

MG Ansel M. Stroud Jr., President, NGAUS

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES FOR 1987-88

The hale and farewell represented by this 108th General Conference issue of NATIONAL GUARD Magazine is particularly appropriate for the beginning of 1987 and my first editorial as the new NGAUS president. It affords us the opportunity to thank our predecessor, Maj Gen Raymond A. Matera, and to call attention to his report, which begins on Page 36. It outlines the accomplishments of his two years in office, while this space provides us opportunity to outline some goals and priorities for the next two years.

I have an overriding interest in membership—read that maximum membership. Realizing our full potential for paid-up membership among the officers of the Army and Air Guard will have a substantial impact on our ability to balance the NGAUS budget in the next two years while providing maximum service and effort not only in the national capital but also throughout the states.

More members mean more income from dues if more men and women are paying dues. Dues are the single largest income item in the Association's budget.

To better achieve this goal, I have appointed a Special Committee on Membership Development. It will be chaired by LTG Emmett H. Walker Jr. (ret.), who since his retirement as chief of the National Guard Bureau has more time to devote to his interest in our Association.

### Governors Association

It is vital that we do the best possible job of conveying the National Guard story to the members of the National Governors Association (NGA). The events of last summer regarding Central America and the problems we encountered in working together with that association's Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Protection impressed upon all of us the need for establishing an ongoing relationship with the National Governors Association rather than ad hoc solutions in response to crises.

Therefore, I have appointed a Spe-

cial Committee for Liaison with the National Governors Association. Its membership will parallel that of the NGA's committee. This is a sensitive area, and we will make sure that our work does not impinge on any adjutant general's line of communication with his governor, and that our efforts are consistent with the goals of National Guard Bureau.

### National Guard Memorial

I imagine you all are as anxious as I am to hear more on the subject that was alluded to in Nashville by General Matera in his president's report October 1 regarding a proposed replacement for the National Guard Memorial building, our home for the past 27½ years. You will recall this initiative came from a subcommittee of the Strategic Planning Task Force that we asked to look at the long-term future of our physical facilities.

That subcommittee task force, headed by our new vice president/Army, MG Charles M. Kiefner of Missouri, reported back to us several alternatives. These included remodeling the present building, expanding the present building or—and this was the most dramatic—replacing the National Guard Memorial. One of the principal things we learned as a result of the fine efforts of Lt Col John Fotsch, Missouri Air National Guard, who heads an architectural firm in Chicago, was that we own an extremely valuable piece of property on the north end of Capitol Hill. In fact, the bare land is worth far more than what is, by Washington, D.C., standards, our modest building. We also know that while our building is very attractive, well maintained and functional for our purposes, that we have much unusable space in it, principally in the auditorium that rarely is used by NGAUS.

As this is written, no decision has been made on our course of action other than that we should do something. We hope to announce and explain the Executive Council's decision in next month's NATIONAL GUARD.

### The Guard Story

We must do a better job of "tooting our own horn" because if we don't toot it, no one else will. Among other things, we must tell our own membership the story of what NGAUS is doing, and sell the idea that we have a lean and cost-effective operation. Our members are getting their money's worth for their dues.

I will insist that we continue to have an effective and even improved awards program. Clearly, an important informational tool to our members is our fine NATIONAL GUARD Magazine. It tells not only the National Guard story, but the Association story as well. We will have a goal of improving and expanding the information role of the *Washington Letter*, the NGAUS quarterly newsletter. We have the goal of making the *Washington Letter* our members' best source of information on what the Association is doing on Capitol Hill, at the Pentagon and at the National Guard Memorial.

### Task Forces

The task forces have proved invaluable in providing information to more efficiently pursue our legislative objectives. I am asking the task force chairmen who can do so to continue their duties and give us the benefit of their talent and wisdom.

In addition to the ongoing task forces, we will be alert to the need for small, specialized study groups to work on specific, difficult issues where the need for the best in the business will be acute.

I appreciate the many expressions of support for my election as your president from National Guard leaders not only of this Association, but also from around the nation. Working together, we who are fortunate to lead this Association owe it to the system and to the folks who helped get us here to ensure the eminence of the National Guard in the defense of this great nation. That will be our goal.

*National Guard*

# NATIONAL GUARD

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## DEPARTMENTS

### Citizen-Soldier-Patriot

This year marks the 350th birthday of the Militia and National Guard and Guardsmen kicked off the celebration at this year's 108th NGAUS General Conference conducted in Nashville, Tennessee.

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### What They Said

National military and political leaders spoke strongly in support of the Guard's readiness and the contribution that realistic training, such as exercises like VOLANT OAK and CORONET COVE or rotations at the National Training Center, make to that readiness.

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### President's Awards Program

During the 108th NGAUS General Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, the best of the National Guard was honored at the sixth annual President's Recognition Awards Luncheon (PRAL). These awards are given to recognize individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to the goals of the Association.

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### Army/Air Separate Sessions

Army Guardsmen listened to U.S. Forces Command Commander GEN Joseph T. Palastra stress the importance of CAPSTONE and overseas training. Two other commanders, whose units recently deployed overseas, also shared their experiences. Lt Gen Merrill A. McPeak, deputy chief of staff of the Air Force for programs and resources, who addressed the Air Guard Separate Session, stressed modernization and quality of force.

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### Family Task Force Formed

The need for a task force to address family issues was one of the major items that evolved from the Second Annual Spouses Separate Session sponsored by the NGAUS and hosted by the state of Tennessee.

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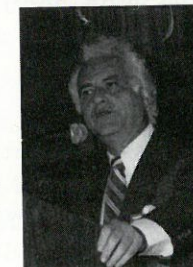


### COVER:

Citizen-Soldier-Patriot was the theme of this year's 108th NGAUS General Conference. The Association also used this year's Conference to kick off the big birthday celebration marking 350 years of the Militia and National Guard. Design, Johnson Design Group.

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## PUBLICATION STAFF

- MG Bruce Jacobs (ret.)  
*Publisher*
- LTC Reid K. Beveridge  
*Editor*
- 2LT Pamela A. Kane  
*Assistant Editor*
- CPT Jean Marie Brawders  
*Assistant Editor*
- Belinda Reilly  
*News Editor*
- John E. Bibb  
*Business Manager*
- Don DesJardins  
*Circulation Manager*

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