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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

With Super Tuesday behind us, the United States is beginning to sort out the 1988 presidential race in terms of Democratic and Republican candidates. What follows represents a sort of "open letter" to the nation's presidential candidates this year. It poses a few questions and provides some insight into what we in the National Guard would like a future president to do.

Total Force Policy. Perhaps the single most important thing the next president of the United States could do for the National Guard is to publicly and unequivocally reaffirm the Total Force Policy. Such a redeclaration would be particularly appropriate either this summer in a party platform or as a part of the beginning of a new administration in early 1989 to quickly identify the continued importance of providing combat readiness resources to the National Guard.

The Total Force Policy really has been the making of the National Guard as we know it in 1988. Most of us who are senior enough are old enough and have been in the system long enough to recall the "then-and-now" of the Guard; where we were 20 years ago before the Total Force Policy was even articulated and, even more dramatically, where we were 30 or 40 years ago.

We recall that 20 years ago we assumed that most Guard units would have at least 120 days between mobilization and employment in combat. We know that today this is more likely to be 30 days or less—and much of that time will be consumed transporting equipment to the area of operations (AO) by sea.

The Total Force Policy has brought us to the position we enjoy today. It should be reaffirmed, reiterated.

OCONUS Training. Our future president should know enough about the global nature of the Guard to support overseas training for the National Guard, wherever and whenever. Twenty years ago, OCONUS training was unusual. Indeed, participation in such exercises as REFORGER, BRIGHT STAR or TEAM SPIRIT was unheard of.

Air Guard units occasionally made deployments to Europe in the 1960s. And a variety of C-97 missions were flown to many lands. But the organized, planned training of large numbers of members of the Guard overseas was still long in the future.

Today, OCONUS training is considered routine. The Key Personnel Upgrade Program (KPUP) in the Army Guard is a unique effort to tailor individual training of Guardsmen to the needs of the active Army in filling temporary vacancies during exercises and other field training opportunities. Guard participation in REFORGER is now routine at the battalion and brigade level.

The engineer road-building programs in Latin America also have provided unequalled training opportunities for the combat engineers and the supporting troops such as logistics and military police that accompany them.

The Air Guard's alert line in Europe, utilizing F-4 units; the Air Guard's provision of A-7 and C-130 support to U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM), the road-building project in Ecuador—all are examples of the best kind of training in areas of the world where the Guard's support is needed and welcomed.

For both the Army and Air Guard, one key factor in this training is paramount and must be emphasized. It is the training opportunities that are unique and which cannot be equaled close to home. Overseas training exercises mobilization plans and requires units to train in environments that are less familiar to them. They must plan to operate in an area physically distant from them; then they must live with the plans they have made and executed.

Equipment. A key element to ensuring the U.S. military can deter, fight and win is the continued procurement of modern equipment for the Total Force. We will continue to suggest that specific equipment be earmarked for the Guard. We will seek to ensure that the president's budget contains adequate procurement of equipment

for the Total Army and Total Air Force. Combat ready equipment assists in the U.S. policy of deterrence, and the implementation of the new INF treaty with the Soviet Union makes such conventional deterrence even more important. Two examples that have been widely discussed in Guard circles illustrate this point.

When Wisconsin's 32d Infantry Brigade (Mech) deployed to winter REFORGER '86, its tracked and wheeled vehicles, rail-loaded from home station to several U.S. ports, arrived by ship at Antwerp. Every vehicle was driven off the roll-on, roll-off ships under its own power. We understand that the Warsaw Pact observers took significant note of this fact because such a maintenance record was not what they expected from a National Guard brigade.

Exercise BRIGHT STAR the last two times and Exercise GALLANT EAGLE '88 are three U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) training efforts, BRIGHT STAR occurring in various locations in the Middle East and Southwest Asia. Command, control, communications and intelligence (C³I) are considered key to whether the United States could be effective in combat 10,000 miles from the East Coast with no indigenous U.S. bases in the theater.

In-operation rates for the communications system, installed and operated by a mixed force of active Army, Army Guard and Army Reserve units, was well over 95 percent throughout all the exercises. The Russians probably didn't miss this fact, either; deterrence by the Total Force works.

It is seven months until the presidential election. Guardsmen should be attentive to the political positions of the presidential candidates as the primary season unfolds, the national conventions occur this summer and as the general election campaign progresses after Labor Day.

We hope that the candidates will "discover" the National Guard in time to develop meaningful and supportive guidance for the future good of the Guard—and the nation.

NATIONAL GUARD

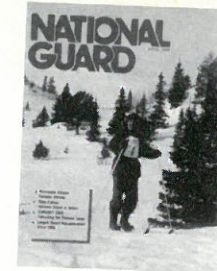
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FEATURES

Norwegian Exchange With Minnesota 16

Approximately 100 Army Guardsmen, mostly from Minnesota's 47th "Viking" Infantry Division, conducted training in Norway as part of a joint Norway/Minnesota exchange program that has been ongoing since 1974. The Guardsmen and Norway's Home Guard soldiers share information about equipment and training.



COVER:

A Minnesota Army Guardsman and member of the 47th "Viking" Infantry Division readies himself for a day on one of Norway's mountains as part of this year's Minnesota/Norway exchange training program. Photo, Reed Hildreth. Design, Johnson Design Group.

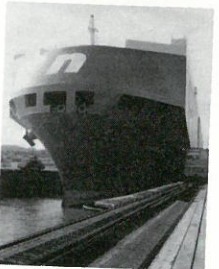
Callups: The National Guard in Action 22

Over the past several years, the National Guard has drawn national attention due to the nature of its federal service. But for the most part, Americans associate the National Guard with its state mission—fire fighting, civil disturbance control, and search and rescue, to name a few.



CORONET COVE: Defending the Canal 26

This year marks the 10th anniversary that 14 Air National Guard units have performed the CORONET COVE mission of providing air defense of the Panama Canal in Latin America. Colorado's 140th Tactical Fighter Wing was one such unit pulling the CORONET COVE mission this year.



Largest ARNG Reorganization Since 1968 34

Not since 1968 has there been such a major Army National Guard reorganization as was approved recently by Secretary of the Army John O. Marsh Jr., and Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci, which takes away a brigade from Massachusetts and adds one to Texas.

Estimates of the Resident Population of States:

State	1986 Population		Percent change, 1981-86	
	Total	Age 18-24	Total	Age 18-24
Alabama	2,819,000	317,000	1.4	1.8
Alaska	248,000	10,000	1.0	1.0
Arizona	2,050,000	210,000	1.0	1.0
Arkansas	2,020,000	210,000	1.0	1.0
California	19,800,000	2,100,000	1.0	1.0
Colorado	2,700,000	280,000	1.0	1.0
Connecticut	3,100,000	310,000	1.0	1.0
Delaware	1,100,000	110,000	1.0	1.0
District of Columbia	580,000	58,000	1.0	1.0
Florida	11,500,000	1,150,000	1.0	1.0
Georgia	4,100,000	410,000	1.0	1.0
Hawaii	1,000,000	100,000	1.0	1.0
Idaho	1,100,000	110,000	1.0	1.0
Illinois	10,500,000	1,050,000	1.0	1.0
Indiana	5,500,000	550,000	1.0	1.0
Iowa	2,800,000	280,000	1.0	1.0
Kansas	2,800,000	280,000	1.0	1.0
Kentucky	3,500,000	350,000	1.0	1.0
Louisiana	3,500,000	350,000	1.0	1.0
Maine	1,100,000	110,000	1.0	1.0
Maryland	4,500,000	450,000	1.0	1.0
Massachusetts	5,500,000	550,000	1.0	1.0
Michigan	8,500,000	850,000	1.0	1.0
Minnesota	4,500,000	450,000	1.0	1.0
Mississippi	2,800,000	280,000	1.0	1.0
Missouri	5,500,000	550,000	1.0	1.0
Montana	900,000	90,000	1.0	1.0
Nebraska	1,800,000	180,000	1.0	1.0
Nevada	1,100,000	110,000	1.0	1.0
New Hampshire	1,100,000	110,000	1.0	1.0
New Jersey	8,500,000	850,000	1.0	1.0
New Mexico	1,800,000	180,000	1.0	1.0
New York	17,500,000	1,750,000	1.0	1.0
North Carolina	6,500,000	650,000	1.0	1.0
North Dakota	900,000	90,000	1.0	1.0
Ohio	10,500,000	1,050,000	1.0	1.0
Oklahoma	2,800,000	280,000	1.0	1.0
Oregon	2,800,000	280,000	1.0	1.0
Pennsylvania	11,500,000	1,150,000	1.0	1.0
Rhode Island	1,100,000	110,000	1.0	1.0
South Carolina	3,500,000	350,000	1.0	1.0
South Dakota	900,000	90,000	1.0	1.0
Tennessee	4,500,000	450,000	1.0	1.0
Texas	16,500,000	1,650,000	1.0	1.0
Utah	1,800,000	180,000	1.0	1.0
Vermont	500,000	50,000	1.0	1.0
Virginia	5,500,000	550,000	1.0	1.0
Washington	4,500,000	450,000	1.0	1.0
West Virginia	1,100,000	110,000	1.0	1.0
Wisconsin	4,500,000	450,000	1.0	1.0
Wyoming	900,000	90,000	1.0	1.0

Promotion Boards and Their Outlook 40

For some, the word "congratulations" says it all. COL Philip Biondi discusses what to do to enhance your chances of promotion, while LTC Joel Fosdick writes about why certain officers are passed over for promotion.

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