

# WELCOME HOME!



**E**XACTLY one year ago, after President Kennedy had alerted the American people to steps he was taking toward strengthening our Armed Forces in a time of real crisis, I promised in these pages: "The Nation can look for the National Guard to respond to the President's call for active duty and increased readiness with the same spirit and dedication with which our citizen-soldiers served in past emergencies, from Concord to Korea.

"In this instance the Army National Guard and Air National Guard units called can be mobilized faster and more rapidly brought to full combat-readiness because they are now at the highest level of training ever achieved by Reserve Components.

"Our Air National Guard is at an especially high level of operational-readiness and capable of almost immediate deployment."

I am sure there were skeptics when I made that promise. There should be none now.

You—our comrades just returned from active duty stations—have made good that promise many times over. None have fulfilled it with greater impact on the consciousness of your fellow-Americans—and others elsewhere—than you Air National Guardsmen who flew more than 200 jets across the Atlantic in the biggest, fastest fighter deployment since the Second World War.

For many of you, your service was unspectacular. For all of you, however—and for the Nation and the World—it was important. It was important if for no other reason than your physical presence in Army Green or Air Force Blue bore witness to the fact that the National Guardsman of today *does* have that same spirit and dedication as our forebears. It was important in the more immediate sense of preventing a war which otherwise might have had to be fought.

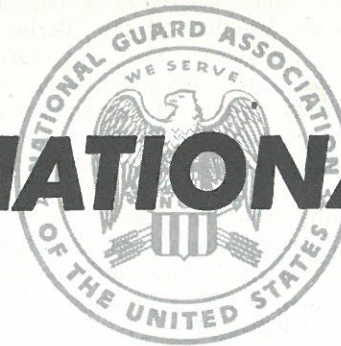
Your comrades of the National Guard who stood ready behind you, are proud of you.

In their behalf and for myself, I bid you a sincere "Welcome home!"

*W. H. Harrison, Jr.*

WILLIAM H HARRISON, JR  
Major General, Ret, MassARNG  
President, National Guard Association  
of the United States

Art by Sp4 Jack Unruh, 249th Armd Sig Bn,  
courtesy of the 49th Armored Division, Texas  
Army National Guard, from a poster greeting the  
Division upon its return from active Federal service.



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SEPTEMBER, 1962

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**DEAR GUARDSMEN:** We've pulled a switch, in the selection of contents of this issue.

Some of the usual departments, such as "Pentagon Paragraphs," and "Posting the Guard," are missing.

For this one time, we've decided to devote the space to articles going into some depth with respect to the recent 10-months "Berlin Crisis" mobilization of large portions of the Army National Guard and Air National Guard. President Kennedy set the theme with his remark, a few months back, that *this* mobilization was "to prevent a war, not to fight a war."

It was the third time in a score of years that Guard units have been whistled-up in a time of the Nation's need. The fact that nobody shot at anyone this time doesn't alter some basic facts involved: the wrenches, dislocations, and large and small problems that accompany any mobilization. We figured that these experiences, the lessons learned, and some of the recommendations that have resulted, may be of considerable interest and benefit to all Guardsmen.

—AGC

**OUR COVER:** Lou Nolan has put together the two elements which sum-up the reason behind the US' military expansion of October 1961: the Berlin Wall, symbolic, as a source of East-West tension; and President Kennedy's succinct reason why thousands of Guardsmen and others were called from their homes: ". . . to prevent a war, not to fight a war."