



President's Message

Maj Gen John L. France, President, NGAUS

Defending the Nation

To begin the new year, I thought it important that you know what I have been doing during the first three months of my presidency. In telling this story, you also will know what your Association has done too.

Early in October, I attended my first off-site meeting. These monthly meetings are attended by GEN John Tilelli, the vice chief of staff of the Army; the chief of the National Guard Bureau; the director of the Army National Guard; the chief and deputy chief Army Reserve; and the leadership of the Adjutants General Association of the United States, the Association of the U.S. Army, the NGAUS and the Reserve Officers Association. MG F. Robert Ensslin Jr. (ret.), our executive director, and Ed Morai, the NGAUS staff director, represent our Association.

At the first meeting, our discussions concentrated on the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Army budgets. This helps us immensely in preparing the NGAUS response with position statements. Also, the issue of soldiers migrating between the National Guard and Reserve, as a result of the Off-site Agreement, was an agenda item for briefing during the December meeting. During that meeting, several issues were discussed, including the migration issue. I believe this process solves problems like this in a cooperative atmosphere.

Each time I come to Washington, I make of point of meeting with the nation's congressional and military leadership. Just prior to the October meeting, I meet with members of my congressional delegation. Before the December meeting, I met with

an assistant and the deputy assistant secretary of defense. Also on that same day, I visited with the staff director of the Senate Armed Services Committee; the Senate Appropriations Committee's minority clerk; and with "Mr. National Guard" himself, Representative G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery. During each of these visits, we discussed three issues: Air National Guard force structure, full-time manning and operational tempo (Optempo).

Air Guard force structure is indeed a thorny issue, but the position taken by the NGAUS on this issue was received very warmly. The open discussions revealed that

Air Guard downsizing was viewed with concern, and we were told that the issue would receive careful consideration. All of these people were well-aware of the accessibility problem presented by drawdowns in the fighters, tankers, airlift and support units. We will continue to vigorously defend our force structure resolution.

To this same group, full-time manning presented an even greater challenge. We briefed the DoD position concerning the 20 percent across-the-board reduction of all civil service personnel, including our military technicians, to each of them.

You will recall that the NGAUS, with tremendous grass-roots support, got a one-year moratorium placed on this technician cutback, which only applies to FY95. So, we expect to fight this again. We will be prepared; plus, we are encouraged by the strong interest shown by everyone on this issue. My feeling is summed up quite handily in the NGAUS position statement:

"Enhancing the National Guard's role in our nation's defense makes eminent good sense. For the nation, it's a good decision economically, and it's a good decision politically. We can do the job for cents on the dollar... Together, we can and will meet these challenges head-on...."

"Protecting America: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow. Rather than cut the military technician program, the administration should be using it as an example of how to get maximum utilization from minimum resources. Any program that can train and maintain a force with only 10 to 20 percent full-time members, thus saving significant manpower costs, should be protected or expanded to improve government efficiency. When that same force serves to provide a dual benefit by being prepared to respond to the calls of our nation's governors during state and local disasters, it is even more important to protect that force and maintain that capability."

Finally, the lack of resources to maintain Optempo continues to threaten readiness. Decreased tank running hours means maneuver units will be unable to meet training requirements and readiness suffers. The lack of training ammunition for artillery units means exactly the same thing. Additional flying training periods (AFTPs), so essential to combat capability, have been cut to the bone, with some aviators reduced to 12 AFTPs per year from 48. Further, some units could not pay the AFTPs while the aviators were required to maintain currency. This situation not only dramatically reduces readiness, it also creates serious safety concerns. Again, the leaders were receptive and asked that we provide additional information. We will be back.

The Secretary of Defense recently announced his department's intention to increase DoD's reliance on the National Guard. We welcome this kind of attention. We know we can do more if we are properly resourced. Enhancing the National Guard's role in our nation's defense makes eminent good sense. For the nation, it's a good decision economically, and it's a good decision politically. We can do the job for cents on the dollar. Politically, the decision fits with the insight of our Founding Fathers—a small standing Army and a robust militia. Together, we can and will meet these challenges head-on—I am optimistic.

Cover:

National Guard volunteerism has begun on a new continent. With only five days notice, Tennessee's 118th Airlift Wing put together a squadron of six aircraft from four states. The squadron provided lifesaving supplies to refugees in Africa. Story on page 32. Photo by Col Hooper Penuel. Cover by Dennis and Sackett Design

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Features

Understanding Future Threats 16
The pace of world change in the late 20th century has been rapid and profound. With the demise of the Soviet Union, there is uncertainty as to where America's future threats lie. Dr. Robert L. Pfaltzgraff Jr., professor of international security studies at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, discusses future threats to the security of the United States.

National Guard Leaders Speak Out 20
There are many concerns facing the National Guard community, as we prepare to face a different world in the 21st century. National Guard Bureau leadership, including the newly appointed chief, LTG Edward D. Baca; director of the Army National Guard, MG John R. D'Araujo Jr.; and director of the Air National Guard, Maj Gen Donald W. Shepperd, address the National Guard community concerning what the future holds for the National Guard as it enters for the 21st century.

North Dakota on Target at William Tell 22
The Air National Guard hit a bull's-eye and split the apple this year at the prestigious William Tell air-to-air competition. North Dakota's 119th Fighter Group "Happy Hooligans" placed first. The competition tests the weapons firing skills of the best military aviators in the Total Air Force. Not only did Air National Guard units best their competition, but they did so using older F-16ADC aircraft. The Happy Hooligans are as sharp as ever.

Army Guard Champions in Moscow 46
In the shadow of the Kremlin, Army National Guard helicopter pilots competed with the world's best in the World Helicopter Championship. No longer foes, pilots from the United States, Russia and six other countries, competed for the prize. The competition tested an aviator's skills in precision flying, navigation and intricate maneuvers. The All-Guard American team performed magnificently at the competition and walked away with silver medals.

Wyoming on the Cutting Edge 48
Wyoming's 115th Field Artillery Brigade finds itself on the cutting edge of battlefield technology. The 115th was the first brigade-sized element in the world to be assigned and train with the new initial fire support automated system (IFSAS). This 25-pound digitized computer system, which replaces its 1-ton predecessor, allows digital fire direction information to be sent up and down the battlefield quickly and accurately. The "stubby pencil" days are over for the gunners of the Guard.

