



Maj Gen Duane L. Corning  
(S.D. Air National Guard)  
President,  
National Guard Association  
of the United States

## A valued partner

**T**HIS Association recently conducted its 97th General Conference, in Seattle. If follow-up comments by the conferees contained a dominant theme, it was that this was one of the best and most satisfying in recent years.

Underlying the highly favorable reaction, in my view, was the feeling of satisfaction associated with participating in something important and worthwhile. It was an informative and productive conference, involving not just Guardsmen and their ladies, but also a notable contingent of the most senior leaders of the active Army and Air Force. Not only did the ranking leaders of the active forces attend, but they avoided the assortment of platitudes we sometimes hear, and talked directly and frankly of the issues that really matter — readiness, equipment, training. More important still, they met head-on the issues that frequently divide the active and Guard forces, discussing them openly and sincerely.

Army Guard leaders have been highly suspicious of some of FORSCOM's recent studies and actions, for example, sensing a determination on the Army's part to assume full direction and control of the Army Guard at the expense of the state command and control which we are determined to preserve. Gen Bernard W. Rogers, FORSCOM commander, tackled that thorny issue directly and forcefully. He declared quite emphatically:

"I've heard talk, or at least intimations, that Forces Command wants to command the Guard. I believe this is a good forum in which to kill that canard and dispel any such misunderstanding. . . . Let there be no question among this group or any other. We believe in the Constitution. We believe in the law. And we endorse the principle that the states do, and should, command the Guard. And we'll fight to defend that principle."


That's the kind of straight talk Guardsmen can appreciate. It is significant, also, that the three CONUS Army commanders, and commanders of eight of the nine Readiness Regions, who establish the tone of active Army/Guard relationships, were in the audience. Hopefully, this will lay another divisive issue to rest.

Gen Fred C. Weyand, Army chief of staff, presented a discerning and down-to-earth recitation of the problems confronting the entire Army, on the one hand, and the opportunities open to it, on the other. His remarks were as relevant to one component as to the others, emphasizing the extent to which the special needs of the active Army, Guard and reserve have been submerged in the shared needs of all. His remarks exemplified the kind of open exchange of thoughts that is contributing to the growing rapport between the three components.

Gen Russell Dougherty, commander-in-chief, SAC, mentioned his own start as a 1936 Army Guard cavalryman in Kentucky, and expressed his confidence that the Air Guard is "fully capable" of sharing the strategic aerial refuelling mission with active SAC units. The Guard's demonstrated willingness to accept a share of the responsibility for the nation's defense "encourages those of us in the regular services to want to be associated with you in this endeavor," he said.

In a clear indication of the esteem in which he holds the Air Guard, Gen Paul Carlton of the Military Airlift Command solicited the Guard's support in a number of undertakings in the manner one asks a valued partner for assistance.

There was none of the condescension that used to mark many addresses to the Guard by senior active leaders.

In my own view, the more mature relationship that has developed between active and Guard components is the end product of getting to know each other better, and working more closely with each other. If Guard conferees left Seattle with a sense of accomplishment, it was because they felt they were being welcomed into the main stream of national defense as trusted equals. 

The National  /75  
**GUARDSMAN**  
Official publication of the National Guard Association of the United States

NOVEMBER 1975

VOLUME XXIX, NUMBER 10

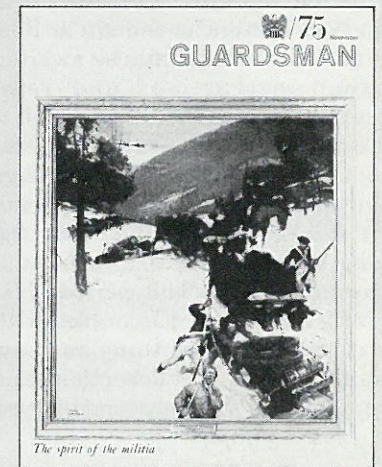
### features

A NOBLE TRAIN OF ARTILLERY <i>Militiaman Henry Knox makes good his promise to deliver the cannon, and learns a few tricks in the process.</i>	2
THE 97TH GENERAL CONFERENCE	6
STATEMENT OF POSITION	10
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED	11
REPORTS TO MEMBERS	14
ARMY GUARD SESSION	16
AIR GUARD SESSION	25
CONFERENCE SPEAKERS	29

### departments

YOU OUGHT TO KNOW	36
WASHINGTON REPORT	38
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR	42
PEOPLE IN THE NEWS	44
POSTING THE GUARD	46

THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN is published monthly, except August, by the National Guard Association of the United States, with editorial and advertising offices at 1 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. Telephone (202) 347-0341. Second class postage paid at Washington, D.C., and at additional mailing offices. Copyright 1975 by the National Guard Association of the U.S. All rights reserved. All members of the NGAUS receive the GUARDSMAN. Nonmember subscriptions: \$3 per year domestic; \$4 per year foreign. Bulk rate for 100 or more copies to the same address: \$2.50 each. Single copies 50¢. The GUARDSMAN welcomes original articles bearing on national defense, with emphasis on the National Guard. Manuscripts and artwork must be accompanied by return postage; no responsibility is assumed for safe handling. Opinions expressed by authors do not necessarily represent official NGAUS positions or policy. Likewise, publication of advertising cannot be deemed an endorsement thereof by this Association or its members.



*The spirit of the militia is depicted fittingly by Henry Knox's struggle against the elements to deliver to his general "a noble train of artillery." Thomas Lovell painting from the Dixon Ticonderoga Pencil Collection. Color plate courtesy of the National Geographic Society.*

### staff

**EDITOR**  
Capt Luther L. Walker  
**ASSOCIATE EDITOR**  
Capt Clinton L. Tennill Jr.  
**ADVERTISING & CIRCULATION**  
Maj John E. Bibb