

Guard & Reserves in the spotlight at hearings

The Guard and Reserve are not yet getting all of the support they require, but they are getting attention. I'm optimistic enough to believe that additional support will follow the attention.

Guard and Reserve readiness, or lack thereof, has been a dominant theme in the posture hearings of the second session of the 95th Congress. Last year, the National Guard Association and the coalition of military associations which worked for recruiting and retention incentives, were about the only people or groups who were insisting that readiness of Guard/Reserve units depended first of all on having an adequate number of trained personnel on board. Strength was slipping fast, and all other factors of the readiness equation seemed to fade in importance.

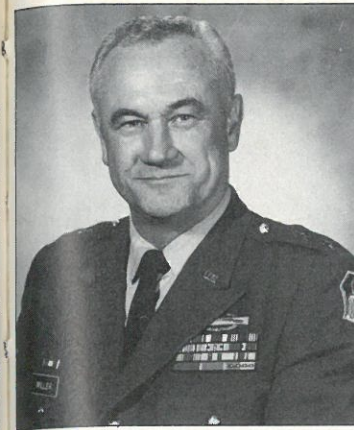
This year, members of the key Congressional committees have demonstrated their concern by their statements and questions. We are pleased that Department of Defense witnesses seem to be unanimous in believing that some incentives are needed.

On the day that this editorial is written, the Military Personnel Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee has voted to include funds in the FY 1979 appropriations to expand the reenlistment bonus test to a full-fledged reenlistment bonus/educational assistance package. We hope their intent becomes law.

Perhaps of even greater importance than the proposed legislation itself is the determination of this key subcommittee that the Guard and Reserves must be given additional help. There is an underlying belief by the overwhelming majority of those members of Congress that our national defense needs can only be met, and afforded, if in fact the Guard and Reserve can perform their wartime missions, when and where required. This should be reassuring to Guard and Reserve officers who must struggle with recruiting, retention, administration, maintenance and training.

The willingness of this subcommittee to support the people of the Guard was also demonstrated by their recommending that an additional \$50 million be added to the ARNG budget for FY '79.

A second dominant theme in this year's round of hearings has been Congressional concern for training. Many members have expressed their concern about the need for additional training support. Our Association has emphasized in testimony the need for additional fulltime training personnel. We believe the FY 1979 Authorization and Appropriations Acts will provide more training support than was requested in the FY 1979 defense budget. Many of the factors in the readiness equa-



Maj Gen Richard A. Miller
(Oregon Army Guard),
President,
National Guard Association
of the United States

tion are beyond control of the local Guard commander. However, the local commander is the key to improved training.

Members of Congress and some defense witnesses are prone to refer to a lack of meaningful training in units. These comments are most often pointed at ARNG/USAR units. Some of this criticism is based on a misunderstanding of the nature of ground combat training, some on serious shortages in equipment and training areas, and some on inadequately planned and poorly conducted training. Only commanders can do something about the last-named deficiency. On the others, the solution must come from a higher level.

While Congress is providing additional support to the Guard and Reserve, we as commanders must justify their belief in us by insuring that we produce the best possible training with the support given us.

The Guard and Reserves are still the best national defense buy for the money, but we need to keep proving it by insuring that our training is meaningful and effective.

NGAUS Officers

President

Maj Gen Richard A. Miller, Oregon

Immediate Past President

Maj Gen Duane L. Corning,
South Dakota

Vice President

Maj Gen William J. McCaddin, Virginia

Secretary

Brig Gen Francis J. Higgins, New York

Treasurer

Maj Gen Edward R. Fry, Kansas

Executive Vice President

Maj Gen Francis S. Greenlief (ret)

NGAUS Executive Council

Area I (CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, RI, VT)

Maj Gen Paul R. Day (ME)
Maj Gen Nicholas J. Del Torto (MA)
Col Donald E. Joy Jr. (CT)

Area II (DE, DC, KY, MD, NC, OH, PA, VA, WV)

Maj Gen Fletcher C. Booker (PA)
Maj Gen Cunningham C. Bryant (DC)
Brig Gen William W. Spruance (DE)

Area III (AL, FL, GA, PR, SC, TN, VI)

Maj Gen Billy M. Jones (GA)
Brig Gen Frank M. Parham Jr. (FL)
Brig Gen Grady L. Patterson Jr. (SC)

Area IV (AR, KS, LA, MS, MO, OK, TX)

Col Joe A. Caple (AR)
Maj Gen O'Neil J. Daigle Jr. (LA)
Lt Col J. Tipton Lewis (MS)

Area V (IL, IN, IA, MI, MN, NE, ND, SD, WI)

Brig Gen Leo C. Goodrich (MN)
Brig Gen Francis J. Kelly (IA)
Brig Gen Hugh M. Simonson (WI)

Area VI (AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY)

Col Jack R. Brasher (AZ)
Adjutant General post vacant
Maj Gen Thomas K. Turnage (CA)

THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN is published monthly, except August, by the National Guard Association of the United States, with editorial and advertising offices at 1 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. Telephone (202) 347-0341. Second class postage paid at Washington, D.C., and at additional mailing offices. Copyright 1978 by the National Guard Association of the U.S. All rights reserved. All members of the NGAUS receive the GUARDSMAN. Nonmember subscriptions: \$3 per year domestic; \$4 per year foreign. Bulk rate for 100 or more copies to the same address: \$2.50 each. Single copies 50¢. The GUARDSMAN welcomes original articles bearing on national defense, with emphasis on the National Guard. Manuscripts and artwork must be accompanied by return postage; no responsibility is assumed for safe handling. Opinions expressed by authors do not necessarily represent official NGAUS positions or policy. Likewise, publication of advertising cannot be deemed an endorsement thereof by this Association or its members.

The National

GUARDSMAN

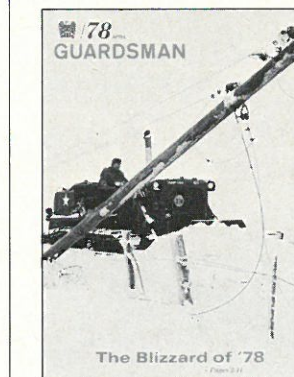
Official publication of the National Guard Association of the United States

APRIL 1978

VOLUME XXXII, NUMBER 4

Features

The Blizzard of '78	2
<i>How Guardsmen in 21 States responded when three successive blizzards struck.</i>	
A Governor Talks About The Guard	6
<i>After the storms, Indiana's Governor Bowen reviews the Guard's value to the States. (Questions and Answers - Page 13)</i>	
Tank Killer of the Future	14
<i>It's an ugly brute but the A-10 is death on tanks in close-support mission.</i>	
The Posture Hearings	18
<i>Guard-Reserve condition become major issue as Congress shows its deep concern.</i>	
GUARDSMAN ESSAY: Abolish the Moot Memo!	26
<i>An idea whose time has passed.</i>	
Cut! Trim! Squeeze!	28
<i>Recap of NGB Management Conferences.</i>	
State NGA's Follow Varied Patterns	30
<i>Meet at NGAUS for legislative briefings.</i>	
1978 Guard Biathlon	33



Departments

Washington Report	22
View From The Hill	22
Posting the Guard	34
People in the news	38

Cover: North Dakota Army Guardsman Staff Sergeant Gary Guler and his bulldozer plow their way to a downed power line during the three-phased blizzard of January and February to typify the Guard response to storm emergencies in 21 States.

Staff

Editor W. D. McGlasson
Advertising John E. Bibb
Circulation Don DesJardins