



President's Message

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

The Army Guard Must Mirror the U.S. Army

It is perhaps a tribute to the fresh leadership of the new chief of the National Guard Bureau, LTG Edward D. Baca, that the National Guard family and its leadership have a singularly unified message in 1995. This message emphasizes three things: stabilizing the force, preserving our full-time force and providing sufficient money for training, schooling and other forms of operational tempo (Optempo).

Both the Bureau and the three major associations that represent the Guard on Capitol Hill are testifying before Congress to these three points this spring. Significantly, and we are gratified to note this, so is Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Deborah R. Lee.

As your president, one of my roles is to represent the Association at the series of "Off-site" meetings with the leadership of the Army and the U.S. Army Reserve. As you know, it was this off-site process, which began in 1991, that resulted in the 1993 agreement to stabilize the Army Guard's force structure allowance into the 21st century at 405,000 and peg our end-strength at 367,000. This agreement meshed with many of the assumptions contained in the Department of Defense's Bottom-up Review (BUR), which was undertaken in the first year of the Clinton administration at the behest of then-Secretary of Defense Les Aspin.

It is appropriate to note that the Total Army Analysis-03 (TAA-03), which currently is ongoing in the Department of the

Army staff, is built off the assumptions and requirements contained in the BUR. Thus, it will provide for a force structure in the three components of the Army for two major regional contingencies (MRC). It includes provision for 10 fully-structured active Army combat divisions and 15 Army Guard enhanced brigades. Other types of force structure flow from this scenario.

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However, the devil is in the details, and it is with these details that we now are struggling. The fact is that post-Cold War war plans are not force-structure specific. By this we mean that they incorporate forward-deployed units by name, but speak in generalities when it comes to the CONUS-based force.

Two significant actions regarding the defense planning guidance (DPG) stand out. First, the original draft of the DPG did not mention the Guard's divisions. However, partially at the behest of the Guard's leadership and thanks to the senior Army leadership, this was changed.

This is more important than it might seem because the BUR and its slender force structure provides for little or no strategic reserve units for rotation. Aspin noted after DESERT STORM that had the decision been to wait rather than attack when the United States and its allies did, that rotation of units and personnel would have become vi-

tal within a few more months.

As for strategic reserve, this is simply the prudent planner's hedge against the unexpected. We cannot prove that even if there were two nearly simultaneous MRCs, that both would be in all the places where the United States has vital national interests. For example, if neither MRC were in the Persian Gulf, why would one assume that the Gulf and its oil reserves had ceased to be the vital national interest that we agreed it was in 1990?

Therefore, notwithstanding any of the above, we caution the Guard family not to deviate from the principle that the Guard and must be organized like the active Army. Outgoing Army Chief of Staff Gordon R. Sullivan noted to the AGA's midwinter meeting that divisions are the way the Army is organized to fight, and until this changes the Army Guard needs to be organized that way, too.

While many of our critics would argue that Guard divisions are unlikely to be deployed to an international emergency of a major war (the theory behind the force structure), they continue to support the right kind of forces. Our principal concern over the past 30 months is that more are needed for backup, strategic reserve and rotation. This was the point that was made: there would have been some requirement for rotational forces come a year or 18-month anniversary. Given that Army divisions were utilized in the past, this would suggest in today's environment some requirement for mobilizing and deploying Guard divisions at such a period of time.

Force XXI and other initiatives for structuring and modernizing may be the Army in a direction other than toward continuation of divisions. Whatever the answer is may well be the right answer. However, until we know what that is, we need to stick with the force structure that is the coin of the realm. Today, that is divisions.

Cover:

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Deborah Lee reviews the troops who make up the Sinai Battalion. This battalion, which consists of Guard members and Reservists, as well as active duty soldiers, is the first of its kind and working well. Photo by CMS Doug Murray, OASD/RA. Cover design by Dennis and Sackett Design.

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Guardsmen Given Unusual Guard Duty 14
In the early 1900s, river crossings became the subject of some contention, and, on several occasions, Guard members found themselves holding the line on interstate bridges. One of the most famous cases was that of the Oklahoma and Texas "Bridge War." In this instance, Oklahoma Governor William H. Murray, also known as "Alfalfa Bill," called up Oklahoma Guardsmen to close down a Texas-chartered toll bridge, which crossed the Red River, in a dispute between the two states.

Secretary Lee Visits the Sinai Battalion 18
In January of this year, a history-making battalion deployed to the Sinai to take its place as part of the Multinational Force and Observers. What makes this battalion so unique is that it is Total Army, where Guardsmen, Reservists and active duty soldiers are indistinguishable and work equally, side-by-side. They are doing a mission that traditionally was done by the Army's most ready, first-to-deploy, active duty units—the 82d Division or the 101st Division. Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Deborah Lee went to visit the troops and writes about her trip.

Guard Members Give Democracy a Hand 22
National Guard members have invaded Eastern European countries since the break up of the Soviet Union, carrying with them the seeds of democracy. As part of the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program, states are paired up with European republics, such as Estonia, Albania and Ukraine to name a few, and teams of Guard members are sent to help these republics with medical care, military reform and organize new government. Representatives from these republics also visit the United States to see how democracy can and does work.

Victory in Europe—VE Day + 50 26
Very nearly living up to predictions made by GEN Dwight D. Eisenhower and others, the surrender of Germany, aside from the symbolic surrender ceremony at Reims, France, on May 8, 1945, was fragmented and disjointed. The final dominos began to tumble with the Russian victory in Berlin on May 2, two days after Hitler's suicide. The 29th (Blue and Gray) Infantry Division had been one of the first U.S. combat divisions to reach the Elbe River in its long odyssey from Omaha Beach. On May 3, it was ordered to assume responsibility for Bremen.

