



MG Charles M. Kiefner, President, NGAUS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

TALKING TO A NON-GUARD AUDIENCE

Recently, we had an opportunity to address a large non-Guard audience at the national level. We were invited to write an article for the VFW Magazine, the national magazine, which is comparable to NATIONAL GUARD, that is published by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The VFW editor suggested we write about overseas training, the Montgomery Amendment, the two lawsuits contesting that amendment and about "the National Guard today." These four topics are tightly linked. This month, it is appropriate to relate a little of what we said so that Guardsmen in the field can "take it from there" in addressing local veterans groups or other civic groups as such targets of opportunity present themselves.

To begin, it seems fair to point out to most audiences that the National Guard of 1989 is not much like the National Guard of 1969. Those of us senior enough to have served across these two decades know this full well. The 19 years of the Total Force Concept/Policy have created a vast change in the Guard and Reserve.

Until the early 1960s, Guard units held "meetings" one night a week for a couple hours. There were two weeks of "summer camp" at some nearby military installation during the summer months. Purists called this Annual Field Training (AFT). Today it is called simply annual training (AT). We don't go to "meetings" any more. Far more common than a week night drill is the MUTA-5, which begins on a Friday night and ends late Sunday. Three-week AT periods at some foreign location in the fall, winter or spring are commonplace.

The advent of the Total Force Policy—and the active components' determination beginning in about 1979 to fully implement it—has created even further changes. The Air Guard was far and away the leader in this in part because the U.S. Air Force leadership were determined to make its Guard and Reserve full partners. Thus, the Air Guard was provided bet-

ter resources, made a fuller recipient in the procurement objectives and integrated sooner into the Total Air Force mission. Rotations of fighters to exercises, utilization of the KC-135 refueling assets in the worldwide SAC mission and commitment of the cargo aircraft into overseas missions proceeded from the early days. Indeed, many of us remember the tremendous contribution of the Air Guard's C-97 units during the Vietnam War when they made regular runs to Southeast Asia, even though those units were never mobilized.

Overseas training for the Army Guard began in 1976 with small detachments or cells deploying to REFORGER. This was a breakthrough in the sense that overseas deployments for the Army Guard had been virtually unheard of before. Such REFORGER deployments expanded rapidly so that by 1981, we had a battalion of the 38th Infantry Division in Indiana go to Germany.

Such deployments and the use of the Air Guard in its multifaceted missions didn't attract any opposition. Neither did the Guard's entry into the Central America equation. More than 10 years ago, the Air Guard began its two-fold involvement with U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM).

A few years later, the Guard added its A-7 fighters to the SOUTHCOM force mix, rotating a few at a time to Howard AFB, Panama, to provide SOUTHCOM's only fighter-bomber capability. Still no controversy.

In 1983, Army Guard engineer training began in Central America. It started with a road-building project in Panama. This rapidly expanded to two projects, then spread to Honduras. We have built roads in Ecuador as well. In 1984, we conducted some combined-arms training in Honduras. It was at this point that some politicians in the United States, who were stating their opposition to then-President Reagan's foreign policy in the region, sought to bar Guard training in Central America. Some merely op-

posed Honduras, because it has common border with Nicaragua. A few also opposed Panama.

We in the Guard all know what followed. Governor Joseph Brennan of Maine barred a few of his Guard soldiers from deploying. Initially, we thought this a minor irritation because the training interrupted was so minuscule. Although a few other governors weighed in with similar political statements, none except Brennan actually kept their Guardsmen home.

At this point, we determined the need to solidify our position in the Total Force. The Montgomery Amendment was the answer. It continued the governors' authority over their Guard units at home, but permitted DoD to order overseas training based on Department of Defense requirements.

It is this authority, which is part of the glue that holds together the Total Force Policy today, that we are defending in the Minnesota and Massachusetts lawsuits. DoD has won the Massachusetts case and its appeal, although Governor Michael Dukakis has stated he intends to take it to the U.S. Supreme Court. We will be participating in yet another hearing on the appeal of the Minnesota case, this time before all the judges of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals sitting in St. Paul, which will be considering a three-judge panel's ruling that the Montgomery Amendment is unconstitutional.

The necessity of overseas training, the requirement for the modern equipment to support that level of training, the evolution of the Guard under the Total Force Policy and the vast difference between now and earlier years was our message to the members of the VFW. Many veterans who have no compelling reason to keep up with national defense trends on a daily basis may not—indeed, probably do not—know of these changes. The opportunity to tell them. It is an opportunity that should be seized whenever it presents itself.

National Guard

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FEATURES

Tarheel Apaches Fly High on Test

14

North Carolina's 1st Battalion, 130th Aviation, the first Army Guard unit to receive the deadly AH-64 Apache attack helicopter, excelled on its first Army Training and Evaluation Program (ARTEP). The ARTEP determines whether a unit is combat ready. Despite receiving its helicopters late, the unit still was able to complete the training in the same time frame as its active counterparts.



The National Guard in Armenia

19

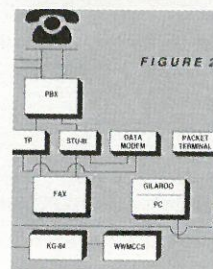
The National Guard has always provided assistance during disasters, snowstorms and floods, but usually those missions have been within the Continental United States. However, in December, a major earthquake struck Armenia in the Soviet Union and strategic airlift units in the New York and Mississippi Air National Guards were called on to give assistance.



Communications at the STARC

22

The Army National Guard recently has expanded the mission and functions of the State Area Commands (STARC) to a higher level of importance and has created a new organization called the Joint State Area Command (JSAC). LTC David M. Fiedler, New Jersey National Guard, examines the communications role in this new organization.



Military Medicine in the Guard

27

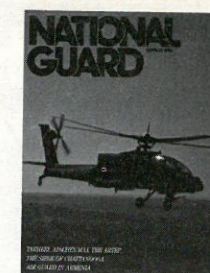
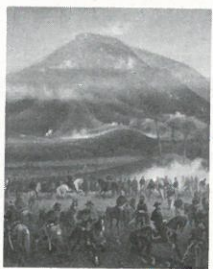
The medic in combat medicine has the greatest responsibility but is usually the poorest prepared for his responsibilities, according to Virginia's state surgeon. To combat this problem, Virginia has started a field medical school that is conducted once a year for its medics.



The Siege of Chattanooga

30

An incredible Federal fiasco at the Battle of Chickamauga led the way to Confederate victory. It was a stroke of undeserved fortune for the Federal war effort that the Confederate commander, Braxton Bragg, was not able to fully follow up his victory. What followed was later dubbed the Siege of Chattanooga.



COVER:

Members of North Carolina's 1st Battalion, 130th Aviation, negotiate an AH-64 Apache helicopter over the terrain of Fort Hood, Texas, during the unit's external Army Training and Evaluation Program. Photo, Capt Jean Marie Brawders. Design, Johnson Design Group, Inc.

DEPARTMENTS

President's Message	2
Washington Tie-Line	4
Views From the Field	6
Capital Focus	9
Newsbreaks	10
Guard Stars	13
Leading Edge	36
Pentagon Paragraphs	35
Enlisted People	38
Posting the Guard	41
Publisher's Notebook	46

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