



MG Ansel M. Stroud Jr., President, NGAUS

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## WE MUST UNITE TO RETAIN THE MONTGOMERY AMENDMENT

In this our annual "Yearbook" issue of NATIONAL GUARD, we like to highlight the major issue of the year for the National Guard and the National Guard Association of the United States. Readers will find that issue beginning on Page 21, our effort at a detailed and expert discussion of the Central America/state control/governors issue. We are offering that article, written by Brig Gen Edward J. Philbin of the District of Columbia Air National Guard, and a distinguished California attorney and professor of law, to better inform all Guardsmen of the issues and considerations that pertained in 1986 when NGAUS and other National Guard leaders concluded that legislation was required for us to retain the Guard's position in the Total Force.

The Montgomery Amendment, which was the legislation adopted by Congress last year, provides that no governor may withhold his or her Guard unit from overseas deployment on account of objections to the "location, purpose, type or schedule" of such training. This language, which was designed to fit with the Guard's historic support for the Militia Clause, reserves to the states the command of the National Guard in peacetime, but provides that training must be to federal standards. Deployment and overseas training are an integral part of such standards.

When we met in January, the NGAUS Executive Council reaffirmed our support of the Montgomery Amendment. That position, reiterating the position we adopted last summer and the overwhelming statement of policy of the Adjutants General Association of the United States (AGAUS), supports the concept of National Guard overseas training in support of the U.S. foreign policy of this president and any future president.

Notwithstanding the opposition of a handful of governors, who have sought to bar their Guard units from

Central America deployments, we believe such training is important for several reasons. The most obvious and easily explained is the simple fact that deployment training is the very best National Guard training there is. In today's Total Force environment, we simply cannot continue to conduct annual training in our home states on familiar terrain where our senior NCOs don't even need maps in the field. We cannot tolerate a situation where we are putting the tent pegs in the same holes year after year. Or, to put it the way LTG Emmett H. Walker Jr. (ret.), former chief of the National Guard Bureau, did recently when reviewing his service in the Mississippi Army National Guard, "I went to Camp Shelby (Mississippi) so many times I knew the trees by their first names."

**"We had to expect that our forces would have to be used as a part of the deterrent posture of the United States."**

Overseas deployments, wherever they may occur, provide the change of scenery that is so important to effective training. OCONUS training, particularly when it is associated with Joint Chiefs of Staff exercises, is vital as the National Guard matures in its role within the Total Force Policy.

A number of things are accomplished with overseas deployment training (ODT). Perhaps the most important, beyond the change of scenery, is the logistics and movement skills that are acquired by the Guardsmen when they must plan and then move to a faraway location. Among

these are training for rail loading, aircraft loading and port operations. This is exactly what they would do if mobilized and required to deploy to their CAPSTONE or gaining-command higher wartime headquarters.

Although U.S. foreign policy in Central America gets much of the attention when the Montgomery Amendment is discussed, the fact is that any military deployments support U.S. foreign policy. That is true for REFORGER, where the exercise supports the purposes of NATO. It is true of TEAM SPIRIT, where the United States supports policies that began during the Korean War. Deployments to BRIGHT STAR support the Carter Doctrine of defending allied access to Persian Gulf oil.

But why the Guard, you ask? The National Guard has never in its history been involved in power projection or the defense of our allies in peacetime. It seems to us that this is the difference between national defense strategies before and after the Total Force Policy. Until 1970, overseas operations were the province of the active components. OCONUS training was rare. The use of the Guard as a part of our strategy of deterrence was not explicit. The Guard was to be mobilized when war came, not participating in the strategy of preventing war.

When the Total Force Policy was implemented, reducing the size of the active components and placing more reliance and responsibilities on the Guard and Reserve, we had to expect that our forces would have to be used as a part of the deterrent posture of the United States. That is why the Guard routinely deploys to such exercises as REFORGER, in Europe, TEAM SPIRIT in Korea and BRIGHT STAR in Egypt and Southwest Asia.

Our support and acceptance of the Total Force Policy, and the part the National Guard plays in it, requires such deployments. We must not shrink from them.

National Guard

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