

President's Message

Maj Gen John L. Matthews, President, NGAUS

Citizens Are the Foundation of America's Armed Forces

Much has been said recently about America's military, and about structuring our armed forces to meet the challenges of the 21st century. As we rapidly approach the end of this decade and the beginnings of this brave new century, predictions and plans abound as to what must and will be done. Optimism prevails in many quarters because of the rapid change in technology, change that America is creating.

Changing technology has always impacted upon warfare. Longbow and crossbow advocates found themselves obsolete as muskets gained preference; muskets in their turn became obsolete as rifles gained stature. Today, smart bombs rule, as technology pushes the envelope of development forward.

Yet, one factor is woven throughout all of this technological development: armies do not win wars. Their nations and their people win wars. Occasionally, we need to remind ourselves of this important precept; especially as we downsize our military. The rush to shrink, the pressures to maintain the proper mix between components and the need to save dollars must be accomplished in a context that stays focused on keeping the people involved. In a democracy, keeping the people involved is the foundation upon which the proposed "expansibility" can be built.

Granted, our military forces must shrink. We recognized that as we reached an agreement to help transition to a peacetime Army. The one large, overwhelming threat does not exist anymore, and most everyone agrees that it will be years before

another power arises to replace what we faced for more than four decades. Fortunately, we are one of a few nations that have a military force structure that maintains an intricate relationship with the people.

The Total Force Policy has brought the National Guard to the highest levels of readiness ever in our national history. It has been also demonstrated that Guard forces are more cost effective than ever before.

"The pressures to decrease the size of the military surely will continue. Through it all, we must remember that it is citizens and their Militia upon which America's armed forces are built. If we weaken that foundation, we lose our national strength and soul."

the fledgling Army was born of its Militia roots. Many Army units trace their lineage back to Militia units; a good example is the 3d Infantry "Old Guard" Division.

Our recitation of this history is not intended to be definitive; it is intended, however, to point out that any debate over preparedness actually begins with the involve-

ment of the people. Today's National Guard units are a continuation of that citizen involvement. The increased resources and attention to readiness has refined the force that is the very essence of national service. The National Guard always has learned from its history, and, especially since the advent of the NGAUS, it has struggled to improve itself. In many cases this struggle was to gain needed resources or well-deserved recognition of its ever-increasing professionalism.

The dawning of a new century has brought an increasing focus on the technological wonders that are just around the corner. The day of Buck Rogers is here. So, as we wrap ourselves in the cloak of the future, we must remember that technology does not preordain success—the great victory of the longbow came in its last major battle. As a democratic nation, we do not look far to see what does increase our chances of success. As challenges arise, it is from the people that the successes have come.

In the early days, it was the Washingtons, Jeffersons, Adams and Henrys that met the challenges. Later, it was the Lincolns, Grants, the McKinleys, the Roosevelts, Eisenhowers, the Trumans and countless others who met their challenges. They were preordained; all came from the American people.

The pressures to decrease the size of our military will surely continue. Through all this, we must remember that it is citizens and their militia upon which America's armed forces are built. If we weaken that foundation, we lose our national strength and soul. We must constantly ensure that this foundation remains strong and must ensure that from out of the ranks of our people arise the leaders that are needed when a crisis arises. The American people are the only ones who can create the responsibility of America's armed forces required.

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Features

Pressing the Fight To Save America 16
The Mississippi Regional Counterdrug Training Academy has the mission of training civilian law enforcement officers in enforcement level counterdrug skills. What makes the academy unique is its tactical level of training; it is located on an active duty Navy installation; and it is administered by the Mississippi National Guard.

Guard Tankers Help RESTORE HOPE 20
Relying on the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve for a major tanker task force was the logical choice for the Air Mobility Command. Last October, citizen-airmen from seven Air National Guard and Reserve units teamed up to move personnel and equipment during Operation RESTORE HOPE in Somalia reinforcement missions. New Hampshire's 157th Refueling Group was the leader of the pack.

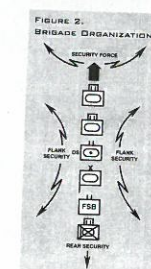
Global Reach Is the Lift for Life 26
Members from the 136th Airlift Wing, Texas Air Guard, and the 166th Airlift Group, Delaware Air Guard, integrated their personnel and aircraft to support the UN, the U.S. Army and other military groups in Operation PHOENIX PARTNER. Missions consisted of personnel and cargo airdrops, air/land deliveries and transportation of transient passengers throughout the European theater.

The First To Fire 30
A glimpse back to December 1941 reveals the unexpected, desperately needed, formation of an antiaircraft artillery regiment in the Philippines at the beginning of World War II. The miracle was that this antiaircraft regiment engaged in combat within 36 hours. The significance is that it was a New Mexico Army National Guard unit that made it a reality.

Walking To the Brigade and Below 34
The Army is making an effort to improve its capability for command and control. This effort, called brigade and below command and control, is designed to replace current voice radio nets across the brigade/battalion task force with digital automated communications and data terminals at key locations on the battlefield. This will provide vital information where and when it influences the outcome of combat operations.



Cover:
Fill it up! A C-141 approaches the refueling boom of a KC-135 from the 157th Air Refueling Group, New Hampshire Air National Guard. The 157th, along with other Air Guard units, played a crucial role in Operation RESTORE HOPE. Photo, SMSgt Steve Hodgson. Cover, Dennis and Sackett Design.



Departments

President's Message	2
Views From the Field	4
Shaping Up	7
Washington Tie-Lines	8
Capitol Focus	14
Leading Edge	38
Posting the Guard	40
Notebook	42

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