

President's Message

Maj Gen John L. Matthews, President, NGAUS

A Force Structure Solution We Can Support

Our force structure and end strength discussions with the active Army and Army Reserve leadership have reached a conclusion, and it is a solution that we can support.

On December 10, just before his resignation, Secretary of Defense Les Aspin announced the agreed upon restructuring of the Army National Guard and Army Reserve. His announcement filled some of the blanks left open, when he released the Bottom-Up Review results in early September. By FY99, the Army National Guard will have a force structure allowance of 405,000 and an end-strength of 367,000. His announced restructuring was the result of the culmination of lengthy discussions known as the Off-site Group. This group, consisting of the senior active Army, Army National Guard, Army Reserve leadership, along with their military associations, met for more than two years to solve the Army Guard and Army Reserve strength and structure issues that faced the Total Army from its very beginning.

A little context is in order. Before these Off-site Group meetings, the Department of Defense military strategy proposals, such as the Quicksilver plan and base force, had the Army Guard end-strength going to as low as 321,000 by FY95. We were faced with the constant uphill battle to save the very core of the community-based defense force. Through our efforts at the National Guard

Association of the United States (NGAUS), the Adjutants General Association of the United States (AGAUS) and your grass roots support, we have received congressional support to change the ramp level for the Army National Guard's betterment.

As a result of this congressional pressure, the first outcome of the Off-site Group meetings was an acceptance of a slowed ramp for reductions in the Army National Guard and Army Reserve, which established firm numbers through 1996. After the Bottom-Up Review release, the Off-site Group was faced again with the challenging discussion of what the force structure and end-strength would be out to FY99. The discussion by that time had, in reality, become negotiations. Secretary Aspin's Bottom-Up Review had established certain parameters within which the three Army components had to fit.

"The Bottom-Up Review gave us 15 high-priority, enhanced brigades, but failed to define the balance of the force. The Off Site agreement validates the retention of at least an additional 22 combat arms brigades as a strategic reserve. We also achieved stability of Army Guard Flags."

Our support of this most recent agreement comes in great part because we can now achieve stability in the Army National Guard. The Bottom-Up Review gave us 15 high-priority, enhanced brigades, but failed to define the balance of the force. The Off-site agreement validates the retention of at least an additional 22 com-

bat arms brigades as a strategic reserve. We also achieved stability of Army Guard flags. Defense forces are going down, but now the Army National Guard knows where it will be in the year 2000. We admit the 367,000, as an end-strength, is lower than we had hoped and wanted to ever go. Throughout the negotiations various scenarios were floated and debated during the Bottom-Up process, with at least one scenario limiting the Army National Guard to 15 enhanced brigades.

The Off-site Group believed, and Secretary Aspin agreed, that the proposals to go lower would not have protected the National Guard's dual mission capabilities. To provide support to our domestic mission, it has been agreed that certain functional areas will be transferred between the Army Guard and the Army Reserve. As with any negotiations, there has been some give and take. Throughout the process, an unbiased outlook became exceedingly difficult, especially when it was clear from the beginning that all three parts of the Total Army must downsize.

The exchange, in our eyes, enabled us to perform our federal and state missions. The Army National Guard will acquire 90 percent of the Army Reserve's aviation assets and units. Even though there will be an overall downsizing of Army Guard aviation, at least now we are able to maintain minimum capabilities. This is a major improvement from where the previously planned programs would have taken us, which was down to almost nonexistent aviation assets.

Also significant in this agreement is that the Army National Guard has been reaffirmed as the primary

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Features

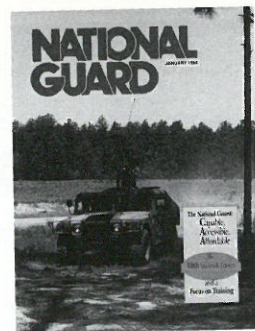
The Foundation of the National Guard 18
MG Raymond F. Rees, the vice chief of the National Guard Bureau, writes about the constitutional foundation and the legal precedent of the National Guard. Our Founding Fathers wrote a living document that has guided this nation for more than 200 years. Not only doesn't the public understand the Guard's dual missions, neither does the defense community.

America's Army in the 21st Century 26
GEN J.H. Binford Peay III, the vice chief of staff, U.S. Army, and MG John D'Araujo, director of the Army National Guard, combined forces to discuss the joint training and readiness measures in place today to sustain the combat readiness of the Army National Guard. With the increased focus on combat arms and combat support, team building is the foundation.

The Air Guard's Leadership Role Today 34
Brig Gen Donald W. Shepperd, the director designee of the Air National Guard, sets his goals for the next four years. Annually, a theme is set to place emphasis on manpower, force structure and readiness. However, overall, General Shepperd commits to talking straight, talking simple and talking often with the members of this world-class organization.

Mississippi Rebel Composite Training 38
Even though training dollars are shrinking, readiness demands are not. Again, the Air Guard must do more with less. It just means more home station training. Guard units nationwide are joining forces and developing their own composite flight training, which is a Total Air Force requirement. Local units are coming together and participating in exercises like Ready Rebel, hosted by the Mississippi Air Guard.

The Intrinsic Value of the Roundup Units 66
The relationship between the 48th Infantry Brigade (Mech), Georgia Army National Guard, and the 24th Infantry Division (Mech), continues today, despite the circumstances surrounding the mobilization of the division's round out brigade in 1990. But with the past, behind them. COL Robert Hughes, deputy commander, writes of the 48th's intrinsic training value to the 24th in Kuwait of all places. Again, they proved they met the standards.



Cover:

The 155th Armored Brigade, Mississippi Army National Guard, trains with its active duty counterpart, the 2d Brigade (Pershing Blackjack), 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas, in accordance with Bold Shift, to their mutual benefit. Photo, CPT Pamela A. Kane. Cover, Howard Design.

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