



President's Message

Maj Gen John L. France, President, NGAUS

Opportunity Is Knocking

When they were announcing the new majority's priorities for 1995, Senate Republican leaders noted that one test for whether a federal program goes or stays might be: "If we had a huge deficit and were being asked to start this program, would we?"

Clearly, there are some elements of defense spending that don't pass that test very well. The National Guard, however, is not one of them. Although missions change some over 358 years, the basic and underlying rationale for a militia remains constant.

That might not be so in another nation, which might be smaller, more compact, more homogeneous or less federal in the sense that the 50 states have considerable autonomy in many areas. But in a nation like the United States was in Colonial days and like it is today, the dual role of the National Guard as the legal successor of the Colonial militias remains vital and an absolute requirement of government.

Similarly, the idea of a small standing Army in peacetime augmented by a large National Guard as backup and mobilization asset is ingrained in this nation's history and practice. Increasingly, defense analysts are concluding that the Cold War's large-standing, active duty forces were or should be considered an aberration in the United States. For example, the mobilization of the National Guard in 1940 prior to the U.S. entry into World War II more than doubled the size of the Army. The mobilization of the Guard and Reserve in 1990 for the

Gulf War did not double the size of the military, although it increased its size significantly. However, were similarly sized forces needed today, a much larger mobilization would be needed.

Today, two major studies of force mix between active components and the Guard and Reserve are underway. One, the Commission on Roles and Missions in the Armed Forces is studying the overall subject. Second, the Rand Corporation has been commissioned by DoD—as a result of a congressional mandate in 1994—to study

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the Guard's state and federal mission and their implications for national defense. Perhaps this latter study is the one most directly to the point of that, if you were creating institutions from scratch in a deficit environment, you definitely would conclude there is a mandate for a militia.

In the post-Cold War environment of peacekeeping and peace enforcement, new questions about the vital role of the Guard arise. When he was chief of the National Guard Bureau, Lt Gen John B. Conaway (ret.) used to say that in foreign missions, the active components are the tip of the spear and in the domestic role, the Guard is the tip of the spear. Conversely,

both components back each other up. The active Army backed up the California Guard during the Los Angeles riots several years ago. The Guard has backed up the active Army in Somalia and Haiti. The question to be addressed for the future is: What is the Guard's proper role in opera-

tions other than war (OOTW), an increasingly discussed topic.

Specifically, if one assumes that the active components will make the initial deployment for operations such as Somalia and Haiti, what can the Guard's role be follow-on force when it is time to bring active Army and Air Force home and reconfigure them for the next contingency? Like the Guard has done for years in Central America, could some form of rotational deployment be devised, with adequate notice, so that various types of units could be deployed for shorter periods of time the same work as the actives did in the past. The National Guard military police unit is just one example.

This brings us to some additional questions:

□ What new types of organizational concepts should be considered?

□ What variations of mix of active and Guard forces within various units would be most effective? If one agrees that a mix of divisions in the contingency corps would be all active, then what should be the mix of active and Guard in the other divisions?

□ Should the ratio of combat and support forces in the active and Guard be changed? (Currently almost no combat support and combat service support areas from the Guard and Reserve. The Air Force cannot do a combat support mission without Air Guard refueling and aiter airlift.)

□ Finally, should Guard forces be integrated with active forces at each contingency to ensure a balance is maintained for a second major regional contingency or follow-on smaller contingencies?

With a balanced budget amendment on the horizon and with new men and women in top leadership in the House and Senate, we have an opportunity for a new approach to Defense issues. We must speak with one voice.

Cover:

Coming off the firing range, CPT Eric Stevenson, commander of A Company, 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry, Washington Army Guard, guides his Bradley Fighting Vehicle to the safe area behind the firing line. Photo by SGT Bill Gregersen-Morash. Cover by Dennis and Sackett Design.

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Features

Combat Readiness Is Serious Business 14
Soldiers of A Company, 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry, Washington Army National Guard, recently completed 18 months of intensive training on their recently-acquired Bradley Fighting Vehicles. The 161st is an 81st Infantry Brigade (Mech) component. The 81st is the roundout brigade for the Army's 2d Infantry Division (ID). The entire brigade is taking part in a transition to more updated equipment.

Everyone Is a Winner at Lodeo '94 18
Air National Guard ordnance personnel pass the ammunition at the 1994 Lodeo competition. The competition pitted the skills of A-10 Warthog ordnance teams from five states against one another. The competition took place last summer at Willow Grove Air Reserve Station, Pennsylvania. At the end of the competition, Connecticut's 103d Fighter Group (FG) captured first place. The "Flying Yankees" proved that they were the masters of this intense competition—this year.

The Guard Revamps Army Excess 22
With the force structure drawdown, the Army was left with 55,000 excess vehicles and millions of dollars of equipment coming home from Europe. Under the direction of the National Guard, the European Equipment Retrograde (RETROEUR) program is repairing and redistributing this equipment, to units stationed in the United States. The program has saved millions of dollars, provided a real-world mission for the Guard and brought fiscal relief to local economies.

GuardCare Brings Health Home 24
In Ohio, doctors and nurses wearing camouflage and combat boots are going out into rural Appalachia to help those in need. Thanks to the congressional pilot program GuardCare, the Guard can now go into needy communities in the United States. Ohio Guard members are helping migrant workers and their families by providing immunizations, as well as vision, hearing and dental screenings. The Guard personnel who are involved are pleased to have a military mission with a human touch.

"Buckeyes" Host the 117th Conference 28
Travel to a city that shares, with the National Guard, a rich past and an exciting future. The National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) will be meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, September 7-9, 1995, for the 117th NGAUS General Conference. Members and friends of the NGAUS are encouraged to attend the Conference and to spend time in the city that has been awarded the prestigious All-American City Award an unprecedented three times in five years.

