



Major General William E. Ingram, President, NGAUS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

GUARD SPENDING VERSUS DEFENSE BUDGET 'CUTS'

Some political analysts have made much of the change in the makeup of Congress as a result of the November elections. The Senate remains firmly in Republican hands, but the House that convened in January has 26 more Democrats than it had during the 1981-82 session.

These political analysts have generally agreed that as a result of the Democratic gains, which give the House Democratic leadership much firmer control of that body, there will be "cuts" in defense spending and "increases" in spending for social programs. Such a conclusion can be challenged, however, particularly when considering spending for the National Guard.

For one thing, despite the 26 Democratic gains in the House, nearly all the conservative Democrats in Congress such as Senator John Stennis (D-MS) and Congressmen William Nichols (D-AL) and G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery (D-MS) were reelected easily. Their support for a strong national defense will not be altered by the election of more Democratic colleagues.

In addition, there are at least two sides to how the change in political philosophy in Congress may affect the passage of legislation and the approval of additional spending proposals. First, with a firm Republican majority in the Senate, the chances of rolling back many of President Reagan's accomplishments of 1981-82 seem remote. To muster a two-thirds majority to override a presidential veto of such repealers would seem an insurmountable obstacle in the Senate particularly. However, actually passing legislative proposals may be much more difficult. The old cliché about there being a thousand ways to kill a bill but only one way to pass it remains valid. In particular, all military authorization and appropriations bills for defense spending will have to pass that more-Democratic

House of Representatives, a task that won't be made easier by the presence of the 26 new Democrats who defeated Republicans.

Many of those Democrats will agree that defense spending must be reined in and spending for social programs increased. While this tendency likely will be important in House consideration of all spending proposals, it ignores not only what has occurred in the last two years but particularly what has occurred in the last two decades.

According to University of Maryland economics Professor Melville J. Ulmer, the assertion that social spending has been reduced at the expense of additional military spending in recent years has no basis in fact. "The cold statistical facts show that federal outlays for welfare, including income maintenance and public health, have continued steadily upward—from \$248 billion in fiscal year 1980 to \$291 billion in 1982. The last figure is more than 70 percent greater than the presumably bloated budget for national defense."

What is worse, over the past two decades there has been an almost exact reversal between the proportion of the budget spent for defense and for social programs. For example, in the first budget President John F. Kennedy proposed to Congress, 50 percent of the money went for defense and 28 percent for social programs. Today, 28 percent of the federal budget is for defense and 50 percent for social programs.

An additional reversal that the critics of additional defense spending ignore is how much less of the U.S. gross national product (GNP) is being appropriated today for national defense than was spent two decades ago. In the last Eisenhower administration, for example, 10 percent of the value of all goods and services comprised that 50 percent of the federal

budget that went for defense. If all President Reagan's defense spending proposals for fiscal year 1983 were adopted, this would be 7 percent of the current GNP.

But what may be more significant in terms of what really drives defense spending—the Soviet threat—the Russians in those same two decades have increased their military expenditures from 9.3 percent of their gross national product to 15 percent. Is it any wonder they outnumber us in virtually every category of military hardware?

Despite these gloomy spending statistics, the new mood of Congress to curtail such spending may not immediately affect the National Guard. One reason is that the Army and Air Guard specialize in conventional defense, something that isn't under attack even by those most critical of defense spending.

That could afford the National Guard an opportunity to improve readiness through fuller procurement of equipment and modernization of the aging hardware we presently are issued. This is particularly true because the defense-spending critics are far more likely to zero in on the so-called "big ticket" items such as the MX missile and the B-1 bomber than they are on procurement of conventional weapons. This is not to say the MX and B-1 aren't justified, only that they are politically more exposed.

In pursuing the National Guard's opportunities for bolstering conventional defense, we in the Guard will have to explain our positions carefully. Not all proposals for transferring force structure from the active components to the Guard will be sound. Whether such transfers will produce readiness or merely window dressing will depend on how it is done. Still, 1983 still holds promise for the National Guard in what might otherwise be considered a more hostile congressional environment.

1878



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12

Features

12 SELECTIVE SERVICE

The National Guard and the Army Reserve play an integral part in the training and preparation of the Selective Service System for any resumption of the draft in the future.

15 SIMULATORS: TRAINING FOR THE FUTURE

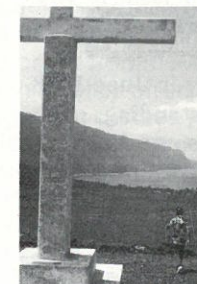
With the price of ammunition skyrocketing and the likelihood that insufficient quantities will be available for training, the use of simulators for such things as tank training will be increasingly used in the future.

Departments

President's Message	Inside Front Cover
Views from the Field	2
Washington Tie-Lines	6
Newsbreaks	7
View from the Hill	11
People in the News	31
Posting the Guard	35
Memo for the Record	40



15



24

24 HAWAII GUARD AIDS ISOLATED INSTITUTION

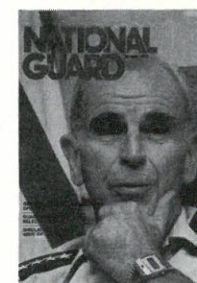
Heavy rains on Molokai last year imperiled leprosy patients at a remote institution, and the Hawaii Guard helped out.

27 WILLIAM TELL '82

Three Air National Guard units participated against the Air Force's F-15 Eagles in the interceptor shootout at Tyndall AFB.



27



COVER: General John W. Vessey, Jr., who became chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, discussed the National Guard, national security and the nuclear-freeze movement in a wide-ranging interview with NATIONAL GUARD. Photo by Bob Watson.

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