

Men, Money, Readiness



James F. Cantwell
President

National Guard Association
of the United States

THE NATIONAL GUARD and other Reserve Components in all likelihood will find their most perplexing problems centered in three broad areas in 1970-71: soaring military costs and the resultant Budget squeeze, major changes in conscription-based military manpower policies, and continuing pressure for improved operational-readiness.

The first two have been the subject of lengthy National debate and of numerous studies at the highest levels. The man in the street has expressed his views, along with leaders from every segment of the American hierarchy—political, military, business, academic, students and news media.

Some decisions already have been made, particularly in the Budget field. Many defense programs have been drastically slashed, and deeper cuts may be in store next year. The National Guard escaped the worst effects of these reductions this year but eventually must feel the pinch, particularly in the area of equipment modernization. The budgetary problems faced by the Armed Forces are discussed elsewhere in this magazine, in an article by George Fielding Eliot that explains quite clearly how the cutbacks relate to the National Guard.

In the field of manpower, however, the critical decisions still must be made, in such areas as Draft revision, the all-volunteer force concept, and military compensation. On most of these, the point of decision will be reached this year. Some basic and far-reaching changes in direction loom as distinct possibilities.

There has been pressure for several years to make drastic revisions in the Draft. Disillusioned by developments in Viet Nam, and by inequities in prevailing Draft laws, Americans have insisted on changes. President Nixon made a major change when he initiated the random selection system and reduced the period of vulnerability. Recent statements by Secretary of Defense Laird suggest that additional changes are under consideration, in the area of deferments.

For nearly a year, a far more comprehensive alteration of manpower policies has been under study, aimed at placing the Military Establishment on an all-volunteer footing. The NGAUS has expressed its opposition to the all-volunteer plan, believing that continued reliance on the Draft, and its revision, would better serve the National interest.

Also due for presentation to Congress in the very near future is a Pentagon plan which would extensively alter the whole structure of military compensation, hopefully contributing to both the procurement and retention of competent personnel.

At present, all these complex proposals exist as separate entities and as such, will come under Congressional scrutiny this year. They must be viewed, however, as a single, interrelated package.

Their effect on the National Guard can range from appreciable to drastic, depending on decisions reached in the months ahead. One thing is certain: There *will* be change, and it will be felt at every level. It will be reflected in the time and energy commanders will have to devote to the related problems of recruiting and retention.

Thankfully, we will be spared the turmoil of new, extensive reorganizations. In a recent letter to this Association, Secretary Laird sees the present Reserve Component structure as "just about right for the foreseeable future."

In the same letter, however, he observes that "our primary tasks concerning the reserves are to make improvements in equipment, manning and training." Translated into more specific terms, that means hard, demanding labor at every level, along with regular infusions of new equipment from Active Army and Air Force stocks, to produce still-higher levels of mobilization-readiness.

Since all three areas of concern are of vital, long-range importance to the Guard, it is to them that the NGAUS will be compelled to devote much of its attention and effort during the busy months that face us. ♦

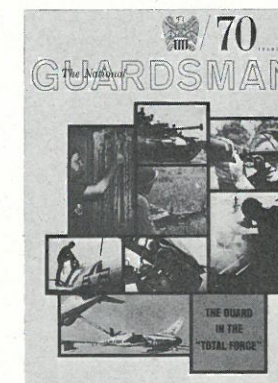
GUARDSMAN

The National

FEBRUARY, 1970

XXIV

2



In many ways, the Army and Air National Guard represent, more than ever, a vital element in the "total force."

THE GUARD IN THE TOTAL FORCE 2

At a time of ever-tightening defense Budgets and a scaling-down of the Active Forces, the Army and Air National Guard and other Reserve Forces take on even greater importance and may expect to share some of the fulltime forces' chores.

SERVICE TO THE NATION 8

The Air Guard's operational achievements, its problems, its honors, and its progress in post-demobilization rebuilding, are recounted in part 2 of a comprehensive review. Next: The Army Guard's story.

THEY KEEP 'EM FLYING 22

Without fuss or fanfare, the "TARS"—the Army Guard's three Transportation Aircraft Repair Shops—take some of the load off the Active Army by making "almost-new" airplanes and helicopters out of old ones.

WELCOME HOME 28

The home-town "finale" to the Guard's most recent hitch of active Federal service.

DEPARTMENTS

WASHINGTON REPORT	16
YOU OUGHT TO KNOW	21
POSTING THE GUARD	32
PENTAGON PARAGRAPHS	39
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR	40

STAFF

EDITOR / Col. Allan G. Crist

ASSOCIATE EDITOR / Luther L. Walker

ADVERTISING & CIRCULATION / Maj. John Bibb

Official monthly publication of the National Guard Association of the United States. 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, 1970, National Guard Assn. of the U.S. All rights reserved.

FEBRUARY, 1970