



EDITORIAL

GUARDSMEN SHOULD BE ACTIVE IN POLITICAL PROCESS

At the state and national levels, the National Guard has been and must continue to be nonpartisan and bipartisan. That is to say, there is no Democratic or Republican National Guard. There is simply the National Guard.

In Washington, the NGAUS works willingly and eagerly with members of Congress from both parties. We do not care whether an elected official is liberal or conservative, moderate or fringe. If they are for the National Guard and if they support a strong National Guard as a component of the Total Force and as a major component of a strong national defense for this nation, then we will work with them. We encourage support of the Guard from every spectrum of the political landscape.

In the July, August and September issues of NATIONAL GUARD, many readers and members of the NGAUS will have noticed a series of Calls to Action. The three advocated different specific things, but what they did have in common was their theme that individual members of the Guard, whether they be privates or sergeants, lieutenants or colonels, warrant officers or generals, get involved in this year's political campaigns and the November 3 election. We said this for several reasons.

One, obviously, is the fact that there is an important presidential election this year. We believe members of the Guard should inform themselves of the positions of President Bush and Governor Clinton on issues involving the Guard. Where do they stand, for example, on the size of the National Guard's force structure? They should be and will be asked. What their answers are matter. And if they give no answers, that matters, too.

The same question, or series of questions, is applicable to members of Congress and, for that matter, members of state legislatures and governors being elected this year. They should be asked. What they say matters. If they refuse to talk, that matters. And if they attempt to brush

off the question or obfuscate some illogical answer, pay attention to that, too.

The box at the lower right suggests some approaches to these questions. You may add some questions of your own and delete some of these. This is an individual matter. We simply want to encourage all members of the Guard to pay attention to their own situations. What elected officials know about, or believe about, the Guard matters to all of us.

As was noted in NATIONAL GUARD in July, the Department of Defense (DoD) has proposed to eliminate one-third of the Army National Guard's units. That means also roughly one third of the personnel now in the Army Guard will be gone after 1995 unless elected officials can be convinced that this is an inappropriate course of ac-

tion and come up with something else.

That is where you at the grass roots come in. As former U.S. House Speaker Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill always used to say: "All politics is local." Except for presidential politics, it is the members of the Guard at the grass roots who will have the most impact on representatives and senators who are being elected November 3. You will see them during the campaign. You will attend their town meetings and listen to/view their debates. It is in these forums where you can ask questions and get answers.

As CPT James McLoughlin of Massachusetts said (in his *Return Fire* that so enraged the Army staff), we in the Guard are or should be professionals at the political process. Let's go for it!

What Have You Done?

The future of the National Guard is on the line. What have you, the individual Guardsman, done to help preserve it?

Are you aware that, as you stand in formation, that either you, the person on your right or the person on your left will be out of the military by 1995 unless you act today?

Yes, one-third of the Army National Guard is scheduled for deactivation by the Department of Defense (DoD) by 1995.

Have you asked the candidates for Congress, the U.S. senator and your state legislature these questions.

- What is your view of the National Guard, both to the defense of the nation and as a state asset?
- What is your position on the cuts in the National Guard proposed by the Department of Defense?
- Can you give an assessment of the impact on *fill in your state here* of the Pentagon proposals?
- The DoD has published figures that indicate an Army Guard unit costs about one-quarter to one-third the cost of a similar active Army unit to operate each year. Would you agree that if the Guard unit can perform the mission it would make more sense to maintain that capability in the Guard as low cost insurance during this period of reduced threat?
- Do you believe the Congress should take an active role in determining the strength and roles of the National Guard in the defense of our nation? If elected/re-elected, would you attempt to be a participant in that action?
- If you oppose cuts in the National Guard, may we have copies of any of your letters, editorials, draft legislation or other documentation in support of the National Guard to share with our colleagues?

If you haven't gotten active in this year's election or asked your candidates these questions, you need to get started. Take charge of your own future and the future of your unit and the National Guard of your state.

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FEATURES

Presidential Candidates Discuss the Guard 4

President George Bush and Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton discuss their views on the National Guard and its future role in U.S. defense strategy. Changing world politics is driving force structure changes and those decisions are being made now. The National Guard's future is on the line, and the next president will decide on which side it lies.

Andrew's Wrath Brings Out the Guard 20

As Hurricane Andrew approached the Florida coastline, Florida National Guard members were put on state active duty to work with state and federal emergency authorities. And before the winds died down, Guard members were patrolling the streets and helping victims, even as the fate of their own loved ones was unknown. The Louisiana National Guard was also called upon to aid the victims left in Andrew's path.

Maryland's 135th AG Trains in Paraguay 24

The 135th Airlift Group, Maryland Air National Guard, sent two C-130s to Paraguay to participate in FUERZA UNIDAS—Paraguay. The goal of this exercise was to strengthen the ties between the two countries and provide humanitarian assistance. The C-130s moved equipment and personnel and ran airdrop missions for paratroopers.

Why Not TLAT During the Persian Gulf War 30

When faced with the possible invasion of Saudi Arabia after Iraq had taken over Kuwait, the United States sent the 82d Airborne Division to face the Iraqi tank divisions. It took months to deploy the U.S. armored divisions. Why weren't the four National Guard separate TOW light antitank battalions, which could have arrived in a few weeks, sent to support the early deployment? And why were they being deactivated?

167th AG Flies Supplies to Sarajevo 36

Since the beginning of Operation PROMISE last July, two C-130s from the 167th Airlift Group, West Virginia Air National Guard, have been flying supplies into the most dangerous airport in the world, Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina. The mission demands a lot of skill and flexibility.

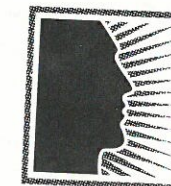


COVER:

When Hurricane Andrew came ripping through south Florida and then headed for Louisiana, Florida and Louisiana National Guard members were immediately mobilized. Here a Florida Guard member reads about the devastation. Photo, SFC George Mirabel. Design, Johnson Design Group.

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