

# President's Message

Maj Gen John L. France (ret.), President, NGAUS

## Top Leaders Express Their Support on National Guard Issues

On January 31, 1995, when I became a "retired" adjutant general, I felt that the pressure would diminish. It did not. There seems to be more and more to do with TAG meetings, off-sites, building finance and a host of other duties that will continue to keep me active and involved.

During the recent past, I met with our Senate National Guard Caucus cochairmen, Senator Kit Bond of Missouri and Senator Wendall Ford of Kentucky. We discussed our top three priorities—stabilizing the force; full-time support; and operations and maintenance. They knew about our successes during the off-site process and remembered well the administration's threat to cut 20 percent of our technician force. They were also concerned about the lack of funding for OPTEMPO and how this affects readiness. They have pledged to support us in all these areas.

Secretary of Defense William J. Perry spoke to the Adjutants General Association (AGAUS) at its midwinter meeting in Washington, D.C., and was very positive about an increased role for the National Guard. During his remarks, he said that we will play a more central role in combat and non-combat missions. He said: "So, we need to be leaner, more flexible and ready to respond when the call comes." Dr. Perry also described his four priorities for the Guard.

● Increase training, readiness and equipment of the contingency force pools. He said the Standard Bearer program was ingenious.

- Have the services and commanders incorporate reserve operations in the budget.
- The Guard must have flexible training schedules and be able to deploy for longer than two weeks when appropriate.
- Plan better use of the Guard.

During the question and answer period following the secretary's address, he asked for a show of hands from the TAGs who support giving the eight divisions a wartime mission from the commanders-in-chief. All hands were raised. I believe Secretary Perry will follow up on this issue.

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believe Secretary Perry was listening. On the last day, the AGAUS conferees passed a resolution that asked that National Guard technicians be exempt from the overall government civilian work force reduction in the reinventing government program. Secretary Perry was given a copy

of that resolution, and, as a result, an article appeared in the February 13, 1995, issue of *Army Times* and *Air Force Times* entitled "Promise to Technicians." It read, in part: "Losing so many technicians would cripple the readiness of many units, National Guard leaders told Perry on January 31 during a meeting of the Adjutants General Association in Washington, D.C. Perry conceded that he is responsible for the pain that threatens the technicians, but he said eliminating technician jobs 'was not what had in mind.'"

The article continued: "Congress shielded reserve technicians from cuts in 1995...but that reprieve is good only until the end of September. In addition—Perry said he has asked Deborah R. Lee, the assistant secretary of Defense for reserve affairs, to develop a waiver to permanently protect technicians from across-the-board cuts in civilian employees."

This is great news, but I must tell you that until we see legislation, we will monitor this situation very closely.

Finally, this past year has seen 44,000 Air Guard personnel deployed to locations around the globe. The Army Guard has deployed even larger numbers, which totals to well over 100,000. We have proved we are ready and we can take on just about anything that the Department of Defense (DoD) asks of us.

DoD must not forget that we have an important state mission as well as federal. Ronald R. Fogleman, chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force, summarized this mission saying: "The Guard plays an important role in keeping the military in touch with society. There is a special relationship between society and the military. Looking to the future force, we ought to see a more important adjunct to this."

We are the community.  
We are the keepers of the faith.  
We are the National Guard.

## Cover:

MG Raymond L. Pendergrass and his staff discuss the fight at Cox's farm, which occurred on the second day of the Battle of Pea Ridge. Photo by MSgt Jerry Bratten. Inset: Secretary of Defense William J. Perry addresses the AGAUS midwinter meeting. Photo by CMSgt John Thornton. Cover design by Dennis and Sackett Design.

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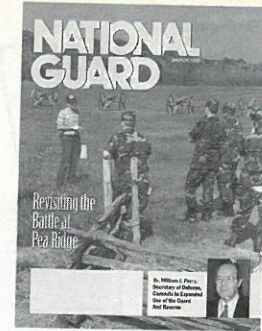
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## Features

**Maryland Warthogs Score a Direct Hit 18**  
When the Bosnian Serb Army seized some heavy weapons from the Ilidza Weapons Collection site in the Sarajevo Exclusion Zone, it led to one of the few times NATO authorized a counterstrike. Leading the strike were two Maryland 175th Fighter Group pilots flying the A-10 Thunderbolt II, more commonly known as the Warthog. The 175th was at Aviano AB, Italy, flying missions for Operation DENY FLIGHT when the call came for the air strike.



**Dr. Perry Said Net Was to Broad 22**  
Secretary of Defense William J. Perry told National Guard adjutants general that he was working toward a waiver in the reduction of National Guard and Reserve military technicians. Dr. Perry spoke at the midwinter Adjutants General Association of the United States (AGAUS) conference. Other speakers included Gen Ronald R. Fogleman, chief of staff of the Air Force; GEN Gordon R. Sullivan, chief of staff of the Army; and the Honorable Deborah R. Lee, the assistant secretary of Defense for reserve affairs.



**Missourians Revisit Civil War Battlefield 26**  
The Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas, which was fought in March 1862, was pivotal in deciding the fate of Missouri and the Southwest during the Civil War. It pitted Missourians against fellow Missourians in a hard-fought battle. More than 100 years later, MG Raymond L. Pendergrass, the adjutant general of Missouri, sponsored a group of Missouri citizen-soldiers on a staff ride of that famous battle as part of his officer professional development program.



**What Guard History Means to Me 30**  
In keeping the National Guard spirit alive, members of the National Guard Professional Education Center Readiness NCO/NCOIC Course 12-94 were asked to write short papers explaining the importance of the National Guard's rich history to other Guard members today. In some of the best papers presented to the class, the National Guard's future leaders explain the importance of history to themselves and to their Guard career. A thorough understanding of yesterday is helping today's Guard members prepare for tomorrow.

