



MG Robert F. Ensslin Jr. (ret.), President, NGAUS

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## THE NEW DRUG WAR

It's almost as if the drug war in the United States was put on hold during the period of Operations DESERT SHIELD/STORM. Perhaps not in the streets or in schools, but most public and political conversation about the drug problem in the United States went below the surface after Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait.

So perhaps there is a new drug war, one with some different points of emphasis than before and one in which the National Guard may have an even greater role to play than it did before. And we were doing plenty before.

However, while our National Guard attention was turned toward Southwest Asia and the mobilization and deployment that ensued, the problem of drugs in America continued. It also is changing as indicated in some of the articles in this issue of NATIONAL GUARD.

Several aspects stand out as points of departure for the continuation of the war on drugs in the remainder of the 1990s.

**One.** The National Guard always has contended that one does not justify force structure based on the state mission. While it often is the state mission that attracts the most public attention, the state mission is not where the bulk of our training and operational time is spent or where our resources are concentrated. State funding pays about 5 percent of the total National Guard budget, if that.

However, the drug war may be a different equation because, while it has some resemblance to the traditional state mission, it nonetheless is a national issue. A riot, strike, flood or storm is strictly a state and local issue. However, the drug problem is everywhere and anywhere.

Further, many elected officials see and describe the drug problem as a national security problem. They define the injection of South American cocaine into the United States as a violation of our international borders. For this, military means are useful and perhaps required.

It is here that force structure be-

comes linked with the war on drugs. However, some decision must first be made about what kind of war on drugs the United States wants. Does it want to spend the money for a full-court press, or does it want to nickle and dime the problem.

There seems little question that the National Guard could do much, much more than it is in the interdiction role properly funded. It could include Guard units manned full time for the principal purpose of drug interdiction. Such units also could have a good mobilization mission and be readily and speedily available for that purpose.

The active Army and the active components generally are of little utility here. The Posse Comitatus Act prohibits the use of regulars in any law enforcement function short of the declaration of a national emergency. This role is reserved to the National Guard under state control: duty under title 32, U.S. Code.

Several years ago, then-Army Chief of Staff GEN Carl E. Vuono (ret.) was asked by an Army War College student whether he thought the Posse Comitatus Act should be changed or repealed so that the Army could become involved in the drug war.

Definitely not, General Vuono said, this is the role of the National Guard.

**Two.** From time to time, the NGAUS gets proposals from industry to support equipment procurement for the drug war. We have much the same reaction to these ideas as we do to producing force structure for the state mission. Unless equipment is on an equipping document or unless it is in the Army or Air Force procurement system, we really can't support proposals to buy it. States won't spend much money doing that. Neither would the federal government, at least up until now.

Last year, DoD agreed to a study of the use of the Light Armored Vehicle (LAV) in the drug interdiction program. Twelve LAVs were borrowed from the Canadian army and provided

to four states for this test. The results of the test are due in the near future.

**Three.** Just before the beginning of Operations DESERT SHIELD/STORM, one prominent educator noted that youth education remains the real solution to the drug problem for most Americans. He also said that there is considerable indication already that middle class American youth are listening to the educational pitches about the dangers of drug use and are responding.

Demand reduction is one name for this today. The District of Columbia National Guard is one organization that has taken the lead in putting some of its good NCOs into the school system to talk about drugs. The articles in this issue from New Mexico and Buffalo, New York, illustrate other programs.

**Four.** One of the dilemmas of any defense planner in 1992 is defining the "threat." Clearly, the Soviet threat to which Americans became accustomed over the 45 years of the Cold War is, for all practical purposes, gone. Americans are unlikely to support spending much money on any military force that is not needed for a definable and understandable threat.

However, drugs clearly are a threat to the traditional American way of life. Drugs, for the most part, come from South America. The governments of countries like Colombia, Peru and Ecuador are being weakened and threatened by the cartels and other antigovernment groups. This may, indeed, become the threat.

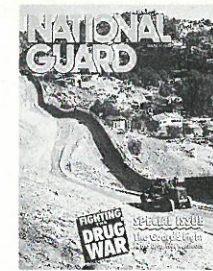
And finally, drugs are a threat for which the active components probably are of less utility than the National Guard. This would occur for the same reasons that the National Guard has been more welcome in Latin America for military exercises than the active military. This is a cultural, political and historical factor that has nothing to do with the capabilities of active-duty units, but which has everything to do with the welcome citizen-soldiers receive when they deploy.

*National Guard*

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## FEATURES

### The Fight Continues

From the Persian Gulf War to the Drug War, the National Guard nationwide has had an extremely busy year with no breaks in between. Despite what many citizens think, the National Guard has been fighting two wars simultaneously: one in which the enemy was quite recognizable and the other in which the enemy could be your next-door neighbor or the banker down the street. And according to COL Richard Kauffman, the National Guard could do even more in the War on Drugs.

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### Guard Against Drugs

All wars have more than one front, even the War on Drugs. No matter how you look at it, if Americans reduce the desire, the demand for drugs, the narcotraffickers would be out of business. So, the New Mexico National Guard has established a prototype program to reduce the use of illicit drugs with strong leadership from hometown Guard men and women.

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### DoD Drug Czar Speaks Out

The Honorable Stephen M. Duncan, the assistant secretary of Defense for reserve affairs and the coordinator for the Department of Defense War on Drugs, highlights the continued success of the Guard in the fight against the War on Drugs. This continued battle says volumes about the quality of soldier and airman the National Guard has in its ranks.

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### The Nation's Drug Czar Speaks Out

The Honorable Bob Martinez became director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy a little more than a year ago. He said the proof is in the statistics that the National Guard makes a difference in the War on Drugs.

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### Spying on the Drug Traffickers

Florida Army National Guard military intelligence analysts are some of the greatest assets to the various state law enforcement agencies in the battle against illegal drugs entering the borders of the United States.

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## COVER:

With bulldozers, graders, backhoes and rollers, California Army National Guard engineers are pushing the tide of drugs away from the U.S.-Mexico border. Photo, CW3 Bill Wilson. Design, Johnson Design Group.

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