



MG Charles M. Kiefner, President, NGAUS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FULL-TIME MANNING RISES TO THE TOP OF GUARD PRIORITIES

For several reasons, full-time manning has risen to the top of the Guard's priorities for the 1989 legislative year.

This priority is reflected in our Legislative Action Plan, recently sent to the field and delivered to Capitol Hill. It also is and will be reflected in testimony before Congress by the National Guard Bureau and this Association. Although equipment procurement has, since 1981, occupied our attention over and above personnel issues, this year we must put our emphasis on full-time manning.

This emphasis is essential because it is the issue that bubbles up from the unit level as the greatest concern of commanders and those whose responsibility it is to keep administration and logistics straight and make units train efficiently. We always have known that these between-drill-weekend tasks must be undertaken primarily by the full-time force.

This year, two imperatives drive our priority on full-time manning. The first is the history of the last several years when we obtained little growth in the full-time force. The second is the possibility that missions will be transferred from the active components to the Guard and Reserve.

It is important to note here that neither the NGAUS nor the National Guard community generally favors reduction in strength of the active Army or the active Air Force.

The budget imperative remains before the nation and Congress. We regret that it remains, but until our lawmakers perceive themselves satisfied with the deficit reduction, we will live with the reality that reductions in federal red ink must occur.

As was noted in this magazine in recent months, the Defense budget at \$300 billion-plus presents an enormous target for those who want to reduce spending. Personnel comprises nearly half of Defense spending. Reducing personnel produces instant savings as contrasted with

reducing procurement, which can be either expensive in the near term if cancellation clauses of procurement contracts are invoked or only achievable in the out-years if purchases are stretched out.

With this background, it should be obvious that the Guard community must prepare to accept new missions into the Guard in the next few years. Whether we or our colleagues in the active services like it or not, it seems to us nearly inevitable that such shifts will occur. As GEN John R. Galvin, Supreme Allied Commander-Europe, put it in his article in the January issue of NATIONAL GUARD, the Guard and Reserve are ready and capable of performing up to standard.

While Congress has indicated its support for increased reliance on the National Guard, there has been a notable lack of support, or perhaps a misunderstanding, of the critical need for full-time support manpower. As new units are created to accept a mission from a disappearing active component unit, the full-time manning must come with it.

The obvious—but unacceptable—alternative is to provide such full-time manpower out of hide. That is not an acceptable or tolerable alternative, particularly in the long run. What we are seeing for the short run in the states is the Bureau's plans for how to man these new activities "out of hide." This is not proving to be a popular initiative with commanders because they see their already-reduced full-time manning being reduced even more. In a typical battalion, this might be from 28 to 21. In a company, it might be from five to four. In a general-officer headquarters, it could be from 24 to 16.

At the national level, the Bureau contends with repeated annual reductions in its proposed levels of full-time manning. Such reductions may occur at every step of the budget cycle. What the Bureau sends to the services as the requirement is reduced

for dollar reasons. What the services then send to DoD is reduced again. It may be reduced again by the Office of Management and Budget. And all this before it ever reaches Congress, which may reduce it again. The result: zero increases in AGR manning in FY88 and FY89. The increases in military technician spaces were modest and those increases will not and do not fulfill our requirements.

Further, Congress has put limitations on the Guard's—particularly the Army Guard's—ability to shift technician and AGR spaces to accommodate the requirement for full-time support. This limitation on flexibility comes mainly from the House Appropriations Committee (HAC), which prohibits the conversion of former technician spaces to AGR status even in deployable units where AGR manning is considered the norm. Further, the HAC has established a minimum for the number of military technicians, which means that the Bureau's goal of having AGR personnel in deployable units and military technicians in shops and state headquarters may never be realized.

If DoD and Congress continue, as we hope they will, to place increased reliance on the Guard and Reserve, they must provide the full-time manning necessary for readiness. This is of particular concern in the training arena, where our full-time trainers labor in the Army Guard and instructor pilots are assigned in the Air Guard.

A balanced and well-managed mix of AGR and military technicians will provide the most cost-effective and efficient cadre for Guard readiness within the Total Force. We urgently seek congressional support for our full-time manning requirements. These personnel are essential if the Guard is to be combat ready while accepting the missions deemed appropriate by Congress and the administration.

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FEATURES

Guard A-7s Fly the European Skies 14

Five Air National Guard units' joined together, under the direction of Detachment 7 and the lead of Lt Col Walt Wick of the Michigan Air National Guard, to test a new fighter concept for the A-7. The A-7's fire power is now a viable deep interdiction tool in the European Theater. CREEK CORSAIR '88 was an annual training period for three Air Guard A-7 units to fly and train in the theater they will potentially defend.

Why the Best is the Best 18

The 2d Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, South Dakota Army National Guard, is one of the best National Guard units in the nation. In the last six years, it has won four Kerwin Awards and many National Guard Association outstanding unit awards. Historically, the unit has taken this national lead since its conception in the state.

North Dakota Guardsmen Hit the Beach 22

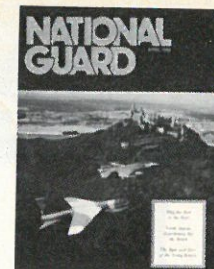
North Dakota Army Guard engineers were called in for a special project: develop an airstrip and several other projects for the Kwajalein Islands and establish a strong engineering base on the island and an even stronger personal interaction with the island peoples. The North Dakota Guard can and did both missions in an outstanding manner.

HUMINT Is Still the Best Intelligence 26

With the advent of the light fighter divisions and increased concept of mobility on the battlefield, the Army has to rely on all types of intelligence. High-tech intel is all well and good but can it read the faces of the enemy, the clothing and patches on the uniforms, the condition of the weapons they carry? No. The long range surveillance unit is back in gear and trucking through the woods to gather HUMINT.

Oklahoma Assaults Army Standards 30

Still new to the game of establishing schools that the active Army has been running for years, the Guard is taking on more and more of these school assignments to ensure that Guardsmen have the same opportunities of our active counterparts. The Oklahoma Guard has a top notch Air Assault School and the badge of honor is pinned on more Guardsmen annually because of its professional.



COVER:

For years the official USAFE photo only included active Air Force fighter planes. However, with the advent of CREEK CORSAIR '88, USAFE has a new official photo, which includes the Air Guard's A-7s. The A-7 is now considered a deep interdiction aircraft of the European theater. Design, Johnson Design, Inc.

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PUBLICATION STAFF

MG Bruce Jacobs (ret.)
Publisher

LTC Reid K. Beveridge
Editor

CPT Pamela A. Kane
Managing Editor

Capt Jean Marie Brawders
Assistant Editor

Belinda Reilly
News Editor

COL John C. Philbrick (ret.)
Advertising Sales

Col David A. McLaughlin (ret.)
Controller

Don DesJardins
Circulation Manager

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