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## Congress And The Realignment

FOR nearly two months the Senate Preparedness Investigating Subcommittee, chaired by Senator Stennis of Mississippi, and Subcommittee Number 2 of the House Armed Services Committee, chaired by Representative Hebert of Louisiana, have been considering the Department of the Army's proposal to realign its Reserve Forces. The Committees are fulfilling the Constitutional responsibilities which charge the Congress with "raising and supporting armies," "organizing, arming and disciplining the Militia" and prescribing the "discipline" under which the Militia is to be trained.

While these provisions of the Constitution of the United States have lost none of their validity with the passage of time, the sophistication and tempo of the era in which we live sometimes makes it difficult to translate such generalized terms into specific functions and define respective spheres of action. Nonetheless, it is axiomatic that plans and programs affecting the national security have little or no chance of success without Congressional understanding, approval and support.

The National Guard is acutely aware, as it always has been, of this national defense partnership between the Executive and Legislative branches of our government and, as always, we subscribe unequivocally to this process.

Both the National Guard Association of the United States and the Adjutants General Association of the United States have endorsed the concept of the Department's proposal which would place all organized units of the Army's Reserve Components in the National Guard—a system which operated successfully for many, many years. The Governors of the States have agreed that the proposed realigned structure will meet State requirements for internal security forces.

For some years, both the NGAUS and the AGAUS have viewed with apprehension the decreasing support earmarked for non-priority units in the ARNG. It is the concern of both Associations that a continuing deterioration of the non-priority units, resulting from this lack of support, can lead in the very near future to a point where these units will have little mobilization value and it will become increasingly difficult to justify their existence. It would be difficult for the whole ARNG to continue as a vital and effective force with nearly 41 percent of its organized units lacking even the level of support considered necessary for effective training.

Understandably, therefore, a concept which provided for full support of all units in the ARNG structure was looked upon with favor by both Associations.

The adequacy of the proposed realigned force to support a mobilized Army is a matter for the determination of the Country's military planners in cooperation with the elected representatives of the people.

In presenting its views to the Congress in support of the concept, the National Guard in no manner compromised its position with respect to Constitutional prerogatives in defense matters. We do believe that a thorough review of defense proposals such as the realignment is the responsibility of appropriate committees of the Congress. We are mindful that the most productive periods in our military history have been those in which the Armed Services Committees of the Congress and the Military Establishment have worked together.



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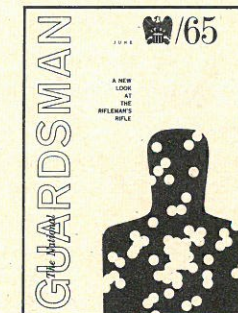
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Official publication of the National Guard Association of the United States. Publication office: Telegraph Press Building, Harrisburg, Penna. Second class postage paid at Harrisburg, Penna. All correspondence should be addressed to 1 Massachusetts Ave. N. W., Washington, D. C. 20001. THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN welcomes original articles bearing on National Defense, with emphasis on the Army and Air National Guard. Manuscripts must be accompanied by return postage, and no responsibility is assumed for their safe handling. Domestic subscriptions for home delivery: \$2 per year. A year's subscription is included within NGAUS members' annual dues. Subscriptions to foreign addresses, \$2.50 per year. Single copies, 25¢. Copyright, 1965, National Guard Assn. of the U. S. All rights reserved.

JUNE, 1965

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