



MG Ansel M. Stroud Jr., President, NGAUS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THE NEW YEAR OF 1988: AN END AND A BEGINNING

The turning of the new year offers an opportunity to reflect a bit on the accomplishments of 1987 and the opportunities for 1988 for those of us entrusted with the leadership of the NGAUS.

The new year brings a new session of Congress in Washington, and it brings new opportunities for the NGAUS to represent its members in the never-ending process of providing the continuity of effort required to assist in providing a combat ready Army and Air National Guard for the United States. As it has been for 110 years, providing this united representation before Congress is our principal mission for our members, the officers of the National Guard.

As we head into 1988, we begin work with the 1988 Legislative Action Plan, the mechanism the NGAUS uses to define and articulate the goals and objectives of the Association on Capitol Hill each year. This Legislative Action Plan was approved by the NGAUS Executive Council in early December. Many of you will be receiving your separate copies of this plan during the month. It also will be published in the February *Yearbook* issue of this magazine as an insert for the perusal of all members.

The individual copies of the plan go to all battalion and separate unit-sized organizations in the Army Guard and to all flying units and separate flights in the Air Guard.

This year should be an especially challenging year to execute our new plan. Late in 1987, the administration and the leaders of Congress struggled with a plan to cut the federal deficit by at least \$23 billion to comply with the revised Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Deficit Reduction Act. These negotiations to reduce the deficit year-by-year were intensified by October's stock market gyrations and the clear signal our leaders in Washington got that the nation's budget had to be put in order.

Part of this exercise, it has become clear, will be efforts to reduce Defense spending from projected levels. We have felt somewhat comfortable with much of what is contained in the Department of Defense's Program Objective Memorandum (POM). But if the POM can't be financed, where will we be? Choices will have to be made.

Our efforts to support the Legislative Action Plan will be in the direction of articulating, explaining and ensuring that the conventional weapons and equipment needed by the Army and Air Guard are given sufficient priority in the procurement process so that our get-well dates for equipment issue aren't well into the 21st century.

"Commanders are the epitome of the grass roots. Commanders, who have to make units combat ready, are our most effective spokesmen."

In pursuing this course, we are executing the mission our members give us at each NGAUS General Conference when the delegates adopt resolutions. Sixty-three resolutions were adopted in Portland last September, enjoining us to work for the goals they espouse. A majority of these resolutions express a requirement that can best be addressed by Congress.

With the distribution of our Legislative Action Plan, the ball shifts from the Capitol Hill court into the court of our members at the grass roots. Several groups will have a role in accomplishing their part of the mission.

Adjutants General. Without the support of the chain of command in the states, our program faces great difficulty. As a state official, an adjutant general has the opportunity to be the most effective spokesman for the National Guard's requirements with

the public officials from his state. also can turn his leadership loose work its will at the grass roots, ide the most effective mechanism have for getting the word to the ple who make things happen.

State Associations. State associations have a key role to play in making any legislative action work. Typically they are organized to do at the state level much the same thing the NGAUS does at the national level. Usually their leadership understands the political nature of providing united representation. They tend to be familiar with the issues. They are very helpful and effective in organizing the grass roots contacts with members of Congress that are so essential to making our program a success.

Commanders. Commanders from state headquarters to the local community are located in 2,600 different places across our 54 states and territories. They are the epitome of grass roots. They may be community leaders themselves. But beyond that they understand as others cannot critical needs of their units, whether that is a new family of equipment, additional recruiting and retention, or some other personnel issue. Like commissary shopping or family support programs. Commanders who have to make units combat ready, are our most effective spokesmen.

We hope all Guard officers will come familiar with our Legislative Action Plan. Obviously, we hope they become active in understanding, explaining and advocating what it takes to accomplish.

The NGAUS will have reached the millennium when all of our members fully understand and support our efforts at providing united representation before Congress by involving themselves personally in whatever way they can at the local level to achieve the goals we have set for ourselves in 1988—or any year.

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FEATURES

AGR Program: An Identity Crisis 20

COL Joseph Galioto, director of the National Guard Bureau's joint staff, outlines the history of the Active Guard/Reserve Program and the necessity to continue the program in the wake of congressional hearings that AGR programs should be reviewed for cost-effectiveness and manpower requirements.

PLDC: A Do-It-Yourself Course 24

Now more than three years old and integrated into all the state military academies, PLDC has developed into one of the best teaching tools for junior NCOs. Hands-on common task training and a field training exercise planned and conducted by the same junior NCOs has developed the Army's best into fighting soldiers, no matter what MOS is held.

QRMCM Studies Guard/Reserve Retirement 28

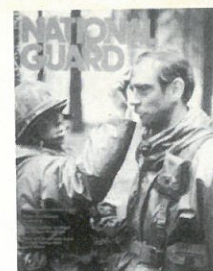
President Reagan called the 6th Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation to study Guard and Reserve military benefits. One member of the group study writes of the benefits the retirement system has offered to build strength among the reserve components.

High Technology Era Begins in the Guard 32

The Army National Guard enters a new era in high technology training with the dedication and opening of the New Jersey High Technology Center at Fort Dix, New Jersey. New Jersey Governor Thomas H. Kean speaks of sophisticated training devices needed to prepare our Guardsmen for the sophisticated weaponry systems of the future.

Army/Air Guard Management Conferences 34

The Army National Guard and Air National Guard Directorates hosted their annual management and senior commanders conferences in Arkansas and Florida. Both directors discuss the urgent requirement to maintain resource management in the face of budget cuts and restrictions for the upcoming fiscal years.



COVER:

"I haven't had to do this since basic training," said SP4 Joanne Boudrieau, as she dabs camouflage paint on SGT Richard Bowen before an overnight patrol. These Guardsmen are just two who represent the many who attend the PLDC program in the many states. Photo, Joe Zambone. Design, Johnson Design Group.

DEPARTMENTS

President's Message	2
Washington Tie-Line	4
Views from the Field	6
Membership	10
Capital Focus	12
Newsbreaks	14
Guard Stars	18
People	42
Posting	46
Publisher's Notebook	50

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