

# President's Message

Maj Gen John L. Matthews, President, NGAUS

## We Must Be Prepared Today to Avoid the Mistakes of History

The FY95 Army and Air Force defense budgets are out, and, without going into detailed analysis, one thing is clear—the nation's defense budget continues to go down, which, ultimately, impacts on Total Force capabilities. To those of us charged with national defense, there is a growing concern about how much the nation can afford to reduce our national Defense budget without repeating the errors of history.

The adjutants general were reminded, as if they needed any reminder, of these concerns at the recent AGAUS Midwinter Conference, which was conducted at the National Guard Memorial in Washington, D.C., when three members of Congress expressed these same concerns.

The most direct reminder came from Senator Kit Bond (R-Missouri), who is the co-chair of the Senate National Guard Caucus, and whose remarks were clear about the Department of Defense (DoD) budget reductions.

"I remain concerned," he said, "that we are heading toward a Guard that is too small. Unfortunately, however, the problem is not confined to the Guard. I am concerned that the administration is taking overall force levels so low that we will not be able to fulfill our mission for our national security interests, and that is both the active and the Guard and reserve components. In my view, the Bottom-Up Review, which was released last year, sets forth an unrealistic force and, more importantly, unrealistic funding levels that could seriously impair our ability to defend our interests around the world."

He continued with: "Even when it was first proposed last year, Secretary Aspin admitted that there was a \$13 billion shortfall

in funding. That shortfall was compounded when Congress, rightly, restored the [pay] adjustment for uniformed military personnel....But the Office of Management and Budget made the situation even worse, late last year, when it called for an additional \$50 billion in cuts over the next five years. Unless the administration has a major change of heart, we are going to see further massive cuts despite the promises the president made in his State of the Union address last week."

Senator Bond explained that he was not alone in these views in Congress; and that many other members of Congress are afraid the cuts to defense may have gone too far. "The simple bottom line is that history has shown us time and time again that when we cut our military too much, when we try to put forward a hollow defense, we pay for it in blood and loss of lives. If we do not learn the lessons of history, we are condemned to repeat the mistakes of history," Senator Bond said.

Among the proposals Senator Bond presented to stop the Defense budget slide was to reestablish a fire wall between defense and domestic

spending, so that no defense funds would be spent for outside purposes that do not relate directly to defense needs. As an example, he cited the costs for UN peace-keeping functions that should be budgeted, he stressed, rather than being taken out of operation and maintenance accounts of the separate services.

**"The simple bottom line is that history has shown us, time and time again, that when we cut our military too much, we pay for it in blood and loss of lives. The best way to maintain peace is to have adequate military defense to ensure the peace," Senator Bond said.**

Our old friend Representative G. "Sonny" Montgomery echoed the same concerns on the House side. He explained that he, along with six other members of the House, met with the president and president to express their concerns about the DoD budget trends.

"We recommended three actions," Congressman Montgomery said. "The first was to establish fire walls around the Defense budget as we have done in the past to prevent DoD money from being used for other programs. Second, to include an extra \$50 billion dollars in the DoD budget to cover the cost of inflation and the year cost of a pay raise. Third, we recommended that the president not dip into Defense funds to pay for non-Defense items such as aid to Russia and other that really don't contribute to military readiness....Our view is that we have gone too far and too fast in cutting defense."

Whatever one's views on the state of the world and America's role in that world, there is more uncertainty now than there has ever been. There is intense debate as to whether or not we will have sufficient resources to conduct two nearly simultaneous operations. That debate aside, we also have direct concerns as to the funding levels of the Army and Air National Guard, as well as the funding levels of the Army Air Force. Ultimately, cuts mean a reduction in capabilities and an uncertainty in the ability of the nation's trained forces.

So, it's best to end this with a quote from Senator Wendell Ford (D-Kentucky), co-chair of the Senate National Guard Caucus with Senator Bond. "For those of you who closely follow the budget struggles of last year, do not expect the ride to be any smoother this year. The task of budget cutting is not complete, and the list of goals are not complete," Senator Ford said. "Again, it is a stress that in this time of defense cuts, the role of the National Guard comes even more consequential in national security."

# NATIONAL GUARD

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### Advancing Into the 21st Century 16

What is all the fuss about? The 169th Fighter Group, South Carolina Air Guard, began an exciting era in January when it received its first F-16C/Block 52 Fighting Falcon. The arrival of the new F-16C/Block 52 greatly advances the combat capability of the 169th FG, which was the first Air Guard or Air Force Reserve unit to receive the F-16 when it transitioned to the F-16A in 1983.

### Eye on Europe: Guard Tankers At Work 20

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Aviation Restructuring Initiative (ARI) is a bold program encompassing the Total Army. This initiative calls for a total restructuring of Army aviation assets, specifically rotary-wing assets. This program will affect all Army National Guard aviation units, the author questions if this is in the best interest of the National Guard attack helicopter units? What does this mandate into for the Guard?

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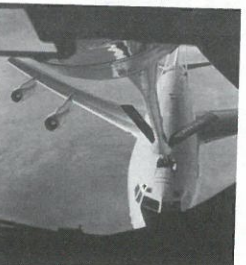
Political and social changes in the international arena have affected, significantly, American defense structure and strategy. But, we are not alone in facing the challenges that new circumstances impose on armed forces. Britain's Territorial Army, our National Guard equivalent, is experiencing similar changes in force structure, budget and training. A company grade officer experiences and observes many parallels through an exciting exchange program.

### It Starts With a Dream 32

Some, a boxing ring in an armory may look a little out of place, but to the children of Oakdale, California, it looks like a good place to start on their quest for a better life. The children learn the skills necessary to make their dreams become a reality. Members of the California Army Guard volunteer their time and resources to make a positive difference in the community and in the lives of the children. Maybe a boxing ring in an armory isn't out of place after all.



South Carolina Receives First F-16C/Block 52



## Cover:

Aim high! And that is exactly what the 169th Fighter Group, South Carolina Air Guard has always done. As a result, it is the first Guard unit to receive the F-16C/Block 52 Fighting Falcon. Only the 169th and one active duty Air Force wing are expected to fly this version of the F16C. Photo, MSG Phillip Jones. Cover, Dennis and Sackett Design.

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