



Major General Edward R. Fry, President, NGAUS

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### MANNING, MODERNIZATION AND MOBILIZATION

Now the NGAUS 102d General Conference is history, adjourned *sine die* as has been proclaimed by presiding officers, we would guess since time immemorial. A slate of new officers has been installed to provide for continuity in leadership and new Executive Council members have been added from Areas I and IV.

With the conference behind us only briefly, it is still difficult to see the forest for the trees. All of the details will be captured in the next issue of NATIONAL GUARD. It is our intent to comment at this time on just one aspect of the Las Vegas conference—the 1980 theme of “Manning, Modernization and Mobilization.”

As a consequence of the staff analysis of the main ingredients of the conference theme, a 1980 NGAUS position paper was written, submitted and adopted by the conferees. The paper is aptly titled: “Manning, Modernization and Mobilization: After Ten Years of the Total Force.”

The paper reviews the circumstances surrounding the public announcement in September 1970 of the then new “Total Force Concept” and it explores the events of the 10 intervening years.

It concludes that the concept espoused originally by Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird did, in fact, lead to extraordinary changes in the relationships between the active forces and the Guard and Reserve. It notes: “This is not to say that Laird’s objectives with respect to funding support was ever provided to the extent needed. But it put the relationships into a new—and important—focus.”

It does not, in our view, take a military genius to know what it is going to take to make the now Total Force Policy achieve all that has been set out for it. However, it may indeed take some rare genius to get it done.

Get what done?

The NGAUS position paper makes these specific points:

- Enough equipment to train and to fight with. “Come as you are war” made for a nifty slogan but it won’t wash. Not unless “as you are” means that same kind of equipment which is being used by the active forces.
- Support for incentives and enlightened personnel policies to enable the Guard and the active forces to maintain needed strength. This involves realization that the Guard in peacetime must be managed as a wartime force.
- Step up mobilization-related training activities at all levels as a reminder that, in the long run, the ability to *mobilize* is the name of the game.

The position paper also draws a series of rather powerful analogies between the situation which confronts us today and the situation 40 years ago when the nation was setting out to put its defense structure in order after many years of neglect. It was in 1940 that the active forces were significantly enlarged, a major aviation program was launched, the mobilization of the National Guard got underway and the first peacetime draft in the nation’s history was launched.

Once again, as in 1940, U. S. national interests are threatened. Alarming figures have been published as to the extent of the increases in Soviet defense expenditures and, in addition, we have seen still another example of reckless Russian adventurism in the invasion of Afghanistan. On this blatant occasion, the Soviets did not even seek to utilize surrogate forces to mask their aggressive intent. Unofficial sources continue to report on the field training activities of the Soviet combat brigade

in Cuba, less than 100 miles from our shores.

The conclusion which is reached in terms of the “3-M’s” the situation might be summarized as follows: *Manning* is so important that defense strategists are sometimes prone to forget shortfalls in other areas. It is essential that incentives be provided to the Guard and Reserve, across-the-board, personnel and individual training policies must be shaped for the purpose of making it easier, rather than difficult, for young people to be able to serve.

*Modernization* is essential. Sub-standard equipment which is “good enough to train with” may not be good enough for deployment. Since Guard units figure in early deployment plans, Army elements of the Guard need equipment which is compatible with the equipment of the U. S. Army units and Air National Guard units must be equipped with aircraft which possess the same systems and fighting capabilities which characterize their active USAF counterparts.

*Mobilization* is a capability which we must possess if we are to continue to project an image as a leading world power. It is an area in which, as has been learned in two successive MOBEX tests, the U. S. armed forces are woefully deficient. It is a gross miscalculation to see this as a “Guard and

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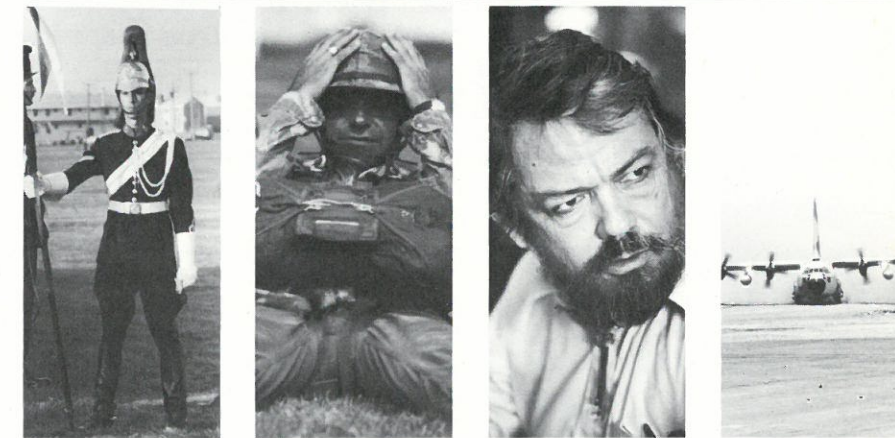
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NOVEMBER 1980

# NATIONAL GUARD

Official publication of the National Guard Association of the United States

November 1980 Volume XXXIV, Number 10



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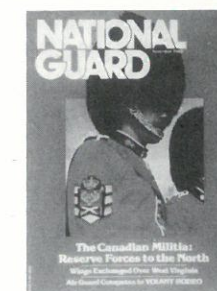
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NATIONAL GUARD, November 1980. The NATIONAL GUARD Magazine (ISSN 0163-3945) is published monthly, by the National Guard Association of the United States, with editorial and advertising offices at One Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. Telephone (202) 789-0031. Second class postage paid at Washington, D.C., and at additional mailing offices. Copyright 1980 by the National Guard Association of the U.S. All rights reserved. All members of the NGAUS receive NATIONAL GUARD. Nonmember subscriptions: \$4 per year domestic; \$5 per year foreign. Bulk rate for 100 or more copies to the same address: 25¢ each. Single copies 50¢. The Editor welcomes original articles bearing on national defense, with emphasis on application to or implications for 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.