



# EDITORIAL

## REFLECTIONS ON THE GUARD'S 350TH BIRTHDAY

It is sobering to reflect this month on the birthday the National Guard will celebrate on December 13: the 350th anniversary of the chartering of the North, East and South Regiments of Massachusetts by the British governor of the Bay Colony. This is a very lengthy and rich history, a history that predates the founding of the Army and Marine Corps by 139 years.

It is instructive to consider the similarities and differences between the militia of December 1636 and the National Guard of 1986. In one way, those similarities are greater than many will suppose. Indeed, the author of this month's "First Muster" article (Page 16), noted that in writing it he was struck by the fact that those Massachusetts Puritans who turned out that December day 350 years ago were involved in many of the same things Guardsmen today are doing: they held a formation; the roll was called; they did some drill and ceremonies; they checked their weapons. And there was a little socializing after training. Sound familiar?

Of course, the type of combat envisioned in 1636 and in 1986 are entirely different. The foe is very different. But in both cases it is the immediate threat to the life, liberty and property of our citizens that is in question. In 1636, the immediate threat—16 years after the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth—was the Indians who inhabited nearby areas. If the English settlers were to be able to live in peace, they had to have a defense force capable of engaging their foes and defeating them.

Today, we know the mission on a global scale is much the same. If we in the United States are to be able to live in peace not only on the North American continent, but also be assured of allies and trading partners in an interdependent world, then we must maintain an extensive national defense system capable of mobilization, deployment and employment. The Na-

tional Guard is an integral part of the Total Force Policy that permits this to happen as we head toward the 21st Century.

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As the articles in this issue of NATIONAL GUARD make it clear, the militia and the National Guard have a perfect attendance record in this nation's wars. We were present at the beginning, when George Washington, a former colonel in the Virginia Militia, organized an army to fight in the Revolution. We were present for the battles around Washington, D.C., that secured our nation's continued independence when the British attempted, during the War of 1812, to recapture the fledgling states, as colonies.

The regiments of the National Guard were the backbone of the northern and southern armies during the Civil War. In fact, General Ulysses S. Grant was a colonel in the Illinois National Guard prior to the war. He made his name as a combat commander during the Mississippi River campaigns of the western theater, culminating in his victory at Vicksburg. That victory particularly caught President Lincoln's eye, resulting in Grant being transferred to command of the Army of the Potomac where he led the U.S. forces in the final months of the war. He was the only northern general who could defeat Robert E. Lee consistently.

As the articles about the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II and Korea illustrate, the National Guard had its ups and downs between the end of the Civil War and the beginning of the Total Force Policy in 1970. This is not a comment on National Guard leadership so much as it is a comment on the reluctance during peacetime planning to rely on the Guard and Reserve for wartime duty. For example, our critics sometimes cite the fact it took two years for National Guard divisions to be deployed to Korea as evidence that Guard divi-

sions cannot be combat ready. Seldom do they mention that the Army in 1950 had no plan to utilize Guard divisions in Korea, so this wasn't done, intentionally, for two years.

At the beginning of major deployments for Vietnam, politics intervened when President Johnson made the specific political decision in 1965 not to mobilize the Guard and Reserve at that time, but rather to increase draft calls. The Vietnam War that resulted was the first "regular's" war in history (as contrasted with a war in which the Guard and Reserve provided a majority of the forces). "Nonmobilization and Losing a War: The Lesson of Vietnam" is discussed on Pages 70-74. The mobilization that did occur came in 1968 as a result of the hijacking of the *USS Pueblo*, with some Guardsmen—particularly the Air Guard—serving with great success and distinction in Vietnam during the ensuing year.

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There is no shortage of senior national defense leaders today who will say whenever the subject arises that the next war cannot be fought without the Guard and Reserve. With Guard and Reserve numbers now outstripping those of the active components, this obviously is true. The performances of Guard units in major Joint Chiefs of Staff exercises prove such units are operationally and combat ready. The performances of Guard maneuver battalions at the U.S. Army's National Training Center at Fort Irwin show the readiness of those infantry and armored battalions. Operational Readiness Inspections conducted by the active Air Force on Air Guard units show those units are combat ready.

Just as the Bostonians of 1636 had to be ready to mobilize and fight on very short notice, so does the National Guard of 1986. With sufficient resources and equipment, we will be ready.

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### The Revolution: A Militia War

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When it became obvious by 1774 that the North American Colonies would revolt against King George III's tyranny, the only military force available was the Militia of the various Colonies. A colonel in the Virginia Militia, George Washington, eventually molded this group into the Continental Army.



### The Mexican Border and World War I

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The 1916 mobilization for Pancho Villa and the raids across the Mexican border were merely a prelude for the massive callup for World War I. Indeed, Guard troops were barely home from the border when the 1917 call came.



### World War II: The Big One

48

World War II was a National Guard war. When the Guard was mobilized in 1940-41, it more than doubled the size of the Army. In the Pacific, MacArthur had more Guard divisions than regulars. The 38th Division was one.



### The Nonmobilization of 1965

70

Unlike World War II, a conscious political decision was made in 1965 not to call the Guard. The nonmobilization decision played a major part in the Vietnam War's outcome.



### LTG Temple: The Guard of Today and Tomorrow

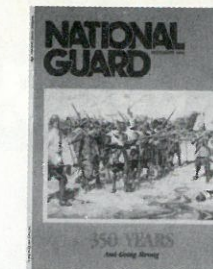
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The chief of the National Guard Bureau, LTG Herbert R. Temple Jr., speaks out on the National Guard of today and where we are headed by the year 2000.



## COVER:

The First Muster, which occurred on December 13, 1636, in Boston, is depicted in a Heritage Painting by artist Don Troiani. Troiani is the artist of a number of Heritage Paintings, commissioned by the National Guard Bureau and the Historical Society of the Militia and the National Guard. Design, Johnson Design Group.



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