transport craft and for the associated tactical reconnaissance and tactical control. In either the actual order-up or the designation of priority units for a possible second phase of the mobilization, the Guard was pegged for the vast majority of the Combat Arms: three Infantry and one Armored Divisions, two Corps Artillery Headquarters, numerous other Artillery and Armor elements and the associated combat support-type units that are necessary to round-out a Corps or Field Army. True, behind these were "the men behind the man behind the gun"—in a bewildering variety of Administrative and Technical Service units, each with a necessary mission and function. The fact remained that Khrushchev was more likely to be impressed by supersonic aircraft, missiles, artillery, tanks, and bayonets than by Adjutant General Postal Units and Civil Affairs Companies. The "mix" of unit types chosen tended to support the philosophy that the Army Guard and the Army Reserve, the Air Guard and the Air Reserve, should complement rather than compete with each other.

3—Reaction and response to the mobilization and to the pegging of priority units for a stepped-up training pace was heartening but not surprising to those who are thoroughly familiar with the Guard system, pride and *esprit*. There was no flag-waving, no hysteria, no "Remember the Maine!" fervor; there was a healthy, adult ac-

ceptance of the fact that *this* was what Guardsmen had joined and trained for.

Yes, there were problems in the wake of mobilization and a quasi-"alert;" there always have been and there inevitably always will be. For those who actually got their orders, at least they could make firm plans.

For the rest—those on priority lists, as well as the greater mass of Guardsmen and others who thus far haven't been tapped for anything—the big problem was one of uncertainty. One young officer's comments spoke for all: "Although I'm ready to leave when I get 'the word,' as thousands are, it does present problems in personal planning. As the man said: 'Cold War is Hell.' Should the recent graduate look hard for a job or play it by ear? Will anyone hire him, knowing he might be snatched away? If he's in line for a job promotion, will he get it—or the man at the next desk who's "safe"? Should he go ahead with his wedding plans—or risk a cooling-off of ardor during a "wait-and see" period?

Militarily, the Guardsmen still waiting for orders that might or might not come were confronted with demands for even greater time, effort, and dedication. It was mandatory for some: for those on the top priority list, one multiple drill per month over and above the normal pattern—one more Saturday or Sunday lost from a fishing trip, a picnic with wife and kids, or performing long-deferred household chores. A thorough awareness of the ominous World situation and the tap on the shoulder that *might* come, almost certainly would consciously or unconsciously be reflected in stepped-up training within other units. It would take no actual "alert" to impel conscientious Unit Commanders to demand and enforce tauter performance: better drill attendance, more painstaking lesson planning, more instruction, rehearsal, more rigorous equipment maintenance, and so forth.

The Guard would do its part—mobilized, or just waiting. It was to be hoped that other responsible parties would do as well. As the National Guard Assn's President, Maj Gen William H Harrison, Jr, put it in a presentation to the American Legion's National Security Commission last month: "We should be mindful that in the program to strengthen the Active Forces, we should not neglect those Reserve Forces not ordered to active duty. It is imperative that we not permit the dropping-off of the mobilization-readiness and training efficiency of the Reserve Forces not called."

Those who go in this first increment can take pride in being chosen. Those who stand by will be ready to join them if the need arises. The Guard historically has been America's first-line Reserve Force. It is today.

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CONTENTS

AS WE SEE IT	Inside Front Cover
M-DAY!	2
HEROES OF THE NATIONAL GUARD	8
WASHINGTON REPORT	10
"SWIFT STRIKE" PROVES AIR GUARD METTLE	12
THE CREAM OF THE CROP!	14
ONLY ALL-AIR GUARD SCHOOL SHUTS DOWN	16
PENTAGON PARAGRAPHS	17
SCHOOL BELLS	18
READINESS!	19
TECHNICAL AND TACTICAL	22
POSTING THE GUARD	23
SOUND OFF	32

DEAR GUARDSMEN: To those who read Bruce Jacobs' "Heroes of the Guard" piece in our August issue about Lt Lee Ross Hartell, ex-Connecticut National Guard, this sequel may have special interest.



While the article was being readied for publication, we received a query to the effect that the Medal of Honor winner's widow, Mrs Margaret Hartell of Danbury, Conn, had heard that an air field in Japan or Korea had been named in his honor; could we find out anything about it?

We made some phone calls to the Pentagon, and wrote to other possible contacts. Some proved fruitless; others produced unanticipated information. We haven't yet found an air field named for Lt Hartell, but we have found that the hero is memorialized by a "Hartell Avenue" and a "Hartell Avenue Chapel" at Ft Sill, Okla. And now, a letter about, and a photo (see cut) of a bronze plaque identifying the Commanding General's Mess at Eighth Army Hq in Korea as "Hartell House," have come from Eighth Army through Army Channels. —AGC

OUR COVER: October 1, 1961, is M-Day for many thousands of Army Guardsmen and Air Guardsmen, and (to coin a term not in the book) "T-Day" (for "intensified training) for tens of thousands more. In the spirit of the times, our cover shows A/3c S A Straughan on guard at hangar of Virginia's 149th Tactical Fighter Squadron, ordered into active service; while far away in Minnesota, a crew of "Bearcats" of Minnesota's 1st Battle Group, 136th Infantry, fires a "Scorpion's" 90 mm antitank gun. (Photos by VaANG and Capt Bob Lund, Army Advisor with the 136th).

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