

THE BRITISH TERRITORIAL ARMY 2

Britain's equivalent to the U.S. National Guard has had its ups and downs, not too unlike those of its American counterpart.

THE THREE BIG "R'S" 16

They once were reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic, but Guard Adjutants General are reminded that today they are recruiting, retention and readiness.

BAD GUYS ALWAYS LOSE 22

That "rule" held true in "EXOTIC DANCER VI", even 'though the "bad guys" were Army Guardsmen.

THE LIVING'S NOT EASY 26

Pennsylvania flood veterans go South—only to be flooded out again!

THE FORCES OF NATURE 28

By twos and by hundreds, Guardsmen again respond to disasters.

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S T A F F

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"Cut through the Bureaucratic red tape"

(Excerpts from a presentation of the NGAUS statement of position to the Armed Services Committee, U.S. House of Representatives, 10 May 1973.

THE key to readiness is manpower. This is the most pressing problem confronting the National Guard today. It is a serious situation in the Army National Guard which had a shortage of 15,500 men as of 30 April. Manpower is not a problem in the Air National Guard at the moment. That Component is presently slightly overstrength, but it has higher programmed strength for Fiscal Year 1974 and will be some 2,000 short at the start of the year.

Not only does the Guard need the same tools as are available to the Active Military Forces to retain and recruit men and women, but today's Guardsmen and Reservists, who are required to put in more time and attain more professionalism, deserve certain other benefits more in line with those granted their Active Force counterparts—such things as survivor benefits, retirement annuity payable at an age less than 60, and increased medical benefits. "Total Force" and "One Army" should be meaningful in every phase of military life . . .

Gentlemen, if the strengths of Reserve Forces fall below acceptable levels—and they are headed in that direction—not all the blame should fall on the men in the field. Some of the fault lies in the Pentagon. There has been a sufficiency of study, a great deal of talk. But the recruiter has not been provided all the tools he needs to do the job.

I deplore having to stress the need for incentives. I regret that there aren't enough young men around who want to serve in the Guard and Reserve purely out of a desire to serve their Country; purely out of an interest in the Military. But, as you all know so well, we live in a materialistic society . . .

We urge the Department of Defense to move more expeditiously and with greater urgency in efforts to gain authority for incentives.

We implore the Department of Defense to cut through the bureaucratic red tape, reduce study time and come speedily to administrative decisions authorizing certain improvements in the personnel area.

We urge the Congress to act at the earliest possible moment to grant necessary authority . . .

I have spoken frankly here today in presenting another view of the problem—the view from the field. The National Guard and Reserve programs are multi-billion-dollar programs; more importantly, they are keystones of the Nation's security.

We are critical of some program movements. We are frustrated by undue delays in the decision-making process. Let me stress we are critical of no individual. We have the highest regard for those who are working on these problems in the Pentagon and in the Congress.

I hope the Committee will be helped in its considerations by having expressed certain attitudes and concerns as I know them to exist in the field—where the problem must be solved, where the job must be done.◊



Henry W. McMillan
Major General, FLARNG
President
National Guard
Association of
The United States



Training can be tough in the TAVR! Volunteer shown on front cover crossed fast-flowing rivers on his own, in the dark, as part of an escape-and-evasion exercise. He wears a life jacket and his burden includes a silenced machine gun.

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