



MG Charles M. Kiefner, President, NGAUS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THE MIDDLE EAST MOBILIZATION

"The United States considers its reserve forces to be an integral part of our military."—President George Bush, activating the Guard and Reserve.

The small call-up of the Guard and Reserve ordered so far by President Bush is the beginning of a reaffirmation of the Total Force Policy at work. The leaders in the National Guard welcome this call. While we don't enjoy the idea of sending our soldiers and airmen into harm's way, nonetheless we only are being asked to accomplish the final part of our mission: to provide combat-ready units prepared for mobilization.

In this space in the August issue of NATIONAL GUARD, we criticized the national command authority's decision *not* to mobilize the Guard and Reserve under section 673b of title 10, US Code, for the invasion of Panama last December. We understand that our complaint was received at the Department of Defense, and that the prospects of support not only from the NGAUS but also from the members of the Guard and Reserve nationwide has caused some rethinking at the Pentagon.

Based on a briefing provided to military associations the day of the mobilization order, it is clear that some senior military leaders still think there may be reluctance on our part about the wisdom of this call and whether our troops would show up for the mobilization.

Quite the contrary, what we heard at drills and UTAs the weekend before the mobilization announcement was a chorus of ordinary soldiers and airmen discussing their prospects for deployment to the Middle East and the mission of their unit in a very objective and often very enthusiastic way.

Unlike 20 years ago, when some potential mobilized soldiers sought ways to avoid the call, we predict willing and enthusiastic responses to the call. This is what today's Guard member enlisted to do. When the world situation requires

it and the time comes to do it, we will be eager to perform our missions.

Now the question is over combat-arms units and why none of them have been called up and deployed. When the original decision to mobilize some Guard and Reserve units was made on August 22, Secretary of Defense Richard B. Cheney intentionally excluded Army Guard and Reserve combat units. No such exclusion was included in his guidance to the secretaries of the Navy and Air Force. We believe it is essential for this policy to be changed. The effect of the decision, at first inexplicable, was to preclude the activation of the 48th Infantry Brigade, Georgia Army National Guard, which is the third brigade of the 24th Infantry Division at Fort Stewart.

The 24th Division was one of the first units deployed to Saudi Arabia. The rest of the division is now there. If roundout is to continue to have meaning, it is essential that this integral element of the 24th be called to duty and deployed with its parent division. This is what the division commander wants. It is what Army Chief of Staff GEN Carl E. Vuono said he wants (when briefing the NGAUS, the Association of the U.S. Army and the Reserve Officers Association).

What is worse, the Army's fall-back solution to provide a third brigade to the 24th Division was to deploy the 197th Infantry Brigade, the school brigade at Fort Benning. This unit is known to be not combat ready. It has never trained with the 24th Division. We're sure the division commander is aghast at this prospect.

On the other hand, the 48th Brigade is considered by some Army leaders to be one of the most combat ready units in the Total Army.

It should be further added that if DoD or the administration declines to deploy combat units, the Guard will take the brunt of the hit. The Guard, Army and Air, primarily is an organization composed of combat units. The Air Guard has most of the fighter squadrons in the Guard and Reserve. The Army Guard

has all the combat divisions and all but one of the roundout brigades.

Using the National Guard in a situation like the Middle East crisis shows the Guard can be called up to meet the Defense requirements of the national command authority. We would not have it any other way. Neither would our troops. They are standing in line to volunteer. How much better it is, now, that units are being mobilized based on the requirement for their services. This is how we are organized and how we always have planned to go to war. To cite the old World War II slogan, "Join the Guard and go to war with your friends."

The mobilization authority cited by the president today was enacted into law in 1976 exactly for the purpose utilized in August. When the Total Force Policy was adopted by the Nixon administration and the Department of Defense in 1970, it was assumed that the National Guard and the other reserve components would have to be mobilized and committed in time of national emergency.

With the drawdown in active duty forces after the Vietnam War and the further reductions in active manpower during the past five years, this reliance on the Guard and Reserve has become even greater. The logical result of such reliance must be a mobilization order when the Army and Air Force require additional forces either for combat or for missions in support of contingency forces deployed overseas on short notice.

We in the Guard strongly support such mobilizations when the nation's national security interests are at stake. When we enlisted or were appointed into the National Guard, we recognized that a time of mobilization for this type of emergency might come one day. For Guard members, such mobilizations for state active duty have become routine. The nation has been fortunate that the type of mobilization invoked by the president August 22 is the first since 1968 on the national level.

National Guard

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FEATURES

Keeping Peace in the Pacific 16

The Pacific Theater has been one of the most peaceful military theaters in the world since the end of the Korean War. Korea being the hot spot in this theater. The US military works hard preserving peace and deterrence in this large area of the world.

Pacific Cities Strategic in Keeping Peace 21

Strategically placed cities throughout the Pacific Theater are key to keeping peace and deterring war in this large area of the world. Some have played significant roles in past military actions.

Airlift Rodeo 1990 Tests the Best 24

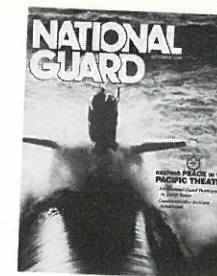
Airlift Rodeo is an annual competition that pits the best airlifters worldwide against each other to determine who really is the best. This year, the 130th Tactical Airlift Group, West Virginia Air Guard, won the ERO portion and sixth place overall.

Equal Opportunity Means Combat Readiness 30

When Lt Gen John B. Conway, chief, National Guard Bureau, published his top ten goals for the National Guard, equal opportunity was listed second, right after combat readiness. This is appropriate for without equal opportunity in a unit it can not be combat ready. In 1978, the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute established a program to instruct National Guard and Reserve unit advisors in equal opportunity issues.

Interagency Counternarcotics Program 34

The National Guard has developed the National Interagency Counternarcotics Institute in San Luis Obispo, California, to enhance interoperability between the National Guard and dozens of federal, state and local agencies fighting the war on drugs.



COVER:

A US submarine patrols the waters of the Pacific Ocean as a deterrent in the Pacific Theater, sometimes called the forgotten theater. This theater has been peaceful and without incident since the end of the Korean War in 1953. Design, Johnson Design Group.

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