

Three Days In January

JANUARY traditionally is a month of new beginnings. In Washington, it is the month for Congress to re-commence the business of legislating for the Nation, and for the inauguration of Presidents following a National election.

January likewise provides an annual takeoff point for leaders of the National Guard, who meet in Washington to discuss major problems, re-define Guard needs, and devise new initiatives to satisfy those needs.

This year, three days have been set aside for these important sessions, 29-30-31 January. Highlights in the round of discussions will be the first meeting of the NGAUS' reconstituted Executive Council, and the mid-Winter meeting of the Adjutants General Association of the United States (AGAUS), composed of Adjutants General from each of the 50 States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia.

The Executive Council will establish new legislative goals for the NGAUS to pursue in behalf of Guardsmen in every State. It also will be called on to make decisions on the management of the NGAUS' internal affairs. Its meeting will take place on Monday, 29 January.

The Adjutants General will meet all day Wednesday, 31 January, to discuss the Guard's most serious day-to-day problems and to propose solutions. It, too, is functioning under new leadership. Following my election to the Presidency of the NGAUS, I relinquished the Presidency of the AGAUS, which then was assumed by the then-Vice President, Major General Floyd L. Edsall of Nevada. General Edsall is developing an agenda which will enable the Adjutants General to make their views known on a variety of issues.

Between these two major functions falls Tuesday, 30 January, which will be used for several significant activities. For one of those, leaders of the 47 State National Guard Associations and of the newly-formed Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) will be invited to participate in a half-day meeting at which both National and State activities and initiatives will be reviewed. On that day also, the National Guard Bureau Chief's Advisory Council, composed of senior ARNG/ANG officers from every section of the Nation, will hold its first 1973 meeting. Members of the Council attempt to present a consensus of Guard views on selected problem areas. That same evening, a social event is being scheduled, to which selected Pentagon officials and Congressional leaders will be invited.

Other newly-elected NGAUS officers and I met in Washington on 20 November to firm-up plans for the January sessions. Since then, I have maintained close contact with General Edsall to insure that our programs are complementary and will produce some solid challenges for the conferees to tackle.

Topping our January agendas will be several topics with far-reaching implications for the Army and Air National Guard. Manpower losses and the fate of new incentive legislation represent two of these. The reorganization of the Army's command structure, which hopefully will lead to greater Active Army support of Guard and Reserve training, is still another. And there are many others of equal significance, most of them related to the Guard's most important product: combat-readiness.

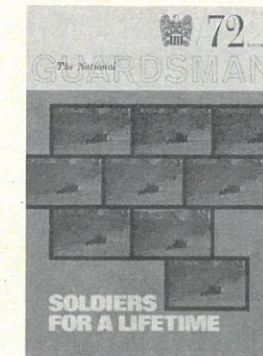
Thus, we commence the year on an ascendant note, with new initiatives to attain the Guard's higher readiness objectives, and new programs to identify the NGAUS as a dynamic, forward-looking force for progress in the military world. ♦



Henry W. McMillan
Major General, FLARNG
President
National Guard
Association of
The United States

The National GUARDSMAN

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Armored personnel carrier manned by Reservists on active duty patrols the border zone, in Israel.

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Official publication of the National Guard Association of the United States. Published monthly except in August. Publication office 1 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. Second class postage paid at Washington, D.C., and at additional mailing offices. All correspondence and address changes should be addressed to 1 Massachusetts Ave. N. W., Washington, D.C. 20001. "THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN" welcomes original articles bearing on National defense, with emphasis on the Army and Air National Guard. Manuscripts must be accompanied by return postage, and no responsibility is assumed for their safe handling. Domestic subscriptions for home delivery: \$2 per year. A year's subscription is included within NGAUS members' annual dues. Subscriptions to foreign addresses, \$2.50 per year. Single copies, 25¢. Copyright, 1972, National Guard Assn. of the U.S. All rights reserved.

DECEMBER, 1972