



MG Charles M. Kiefner, President, NGAU

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

TELLING OUR STORY IS PART OF ACCOMPLISHING THE MISSION

During last month's Conference in Detroit, we saw our audience thin out considerably as Eastern Seaboard state delegations packed their bags and returned to their home stations in preparation for call-up for Hurricane Hugo's impact. The delegations from Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands were absent from our activities as they already were activated by their governors for local relief from the worst hurricane in more than 50 years.

More than 5,000 Guard men and women from Puerto Rico, North Carolina, South Carolina and the Virgin Islands were called to state active duty to provide law and order, security, communications, medical and engineering support to their local communities after Hugo completed its destructive path through the islands, up the South Carolina and North Carolina coasts and finally inland. Little known is that Alabama, Florida and Louisiana Guard members also were called to provide communications and medical support to those areas.

The fact that the call-ups occurred during our Conference gave us a moment to ponder our constant national visibility during the past several years. It can be said that there isn't a day that goes by without a member of the Guard on duty somewhere in this nation responding to a state or federal call-up. Our national visibility has never been higher than it has been during the '80s. There is no reason to think that this visibility will diminish. I suspect, if we have learned anything from history, it will increase.

It is important to note that the Guard was there for the Alaskan and East Coast oil spills. The Guard was there for the Sioux City jetliner crash and can be credited with helping to save the 185 passengers who survived. The Guard was there two summers ago hauling hay and food products to the drought-stricken farmers of the

Midwest and the South. The Guard was there assisting in fighting those devastating forest fires that almost depleted our national forest reservations. And of course, the National Guard was ordered to state active duty for civil disturbance duty this past summer.

By early August, the National Guard had responded to two civil disturbance calls, 42 natural disasters and 67 other missions for a total of 111 missions for 1989. More than 4,400 Guard members had been called up for a total of 42,029 manhours in support of these missions. This was independent of the nation's call to eradicate the drug plague.

For the first week in August alone, 31 states and territories had Guard members on duty for drug enforcement support missions nationally. Just to name a few, Alabama Guard members conducted cargo inspection and transportation of seized contraband for state and national drug enforcement agencies. The District of Columbia used 34 Army Guard personnel to conduct command and control functions and to provide military police support to the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department. Oregon Guard members continued their support of Portland police operations as well. All 31 states provided aerial reconnaissance for marijuana and other drug operations at locations nationwide.

What is critical to note here is that while the Guard was there for the state call-ups, the federal mission didn't stop. Annual training for the 50 states, three territories and the District of Columbia continued as it would in any year without the many state call-ups. ORIs and ARTEPs continued to test our federal mission capabilities. Guard members performed their federal missions stateside and overseas. We continued to meet both the state and federal roles of the Guard

without pause and without much national attention to our ability to do so.

The fact that we have accomplished these missions doesn't mean the mission is complete. We know what we have done and we know what we can do. In saying this, I know I am preaching to the choir. But are we telling the right people?

I have to ask: Do we pass the word on to our neighbors, our fellow workers, our employers, the media and our legislators? Do we blow our own horns and trumpet our successes like we should? No matter how many missions are accomplished, there are still more out there that will fall on us in the future. And there are still the "doubting Thomases" that will say the National Guard isn't ready. When we hear the nay sayers and the critics, can we blame anyone but ourselves for not telling our story better?

During the resolution process at the Detroit Conference, a resolution passed that I consider the most important of the 70 resolutions that were adopted by the Association membership. It is number one on my priority list and it should be number one for everyone. Called "Relating to Renewing NGAUS Efforts in Educating the Public of the Role of the National Guard," the resolution urges all members to renew their efforts to meet the first objective of the Association's By-laws to educate this nation's leaders, the media and the American people about the Army and Air Guards' roles in national security and defense.

There is no greater story to tell than our own. We must take to beating our own drums and trumpeting our own horns, because there is no more honorable service to state and nation than the National Guard. We are ready to respond not only to our state missions but also simultaneously prepare militarily to defend our national freedoms. But will anyone know this if we don't tell them?

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FEATURES

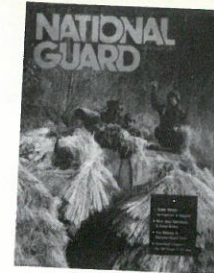
TEAM SPIRIT—Logistics Training 14
The 14th annual TEAM SPIRIT Exercise in South Korea provided National Guard combat support and combat service support units the opportunity to train as they would fight in the field. These units make the Army roll, from beans to bullets.

Rear Area Operations Field Tested 20
Rear area security, combat operations against regular or irregular enemy forces in the rear area, has not changed much since its inception as an Army doctrine in the early 1970s. But the chances for testing this doctrine have been few. In the early 1980s, the Army organized 16 rear area operations centers in the National Guard and Reserve to provide command and control for this doctrine.

The Making of an Air Guard Pilot 24
The romantic image of fighter pilots was big for Hollywood movies, but the reality of becoming and staying a pilot in the Air National Guard is far different. It takes hard work, dedication and that certain quality, intangible as it is, to make a good pilot.

Command Changes 30
Increasing productivity and morale should be the objective of making command changes, but many times this is not accomplished. It takes careful research and implementation to carry out good, productive command changes.

Oil Spills—National Guard Cleans Up 34
This year has seen an unprecedented number of oil spills in the waters of the United States. In two such spills, Prince William Sound, Alaska, and the Delaware River, Delaware, National Guard members played a crucial role in the cleanup operations.



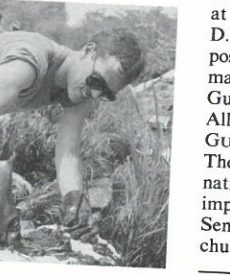
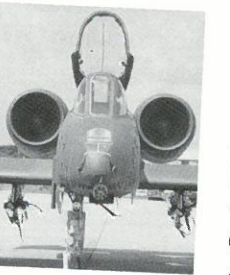
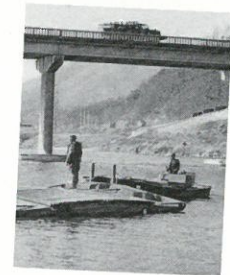
COVER: Washington Army National Guard members participated in the 14th annual TEAM SPIRIT Exercise in Korea. This was a chance for them to practice their wartime mission in a realistic environment. Photo, SSG Don Green, WAARNG, Design, Johnson Design Group.

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