



MG Charles M. Kiefner, President, NGAUS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HISTORY SPEAKS FOR RETAINING A STRONG DEFENSE STRUCTURE

With the thawing of the Cold War, thoughts have prevailed about the historical significance of this "peacetime war's" end and what impact this perceived end will have on our military forces and more particularly the National Guard. Historically, after each war, the United States has demobilized its armed forces to the lowest levels possible. These demobilizations not only applied to the active forces but also to the Guard and Reserve. In so doing, history shows that our initial readiness has been less than what the threat required. Essentially, all of our wars have been "come as you are wars."

Beginning with the first demobilization following the Revolutionary War, when we completely disbanded our standing army save a few officers and 80 enlisted men, the United States has traditionally maintained a small standing armed force. The nation would have creeping increases in conjunction with rising conflicting relations. War was enjoined and mobilization occurred. Once the issues appeared to be resolved and relations returned to "normal," the force was immediately reduced. In the same stead, little effort was given to the training and readiness of the National Guard, except for during one period. More on that later. First a little historical perspective.

Between 1784 and 1812, the struggle to maintain a strong standing armed force and to provide federal support to the Militia was tossed back and forth. These were the Indian Frontier years and the strike years that saw the National Guard as a *posse comitatus* force. Deteriorating relations between the new nation and France and England led to a eight-year period of "damned if we do and damned if we don't," when it came to the defense of our borders.

Under Thomas Jefferson, the concept of the Militia as a reliable, mobilizable force in support of the regulars was established, but only if

federal support were furnished to the states. Jefferson had a penchant for the smaller standing force supported by a prepared Militia force. He sought legislation to strengthen the Militia, but it failed in Congress. The concept did not disappear however.

War with Great Britain was declared on June 18, 1812. To respond, Congress authorized a land force of approximately 166,000 men, of which 100,000 were Militiamen. No mobilization plans were in place to man, sustain, train and employ such a large force. Despite this, we went to war and won.

Immediately following the War of 1812, the Army was reduced to 10,000 men. The Militia forces were sent home and Federal Volunteers disbanded. Between the War of 1812 and the War with Mexico, the nation did little to address a strong Militia to balance the small standing force. Again we entered the War with Mexico in 1846 with little or no thought to mobilization or preparedness.

U.S. armed forces entered the Spanish-American War as ill-prepared as in previous 19th century conflicts. For the first time, except for the War with Mexico, mobilization of the National Guard for a foreign war had begun. The National Guard reported in better condition than it had in previous wars. Most of its officers had had military training and experience from the Civil War. However, equipment was minimal and outmoded. Training was hampered by the constant influx of new recruits into the units.

The aftermath of the Spanish-American War was the thrust for the modern day National Guard. Ironically, it was a National Guardsman and a member of Congress, Charles Dick, who came forward to repair the ills of previous mobilizations, through lessons he learned firsthand when his unit was mobilized for that war. The Dick Acts evolved and the National Guard began to receive the federal

recognition and support it needed.

It was during this era, 1899 to 1914, that the National Guard fought some of its most bitter battles of principle and survival. Throughout this era, Guard leadership delivered a message that is echoed even today: individuals do not win wars, teamwork and units win wars. Therefore, with the proper equipment, training, and benefits, the National Guard can produce a reliable, cost-effective force.

After years of internal battles, it was the National Defense Act of 1916 that clearly outlined the nation's military needs as an emerging world leader. The regular Army was increased to 175,000, the Army Reserve was established and the National Guard was guaranteed as the secondary line of defense.

The Guard was mobilized in 1916 to the Mexican Border War to fight Pancho Villa; the mobilization was almost a dress rehearsal for the First World War. Great debate revolved around the ability of the National Guard to mobilize and deploy to fight in support of national interests. The consensus was the Guard had done an admirable job and simultaneously was ready for World War I.

World Wars I and II, the great battles of the United States, demanded full participation from all the elements of US forces. These wars left little doubt that the standing army could not participate on a global level without a trained, ready National Guard. In each conflict, the Guard deployed but, initially, with little or no modern equipment and training to meet the standards. Again after these wars, manpower was drawn down and equipment became outdated with no replacements.

Korea and Vietnam again proved precedents wrong. The military was still not prepared for a mobilization of forces. History seems to alert us to the fact that the United States, even

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National Guard

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FEATURES

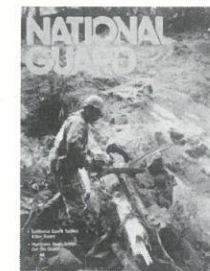
Guard Conferences Highlight Readiness 12
Adjutants general and their staffs who attended the Army National Guard Resource Management Conferences, conducted throughout the country, and the Air National Guard Senior Commanders Conference, which met late last year in Reno, Nevada, discussed the shrinking budget and the effects it will have on the way the National Guard does business.

Guard Members Help Hugo Victims 18
The National Guard answered the call for assistance after Hurricane Hugo devastated the Carolinas, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico in mid-September. Elements of specialized Army and Air Guard units from several states provided support to the hard-hit islands, while Air National Guard airlift units from across the U.S. formed a "bridge" for relief supplies and equipment.

California Guard Mobilized For Quake Relief 28
The California National Guard reacted quickly when the "World Series Earthquake," measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale, hit the San Francisco Bay area. After the quake hit, every unit in the state was alerted for possible active duty, and at the peak, more than 1,700 California Guard members were called to duty.

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The Battle Command Training Program is a computer-driven program designed to be so realistic in simulating combat that division and corps commanders can go to war without firing a single live round.



COVER:

Following an earthquake that devastated the San Francisco Bay area, the California National Guard mobilized. Before a landslide in the Santa Cruz Mountains could be cleared, SPC Steven Brown from D Company, 579th Engineer Battalion, cuts away the uprooted trees. Photo, SFC Jim Ober. Design, Johnson Design Group.

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