

MG Ansel M. Stroud Jr., President, NGAUS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

EIGHTY YEARS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE THE DICK ACTS

Sometimes it takes the exertion of making a list to remind ourselves of how far we have come as an Association in our work in behalf of the National Guard. Such a list appears on Page 97 of this Yearbook edition of NATIONAL GUARD.

More than a year ago, we appointed a special committee of very senior Guardsmen to dig back through the history of the NGAUS and construct a compilation of the accomplishments of the Association over its 110-year history. We knew this would be a lengthy list, particularly in recent years. A few observations about this list are in order.

First, it sometimes is instructive to point out the origins of this Association in 1878 and the great difficulties and frustrations it experienced in its first 25 years. It is clear from that the NGAUS success stories were sparse indeed in the first quarter century.

Of course, those were largely years of peace as we would define that today. The period 1878-1898 was a time of expansion of the frontier and exploration and development of the West. It is true that there were numerous Indian wars in the territories, but these were fought by the regular Army composed of Civil War veterans and newly arrived immigrants.

It was the Spanish-American War of 1898 that demonstrated the ill-preparedness of the nation for mobilization.

That mobilization should have occurred in 1898. It didn't because the legislation, or at least some of it, that had been requested by the NGAUS over the years, had not been enacted by Congress despite the NGAUS' pleas and the fact that the NGAUS, then and today, is organized to provide united representation before Congress in behalf of Guardsmen everywhere.

This year, the NGAUS celebrates the 80th and 85th birthdays of the two famous Dick Acts of 1903 and 1908. These two laws, whose significance

has been discussed at other times on these pages, were really the first significant accomplishments of the NGAUS. They came about because of the fortuitous convergence in one man, Major General Charles M. Dick, of these statuses: member of Congress (later senator), commanding general of the Ohio National Guard and NGAUS president.

When you look at the list of accomplishments of the NGAUS that begin on Page 97, you find the Dick Acts of 1903 and 1908 as the cornerstones of what we know today as the Total Force. They provided a sound basis for the federal mission of the Guard, the first steps toward today's full partnership in the Total Force.

Of course, much has transpired since those historic congressional enactments of 80 years ago. Our recapitulation of the NGAUS' accomplishments over the years demonstrates this. It also demonstrates that once this Association achieved some momentum, reaching our legislative goals became somewhat easier.

Sometimes these legislative goals have been defensive in nature. Defeat of the Continental Army Plan in 1915 was the next major legislative achievement of the NGAUS after enactment of the Dick Act of 1908. That was followed by the participation of the NGAUS in writing the National Defense Act of 1916 that made it clear that the National Guard was the element of the Army "when in federal service."

The National Defense Act of 1933 is a law much on our minds in the late 1980s because it is the statute that created the National Guard of the United States. This is the mobilized National Guard, and indeed also is the status of our forces when sent on OCONUS training.

As accomplishments, the NGAUS can cite these:

- Guard and Reserve retirement. The United States is the only nation

known to have a retirement system for its Guard and Reserve that is based on active duty retirement.

- Creation of the National Guard Bureau as the joint (Army and Air) executive agency in the Department of Defense for administration of the National Guard and requiring that its chief be a National Guard officer in at least the grade of major general.

- The Technician Act of 1968. This watershed enactment was the result of years of effort to provide a suitable and adequate retirement program for the Guard's full-time force, then mostly state employees. The solution found was to put our military technicians under the Civil Service retirement system, while at the same time retaining their essential military status by requiring them to be members of the units for which they work and to be governed by military regulations and the orders of their adjutant general.

- GI Bill. One of the great achievements of the 1980s was the enactment of the "New GI Bill," later named the Montgomery GI Bill after its primary sponsor, Representative G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery (D-Mississippi). For the first time, this version of the GI Bill of educational entitlements contained benefits for National Guard service proportionate to what was provided to active component servicemen.

The 1980s have seen accelerated and increased effectiveness of your Association. This has been in large part because you the members are increasingly interested in the Association's work and in assisting it. Our strength, the historic strength of the NGAUS, has been our grassroots network that permits representation before Congress through the voices and pens of members in the 54 states and territories.

National

NATIONAL GUARD

FEBRUARY 1988

Volume XLII, Number 2

FEATURES

The Mission: To Deter War

Admiral William J. Crowe, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, outlines the nation's defense policy: the deterrence of war. Crowe addresses all avenues of our defense requirements based on the threat, our armed forces' capabilities and those of our allied forces.

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DESERT GUARD I

For the first time at the National Training Center (NTC), a National Guard brigade was the command and control element during an NTC rotation. The 256th Infantry Brigade (Mech), Louisiana Army National Guard, led the maneuver battalions at the NTC, commanded by BG (P) Frank Denton.

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Building Armories on the Last Frontier

For the past several years, the Utah and Oregon Air National Guard PRIME BEEF Teams have been constructing prefabricated armories for remote Eskimo Scout Companies in the Alaska Army National Guard. Weather, geographical location and seclusion from any known conveniences make the construction of these armories a challenge to all.

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Gen Larry D. Welch Speaks Out

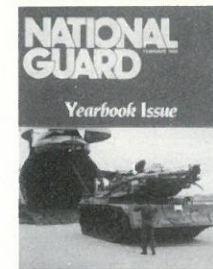
Gen Larry D. Welch, chief of staff of the Air Force, addresses the many topics facing the Total Air Force today. He discusses the challenges of the recent INF Treaty, the need for more and advanced equipment in the Total Air Force, and the closeness between the active Air Force and the Air National Guard as its first-line supporter.

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Legislative Action Plan

For the second year, NATIONAL GUARD Magazine has included the Legislative Action Plan between its covers. This year, printed simultaneously with the issuance of the plan to state association presidents and the adjutants general, the magazine has given not only the current Legislative Action Plan, but has included an extensive history of all the Association's legislative accomplishments since the enactment of the first Dick Act.

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COVER:

The Army and Air National Guard symbolize the Total Force Policy not only with their own services but between the separate services as two entities that continually demonstrate the hand-in-hand work we do as members of sister organizations. Design: Johnson Design Group.

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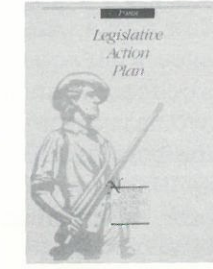
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NATIONAL GUARD, February 1988. The NATIONAL GUARD Magazine (ISSN 0163-3945) is published monthly, by the National Guard Association of the United States, with editorial and advertising offices at One Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. Telephone (202) 789-0031. Second class postage paid at Washington, D.C., and at additional mailing offices. Copyright 1988 by the National Guard Association of the U.S. All rights reserved. All members of the NGAUS receive NATIONAL GUARD. Nonmember subscriptions: \$10 per year. The Editor welcomes original articles bearing on national defense, with emphasis on application to or implications for the National Guard. Postmaster: Send Form 3579 to NATIONAL GUARD, One Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.