



MG Ansel M. Stroud Jr., President, NGAUS

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE TOTAL FORCE POLICY

In 1986, a most important accomplishment from any standpoint was adoption in Congress of the "Montgomery Amendment," to clarify the National Guard's ability to undertake overseas deployment training (ODT) in peacetime. Retaining this new law in the face of a governor's lawsuit and an effort in the Senate to repeal it is a task that is bound to occupy our attention during the remainder of 1987.

Equally important, as NGAUS members are asked to influence the legislative process starting at the local level, is understanding how we evolved into an essential element in the Total Force, where we are today and where we have come from in the past 10 to 20 years.

To begin the process, let us start with a short review of the genesis of the Total Force Policy 17 years ago. For it is that policy and all its implications that have changed the National Guard from the "backup" force it was during most of the first 330 years of the Militia to the combat-ready, early deploying Guard we know today.

It is necessary to go back to the early months of 1970 when Richard M. Nixon was president and Melvin R. Laird was secretary of Defense. The Vietnam War, which was a major issue during the 1968 presidential race, was in its later stages, and the administration was looking at the likely posture of national defense after withdrawal of U.S. forces from Southeast Asia.

What Secretary Laird saw, he recalls, is that Defense spending would be vastly reduced. This, he concluded, would require a very substantial reduction in active duty forces in order to save money. However, except for extraction of 550,000 soldiers from Indochina, the United States' national security commitments would not change. Indeed, the Vietnam War resulted in a certain hollowness in U.S. forces stationed in Europe, a situation requiring remedy. The presi-

dent was eager to turn off the draft and start the transition to an all-volunteer Army.

At the same time, the administration was facing the prospect that active duty forces would be drawn down to levels far below those that existed from 1950 to 1965—basically, the Cold War period. The political backlash from Vietnam would result in this, and there probably was nothing the Nixon administration could do about it, given the Democrats' majorities in Congress and the general political disdain for Defense spending. What to do?

The Department of Defense settled on the Total Force Concept, which Laird promulgated in August 1970. Whether we knew it at the time or not, this has turned out to be one of the watershed days for the National Guard in this century. It has dramatically changed the way we do business in the Guard.

Prior to the Total Force, most Guard units had, at best, a vague idea of their wartime missions. They had some equipment for training, but it seldom was first-line stuff. There was no notion of obtaining a full manning document equipment fill in peacetime. Commanders hoped, in the main, to have sufficient equipment for training. Indeed, if the commander of an armored division had received everything on his Modified Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE) in those days, he would have been overwhelmed.

Another facet of the pre-1970 National Guard was that mobilization and deployment times were so lengthy that few of us believed C-1 or C-2 status was in the cards. With the exception of some members of the Selected Reserve Force (SRF) units of the late 1960s, most commanders thought in terms of two, three or four months of training, cross-leveling, personnel augmentation and equipment issue before deployment over-

seas. Few units thought of being in theater in 30 days or less.

To say that 1987 is a different time understates it to the extreme. For a beginning resource on this issue, read MG Joseph W. Griffin's article in the January 1986 NATIONAL GUARD where he talks about "then and now."

Given the relatively restrained size of the active Army and Air Force, compared with early Cold War years, and the fact that our national defense strategy remains global—indeed, even more encompassing than before—it was inevitable that the national command authority would begin to envision the National Guard as a part of the allied strategy of deterrence. When "deterrence" is mentioned, many Americans think immediately of nuclear weapons. Indeed, they are a part of deterrence.

Conventional forces also are a part of deterrence. The 300,000 military personnel the United States keeps stationed permanently in Europe deter the Soviet Union from invading and occupying our allies. Our forces in South Korea similarly deter another invasion by North Korea.

During the pre-1965 Cold War, the forces employed for these purposes were active duty forces. The National Guard and the other reserve components were considered a distinctly backup force, to be called upon only in the worst sort of emergency. With the draw-down of the active components in the early 1970s, this situation changed. The Guard and Reserve had to become a part of the Total Force and be a part of U.S. deterrent policy simply because there was no one else to do this job.

The effects of this change of policy were several. Early potential deployment dates were one. More, better and newer equipment was another. Increased emphasis on recruiting and retention was yet another. Training to combat-ready standards was emphasized.

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National Guard

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## FEATURES

### The Professional Education Center

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### Controlling Your Weight

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### Memoirs of a WWI Guardsman

Wallace A. Wayne joined the 1st Oregon Field Artillery, Oregon National Guard, on July 24, 1917. He was mustered into federal service with Battery A for World War I. His unit saw action in the Château-Thierry, Soissons and Meuse-Argonne sections of France.

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## COVER:

Since its inception, the National Guard Professional Education Center (PEC), Little Rock, Arkansas, has been the training arm of the Army National Guard. It is charged with training full-time Guard personnel to increase efficiency and productivity. Photo, SFC Jack M. Griffith, PEC. Design, Johnson Design Group.

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