



Maj Gen John L. Matthews, President, NGAUS

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## 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 consitutional 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 Reserve.

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

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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

is to bring the active Army and the 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

or another active Army officer. This may be difficult, since an active Army division commander would not be familiar with all the officers in his roundout brigade. Therefore, his ability to rate them or comment on their promotions will be severely limited. Leaving that aside, however, we may already be in compliance with this requirement. Senior Army advisors already review promotions as a part of the federal recognition process.

**Three.** Language to prevent the proposal to create a centralized account 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 like the Training, Transit, Holding and Schools (TTHS) account, which has been used traditionally in the active 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, then changes to congressional language can be recommended to the HASC.

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

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

National Guard

# NATIONAL GUARD

FEBRUARY 1993 Volume XLVII, Number 2

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Author Steve Wolf, public affairs officer in the environmental affairs division, National Guard Bureau, discusses the National Environmental Protection Act and what it means to Guard commanders everywhere.

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



## 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.

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NATIONAL GUARD, February 1993. 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. FAX: (202) 682-9358. Second class postage paid at Washington, D.C., and at additional mailing offices, Copyright 1993 by the National Guard Association of the U.S. All rights reserved. All members of the NGAUS receive NATIONAL GUARD; \$8 of the membership dues are allocated to a magazine subscription. Non-member subscriptions: \$20 per year. Bulk subscription rate for orders of 100 issues or more continues at \$10 per issue. 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.

