



MG Charles M. Kiefner, President, NGA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MOBILIZATION: THE REASON FOR READINESS

"These are the worst of times and the best of times." Charles Dickens' words from *A Tale of Two Cities* are more applicable today than ever before. We, as a nation, are living in the best of times. Since World War II, our nation has had a defense posture of strength through readiness. In the closing months of this decade, it is this military posture and a worsening economic posture in communist covered countries that has forced the communist community toward more democratic policies.

Is it too bold now to say that we have won the Cold War? The Berlin Wall is cracked; there is an open flow of people between East and West Germany. The Czechoslovakia Communist Party is practically null and void at this time and the people are preparing for free and open elections. The United States is sending economic aid to Poland and Hungary. At the very least, the Cold War is thawing quickly.

But these events also are creating the worst of times. The democratization that seems to be running rampant in the Eastern Bloc is bringing about broad speculation that our nation does not need to continue its policy of strength through readiness. Obviously, the administration, our congressional leaders, the Department of Defense and the Total Force will need to respond to the strong demands to immediately reduce our forces. But the current proposals cover such a wide range of cuts, including the possible loss of five wings in the Total Air Force; two or more divisions in the Total Army; and as many carrier groups in the Navy that they give the appearance of an unreasoned flurry of activity rather than a measured, logical reaction to change.

The world environment is tenuous at best. To be hasty in any reductions is to deny the perilous nature of democratization, glasnost and perestroika. As new initiatives are being

established, the Soviet government is simultaneously sending alternate signals indicating a slowdown in reforms, the denial of a reunification of the two Germanys and a continuing commitment to Warsaw Pact members that their alliance will remain as strong as ever. The Tiananmen Square incident in China demonstrated how abruptly democratic movements can be shut down.

Currently, the Department of Defense, as directed by Congress, is undertaking a full study of force structure/force mix that will most likely define the Total Force well into the 21st century. Budget constraints, the rapidly changing world and a declining level of support for a large defense establishment presage significant changes in calculating the threat to our nation and the defense structure required to meet that threat.

The pressure to respond to world events has led to renewed calls for a reduction in our defense structure in order to maintain research, development and procurement of modern and more capable weapon systems. Additionally, we already have seen there is a demand for review and quite possibly adjustment of current burden sharing with our allies around the world.

Facing all these ramifications, the National Guard Association of the United States is not the entity to define the threat and cannot determine the optimum force mix required to meet the threat. What we can and must do is continue to work to ensure that the forces that are placed in the Guard are sufficiently resourced in all key readiness areas to be able to mobilize and perform our assigned wartime missions.

We are on the right track. However, we still have a long way to go. Our great strides in the '80s have come from the maturing of the Total Force Policy. It has been this policy and strong support from the members of

Congress that have allowed the National Guard to be more ready today than ever before in its service to the nation. We can be assured during these tenuous times that the Total Force Policy will continue as the most viable defense posture to provide the nation with affordable, as well as well-trained, ready forces. Through this haze of projecture and prediction more times than not it has been said that the Congress and the Department of Defense will seek the most cost-effective way in which to maintain our strong defense posture. The National Guard, an element of the Total Force, must be ready to respond to the changes that are inevitable as the evaluation and refinement process continues. Do not be surprised to see a greater reliance on the National Guard and Reserve, but possibly with significant changes in equipment and structure.

The National Guard Association of the United States will continue with its long-standing goal to assist in obtaining the most cost-effective and combat-capable defense for our nation. We believe we can best achieve this goal by ensuring the National Guard is ready to mobilize for any contingency to any threat. We will continue toward this goal by working to remedy significant shortages in those ingredients that impede the readiness of the National Guard and the Total Force.

We must not be disheartened or deterred by speculation and conjecture. We must remain steadfast in our pursuit to keep the National Guard ready, as that is our mission. We do hope that our national leaders do not make premature sweeping changes to a defense posture that has been effective for more than 40 years. We must remember that a strong nation with trained and ready defense forces has brought us to the point of thawing the Cold War and strengthens our capability to support democratic movements throughout the world.

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FEATURES

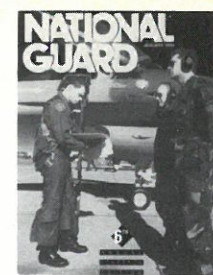
The 169th Wins GUNSMOKE '89 14
South Carolina Air National Guard's 169th Tactical Fighter Group came out on top during this year's GUNSMOKE '89 competition flying F-16s. This was their third time competing in a GUNSMOKE competition, and as one crew chief said, "It's a good feeling being number one this year."

Top Leaders Speak Out 19
The Honorable Michael P.W. Stone, secretary of the Army; Maj Gen John B. Conaway, vice chief, National Guard Bureau; MG Donald Burdick, director, Army National Guard; and Maj Gen Philip Killey, director, Air National Guard, discuss the National Guard's role into the 1990s and its readiness capabilities. LTG Herbert R. Temple Jr., chief of the National Guard Bureau, gives his farewell thoughts to the Guard community.

A Soviet Perspective of the Army Guard 30
Although there is no definitive answer as to how the Soviet military hierarchy views the U.S. National Guard and its capabilities, a North Carolina Army Guardsman tries to give us an insight into their thinking. One thing is certain, there has been increased Soviet interest in the National Guard over the past few years.

Simulators—The Wave of the Future 50
Equipment simulators have proven to be a cost-effective and a time-efficient way to meet training requirements allotted to units and individuals. In 1983, the National Guard Bureau began development of its own simulator, GUARDFIST I, which trains tank crews. Simulators have now evolved into all areas of the services.

Army and Air National Guard Equipment 114
NATIONAL GUARD Magazine has put together a list and descriptions of equipment in the National Guard inventory. This equipment makes it possible for the Guard to maintain its combat readiness. In many cases, the equipment is new to the Guard and still needs funding to be fielded in the necessary units.



COVER:

Maj George "Jet" Jernigan, team captain for the 169th Tactical Fighter Group, South Carolina Air National Guard, completes his preflight inspection before taking off during the GUNSMOKE '89 competition. The 169th was the overall winner at this year's GUNSMOKE. Photo, Paul Bower. Design, Johnson Design Group.

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