

IT'S TIME TO BE OPTIMISTIC AND VIGILANT

The United States is readying itself for the 21st century. The National Guard and our national leaders are preparing for the coming century as well. In their preparation for our national defense, the 103d Congress, the new administration and the new leadership in the Pentagon should continue their support of the National Guard and the citizen-soldier as the bulwark of our national defense. I truly believe we can be optimistic in 1993 about that continued support, so long as we are vigilant in the preservation of the National Guard's long-standing consititutional dual role.

The cause for optimism is based on several factors. First, the Congress has largely supported our position on Army Guard force structure. Through your strong grass roots efforts, the Army National Guard is pegged for 422,725 end-strength and force structure. Additionally, the Air National Guard is the only component of the Total Force that will see growth in the coming fiscal year.

With a new administration in town, the NGAUS leadership believes that many of the DoD initiatives that would radically downsize the Army Guard can be modified. President Bill Clinton pledged, during his speech to the 114th NGAUS General Conference in Salt Lake City, that he would make greater use of the Guard and Re-

As your Association president, I charge you to spread the word that all is not woe in Washington, D.C.

These comments about the fact that we should be optimistic are an ideal lead-in to some discussion of the combat reform initiatives contained in the FY93 Defense Authorization Act. Without a doubt, the membership is concerned about the intent of these initiatives. At this point, I believe we can even look upon the initiatives with optimism.

First, it should be understood by one and all, the intent of the initiatives

Army National Guard closer together. It was no surprise to us that the recent Rand Force Mix Study reported there is a chasm between these two components. And because of this chasm, particularly after the Persian Gulf War, our critics called for a diminished combat arms role in the Army Guard. The previous leadership in the Pentagon used the nondeployment of the roundout brigades as the prime reason. The House Armed Services Committee (HASC) leadership wrote initiatives to ensure the Army Guard would continue with a predominant combat arms role in the Total Force.

And in the process, the National Guard was kept in the loop. At the outset of developing the FY93 Defense Authorization Act, the HASC staff members approached the NGAUS leadership and staff for our comments and suggestions. As always, we expressly outlined our positions and opinions. The HASC staff members listened and weighed our concerns, along with others, in finalizing the language.

As your president, I would like to explain three points of the initiatives that have caused the greatest concern among our membership.

One. The requirement that 65 percent of the officers in the Army Guard and 50 percent of the enlisted personnel must have two years active duty is a requirement for the Department of the Army to fulfill. There is little any state or unit commander can do to influence these numbers. If the Army is to comply with this initiative by the deadline in 1997, it must involuntarily discharge lieutenants to the Army Guard, and require them to serve.

Further, how the Guard stands on this question depends on how "two years" is defined. It is up to the secretary of the Army to write the regulations to meet the requirements of the Authorization Act.

Two. The requirement that certain Army Guard officers' promotions be reviewed by the gaining commander

is to bring the active Army and the or another active Army officer. This FEBRUARY 1993 may be difficult, since an active Arm division commander would not be fa miliar with all the officers in his round. out brigade. Therefore, his ability to rate them or comment on their promo. tions will be severely limited. Leaving that aside, however, we may already be in compliance with this require Otis Begins Cleanup Operations ment. Senior Army advisors already federal recognition process.

> proposal to create a centralized accontamination is. count of nondeployables into some holding account to take the place of useful force structure has been neutralized by language requiring 422,725 spaces in units. The new personnel account will be utilized much Army as an administrative holding account to put personnel who haven't completed minimum training requirements or who are otherwise unable to deploy with a unit.

In conclusion, let us state that most of the combat reform initiatives have effective dates of 1997. What is important here is that the Army National Guard, along with the active Army. make every attempt to comply with the initiatives in good faith. If it turns out to be impossible, or if some of the goals prove to be unattainable, that changes to congressional language can be recommended to the HASC

Let's look on the bright side. Pres dent Clinton has pledged to retain the Army Guard's traditional comba arms role and to make greater use the National Guard.

Everything said above should cause for optimism, not gloom. we know that there continues to uncertainty surrounding unit dead tions and the "push-around list. we should continue to believe that future is brighter so long as we ren vigilant over the National Guar continued role in the nation's first of defense.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Volume XLVII, Number 2



COVER:

A CH-54 Skycrane helicopter belonging to the Nevada Army National Guard removes debris from behind a national treasure, Mount Rushmore. Photo, MAJ Nancy J. Wetherill, South Dakota Army National Guard. Please note that all four presidents were Guardsmen. Design, Johnson Design Group.

FEATURES

After nearly 10 years of studying contamination problems at Otis review promotions as a part of the ANGB in the Cape Cod region of Massachusetts, the Guard has begun cleanup operations. One of the biggest problems plaguing Three. Language to prevent the military installations nationwide is determining just where the



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The Honorable Ray Clark Speaks Out

like the Training, Transit, Holding and The Honorable Ray Clark, Executive Office of the President, Schools (TTHS) account, which has Council on Environmental Quality, lauds the Guard's proactive been used traditionally in the active role in carrying out the intent of the National Environmental

some 40 years ago, a Hall of Records was planned inside Mount

Rushmore. While the hall was never completed, much debris was

left behind, blighting the national treasure. South Dakota and

Nevada Guard members gave special meaning to being environ-

mental activists when they used special cargo-carrying helicop-

The Guard Cleans a National Jewel

ters to remove the debris.

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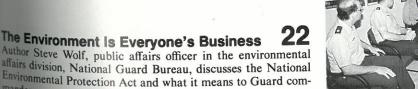
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The Environment Is Everyone's Business Author Steve Wolf, public affairs officer in the environmental affairs division, National Guard Bureau, discusses the National

Community Relations Diffuse Problems

When Fresno ANGB, California, discovered contamination on its roperty, it decided to tackle the problem head-on. It informed Public immediately and developed good community relations. n Tucson, Arizona, plans to expand a helicopter facility are being done in tandem with community involvement.



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