

MG Charles M. Kiefner, President, NGA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THE YEARBOOK AND THE LEGISLATIVE ACTION PLAN

With this the fifth annual edition of the NATIONAL GUARD Magazine Yearbook edition, we have now been at this business of a special issue of the magazine long enough to label it "annual." This year, we have added several new features that should make it even more useful as a yearbook to our NGAUS members and other readers.

The principal feature we commend to our readers is the Legislative Action Plan, which begins on page 77 and forms the middle 28 pages of this month's issue. It can be a pullout for those who wish to have it as a separate item. Obviously we recommend that you save the entire Yearbook for reference throughout the year because it contains a lot of information of lasting value.

The Legislative Action Plan this year is organized in a more prioritized manner than in the past. In past years, the plan was arranged more along functional lines than in priority order.

This year, we have placed force structure as the NGAUS' top priority for FY90 and the 1989 congressional year, which began January 3 with the convening of the 101st Congress. This priority reflects the fact that force structure issues rose to the forefront during 1988, and the Army and Air Guard initiatives that spawned them will resurface this year.

Let us state our concerns straightforwardly, while at the same time referring back to the progress report by our NGAUS Executive Director LTG LaVern E. Weber (ret.) in last month's NATIONAL GUARD Magazine. But first it is important to define what we don't mean by force structure. We don't mean that we intend to get into the business of suggesting where units should be placed. We won't be expressing an opinion about whether a fighter unit ought to be in one state or another, or whether a conversion of an F-4 unit to F-16s ought to be in this or that state. Neither do we mean to assert any views on which state

gets—or doesn't get combat aviation assets.

Rather, in the context of the Legislative Action Plan, force structure means combat power in units and the most efficient application of force structure to produce combat power for the lowest possible cost. This should be a popular notion given the ongoing need to ensure that the Department of Defense (DoD) operates in a cost-effective manner.

Over the past eight years, the NGAUS has consistently talked about robusting in the Air Guard. By this, we mean fielding squadrons the same size as those in the active Air Force. We continue to believe this is the most cost-effective way of increasing combat power in the Total Air Force. It means fighter squadrons of 24 primary aircraft authorized (PAA), not 18. It means airlift and refueling squadrons of 16 aircraft, not eight.

Most of all, it means maintaining at those levels, the squadrons already developed to those levels as opposed to the false economy of reducing them to their previous size.

An article in a magazine for "frequent fliers" recently noted that the scheduled airlines will be hiring 10,000 new pilots this year! Is it any wonder that the active Air Force has a retention problem for rated officers? Indeed, this article stated that a major problem for scheduled airlines is the level of training in the cockpit, given the fact that all such positions can't be filled with military aviation veterans with hundreds or even thousands of flying hours.

As Senator James Sasser (D-Tennessee) suggested at a Senate hearing last year, the Air Force probably is waging a partially futile battle in trying to retain all its pilots, given these numbers. Some are certain to leave active duty to pursue the economic incentives offered by the airlines. However, such men and women can continue to

serve their nation, pursue a career and provide combat readiness for the Total Air Force if the slots are made available in the Guard. That means, at minimum, maintaining the PAA and flying as they are. It may mean, as National Security Adviser-Designee Scowcroft has suggested, training additional missions to the Guard and Reserve.

Combat readiness also is the issue in the Army Guard. It is said that a combat aviation battalion is issued the AH-64 Apache, fewer aircraft be issued than before because of the combat effectiveness of the Apache so much greater than previous helicopters. Leaving aside whether this is a logical or consistent argument in the context of modernization, our concern is that its application could be counterproductive. If carried to a logical conclusion, this approach could hamper the combat readiness of Army National Guard forces.

In the Legislative Action Plan, we have sought to provide some indication of the NGAUS Executive Council's priorities for equipment procurement and in other policy areas indicated last month, no serious association can actively address more than a few specific priorities in any given year. In addition, we must be prepared to tackle target opportunities, whether to oppose things of potential harm to the National Guard or to favor unanticipated positive proposals. It is a rare when we don't get one or the other more, of these.

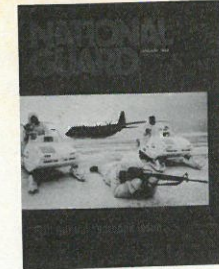
The Executive Council, elected to the membership, sorts out the issues and provides guidance as to where our emphasis will be each year. The blueprint for accomplishment is the annual Legislative Action Plan. We hope all our NGAUS members become active in supporting at those elements of most concern to them to ensure that we have a successful year in Congress in 1989.

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COVER:

There is a group of National Guardsmen with skills and a mission that is so specialized it pervades their daily lives—Eskimo Scouts, Alaska National Guard. Whether drilling in the bitter cold, fishing for their livelihood or just boating for relaxation, the scouts are ever vigilant for the Soviet presence. Photo, Russ Weston. Design, Johnson Design Group.

FEATURES

The Soviets Haven't Changed That Much 22
GEN John R. Galvin, Supreme Allied Commander-Europe and commander of NATO, discusses the Soviet threat facing his troops stationed in Western Europe and the implications of the Warsaw Pact. Galvin, a former Massachusetts Guardsman, praises the National Guard's readiness.



Mobilization in All Its Aspects 27
Exercise GOLDEN THRUST '88 was a special First Army exercise designed to test how ready the U.S. Army's Guard, Reserve and IRR elements are for a mobilization. Some surprising results occurred!



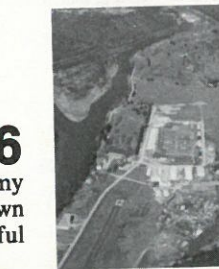
Combat Service Units Need Equipment 41
MG Charles M. Kiefner, new NGAUS president and the chairman of a special National Guard Bureau study group, says there is more to equipment than combat arms units.



World War II Still Sells 72
There is more to mobilization than loading the train and leaving. What happens to the families of the men (and now women) when they leave for mobilization stations and begin their training. One wife rented four houses, rented out three, and followed her husband until he deployed overseas.



State Camps 156
Some are quaint. Some are larger than many active Army installations. Four are air bases. Many states have little-known state camps, some vestiges from an earlier day. But all are useful in their own way.



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