

# GUARDSMAN

The National

**T**HIS Nation is built on a system of government that draws its strength from a free, self-reliant people and from communities and States that take care of their own problems to the extent of their resources. The National Guard is an essential element of that tradition.

A key part of that tradition is that the Guard is composed solely of volunteers.

Recently we have seen a few news stories that some officials in the Department of Defense are considering use of the Draft system to fill the manpower requirements in the National Guard and other reserves. In fact there is a statement made in the letter from Roger T. Kelley, Assistant Secretary of Defense, to Congressman O.C. Fisher of the House Armed Services Committee (see "Washington Report") that thought is being given to requesting Draft authority as a last resort if declining strengths are not turned around by other means.

It seems incredible to those of us who have long been associated with the National Guard and imbued with the Militia concept that any thought would be given to institution of an involuntary system to procure manpower for our units. It is unbelievable that the Department of Defense, which has led the effort to attain an all-volunteer Active Force, would entertain any notion of using a Draft system for the first line of reserve elements. It is absurd to substitute the negativism of compulsion for the positivism of incentives.

National Guard leaders recognized the tasks facing them when the all-volunteer, zero-draft program was announced. They knew that they would have to strengthen their recruiting and retention programs. And they also knew that these programs must be backed-up with new financial incentives to attract people to join and stay. The revitalized retention and recruiting programs initiated within the National Guard structure already are producing significant results. But, bogged-down in the interminable staffing among the agencies involved, the Department of Defense has yet to submit any of the key incentives to Congress as firm proposals. Making those proposals is the kind of positive action that must be taken.

LTG Harris Hollis, Chief, Office of Reserve Components, for the Army, said recently that "We don't need that man in our Reserve Components ranks who is dedicated to the proposition that everything we stand for, he is against—who is hell-bent on tearing down the Army. We want that man who can look beyond himself to wholesome service in defense of a free country and humanity. We want the young men who respond wholesomely to the responsibilities of citizenship. . . ." The only way we can get the kind of men that we need is through a voluntary system of manpower procurement.

Without going into the questionable constitutionality of a Draft proposal, nor the highly impractical nature of such an attempt, considering the dual State-Federal status of the National Guard, Dr. Curtis W. Tarr, head of the Selective Service System, told the Adjutants General at their mid-Winter meeting in January that it "would be bad for the Guard, and a calamity for Selective Service. The saddest part would be bringing reluctant kids into what you now consider a proud outfit."

Our tradition, our needs, our pride—and the law of the land—all support our opposition to use of a Draft to fill our National Guard units. ♦



MG James F. Cantwell  
President

National Guard Association  
of the United States

## Incentives or Compulsion?

FEBRUARY, 1972      xxvi      2

MUTUAL SUPPORT      2  
*Army Guard contributes to joint-Service projects and training.*

PRIORITY AGGREGATE STRENGTH      10  
*Idaho ARNG tells how it planned for it, and "made it".*

WHY SHOULD A BLACK MAN JOIN THE GUARD?      19  
*A Viet Nam vet who has worked with people answers the question.*

WHAT'S "BIG" IN '72?      22  
*Adjutants General and NGAUS Council get the low-down.*

TARGET FOR TONIGHT      26  
*Is it your Armory the burglars and vandals will "hit"?*

PHYSICAL FITNESS      28  
*A sedentary Guardsman suffers the torture of the test.*

DAUGHTERS & DADS      Inside Back Cover



Today's Army Guard is a vigorous participant in mutual support among Active and Reserve Forces, and in off-the-beaten-track forms of training. (From top): "Assault landing" off Connecticut shore; debarkation from LST at Vieques Island; California gunners fire Utah 175s at Army proving ground.

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FEBRUARY, 1972

### DEPARTMENTS

WASHINGTON REPORT	12
YOU OUGHT TO KNOW	20
PENTAGON PARAGRAPHS	31
POSTING THE GUARD	32
LETTERS	39

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