

Readiness is

(The NGAUS President's Annual Report, Conference in New Orleans on Tuesday,

THIS is the 99th time a president of this Association has presented an annual report. I would not suggest that this has been our year of greatest triumph, or greatest trauma. But, it has been a year of triumph, and a year in which trauma has been minimized.

This 99th year has been a busy, productive year — a year in which your Association has made very real and very positive contributions to your capability to improve readiness. Readiness is the theme of this conference.

I will admit from the outset that the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard are not as ready as this nation's war plans require them to be. Most of our readiness shortfalls are the direct result of deficiencies which are beyond control of the states and the officers of the National Guard.

The NGAUS has this year worked hard at eliminating those deficiencies and at warding off the creation of new deficiencies. I will leave more detailed discussion of our legislative effort to General (Maj Gen Francis S.) Greenleaf, but let me just list some Association accomplishments:

- An incentive package consisting of educational assistance and a re-enlistment bonus has been authorized. Initially, however, it will be limited to a \$5 million test in 10 states.

- Chaplain, judge advocate general, civil affairs, and information personnel have been retained in the 48-drill program.

- Modernization of the Air National Guard has been accelerated.

- Annual Inspector General inspections are no longer mandatory.

- The M-48A5 tank program continues at an adequate rate.

- The abortive attempt to militarize the National Guard technician force was defeated.

- A harmful redefinition of "Active Duty for Train-

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mission for the improvement of National Guard readiness.

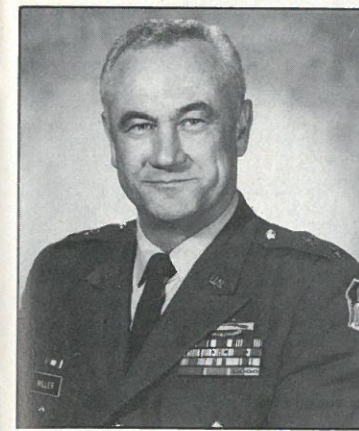
- We start our centennial year with two major efforts in the remaining months of the First Session of the 95th Congress. NGAUS is strongly supporting the Army's effort to reprogram \$142.7 million for the procurement of additional modern communication equipment for the ARNG and USAR.

- Our program to produce legislation to provide Survivor Benefits to widows of Guardsmen and Reservists who die after completing 20 years of service, but before reaching age 60, is bearing fruit. Hearings on H.R. 97 begin Wednesday of this week and I am sending General Greenleaf back to Washington to lead our effort.

The NGAUS is effective because of the unfailing support of the Adjutants General Association, the individual state National Guard associations and their presidents, the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States, our sister organizations in Washington, and the membership of the NGAUS.

I believe, however, that we have failed to provide a full opportunity for retired National Guard officers to continue their support of the National Guard. It was my intent to appoint a committee last year, and charge it with two goals:

1. Develop programs to attract a greater number of retired officers as members of NGAUS, and



Maj Gen Richard A. Miller (Oregon Army Guard), President, National Guard Association of the United States

2. Design ways, means, and techniques by which we can avail ourselves of the many talents of our retired officers in achieving legislative goals.

Having failed to carry out my good intent last year, I now appoint Maj Gen Henry McMillan of Florida as chairman of a Special Committee on Retired Officers, and charge him with the two goals just mentioned.

The combination of continued inflation, and the expansion of NGAUS activities, has strained our Association financially. During FY '77, we incurred a deficit of \$45,451, even though we held expenses \$77,000 below the amount authorized by the Executive Council. We are programmed to incur a deficit of \$143,000 in FY '78.

The Finance Committee, the Executive Council, and the elected officers are convinced that our expenses are being held at the lowest possible level, consistent with our operational requirements. We have two choices in this 99th General Conference: increase our dues structure, or accept a serious cutback in Association activities. I personally, and the Executive Council, strongly urge you to vote for the dues increase.

During this year, we have completely revised our NGAUS Insurance Program. Our goals are to improve the service offered to the insureds, that is, to technicians and members, and to generate income for NGAUS.

We have created a new NGAUS Insurance Trust, signed on Northwestern National Life Insurance Com-

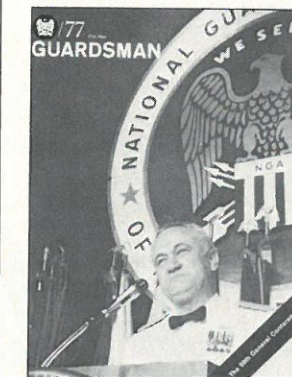
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Cover: This month's front cover shows NGAUS President Richard A. Miller presiding over the 99th General Conference's concluding event, the traditional States Dinner.
—(All conference photos by Associated Photographic Services, Inc., New Orleans)

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- Vice President**
Maj Gen William J. McCaddin, Virginia
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Brig Gen Francis J. Higgins, New York
- Treasurer**
Maj Gen Edward R. Fry, Kansas
- Executive Vice President**
Maj Gen Francis S. Greenleaf (ret)

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Brig Gen William W. Spruance (DE)
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Maj Gen O'Neil J. Daigle Jr. (LA)
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Brig Gen Francis J. Kelly (IA)
Brig Gen Hugh M. Simonson (WI)
- Area VI** (AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY)
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Maj Gen Howard S. McGee (WA)
Maj Gen Thomas K. Turnage (CA)

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