

Maj Gen John L. Matthews, President, NGAUS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"NORMANDY '94: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF HEROES"

History is a worthwhile discipline. I was recently reminded of this when I read an article in *Governing Magazine* in which the author made the statement, "...Two hundred years after its creation as a community-based, ready reserve force that can mobilize at a minute's notice, the Guard is getting a new lease on life and new challenges from the commander in chief in Washington." It would have been one thing if this article had been written in the late 1830s; unfortunately, it was published in July of this year—357 years after the first muster of the Colonial Militia.

Currently, we in the National Guard, as part of the larger military and national history, are commemorating a number of significant anniversaries—the 75th anniversary of World War I; our participation in World War II, as part of an ongoing 50th anniversary program; the 40th anniversary of the Korean War; and, lest we forget, our involvement in Vietnam only a quarter of a century ago.

We all pride ourselves on the long and rich history of the National Guard, from its Militia roots in the Massachusetts Bay Colony 357 years ago to its involvement in the great Flood of '93. But what have we done to tell others the history of the National Guard? Recently many states have built state museums to highlight their history. These efforts must be applauded. As the NGAUS moved into its new quarters, the National Guard Memorial, we began the process, through the Historical Society of the Militia and National Guard and the Minuteman Trust, to create a public educational facility.

Our goal was threefold. First, the National Guard deserves a memorial in Washington, D.C., a city that celebrates American history and honors American heroes. Second, we wanted a facility in our nation's capital that would help educate the public on what the National Guard is and of its contributions to the nation. Third, we also wanted a vehicle to reach out and teach our own mem-

bers about the great history of the National Guard. But this facility by itself can not achieve our desires.

We must engage ourselves in activities that provide opportunities to commemorate, honor and educate. The 50th Anniversary of D-Day offers just such an opportunity. How many know, outside of perhaps the Guard members of Virginia, Maryland, the District of Columbia and military history buffs, that one of the major units to participate in the D-Day landings was a National Guard division? How many know that at one time, prior to World War II, the National Guard was as large as the

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Army? And how many know that the ability to rapidly expand the size of the Army in the early days of World War II came about because of the experience that resided in the Guard?

In June 1994, the NGAUS, along with the Historical Society, is participating in the worldwide commemoration of the D-Day landings, and in honoring all those who contributed to the allied victory in World War II.

"Normandy '94: In the Footsteps of Heroes" is a program that will make you proud to be a part of the National Guard family. Our program and tour will find us participating in important national and international commemorative events. One of the highlights of our tour will be a visit to the impressive National Guard war memorial on the beach at the town of Vierville-sur-mer in

Normandy. And as representatives of the National Guard have done in the past, we will join the villagers of Vierville in a formal ceremony of remembrance.

There is nothing more thought-provoking than to stand on the sands of Normandy, on Omaha Beach, and imagine what it must have been like for members of the 116th Infantry Combat Team, the Old Stonewall Brigade, as it clawed its way toward Vierville, an effort that resulted in 800 casualties on the first day for that unit.

Normandy '94 will remind us of a part of our history as we honor those who fell on that shore. But this is not a trip for just veterans of that campaign, it is also a trip for those who had fathers or uncles in the D-Day landings. It is a trip for those who want to learn more about National Guard history. And it is a trip that will help put into perspective that great struggle to keep freedom alive in the world. If at all possible, I strongly encourage you to become a part of this great historical event. Additional information on this National Guard can be obtained by reviewing the ad in this issue.

The Normandy commemoration is just one way to help tell the Guard story through its history. There are many others. Another is the National Guard Memorial in Washington, home to both the NGAUS and the future Museum for the National Guard. We can all take a great deal of pride in our National Guard history and its traditions. Yet it is incumbent upon all of us to share our history with the public—from the first muster in the Massachusetts Bay Colony to the water-ravaged Mississippi Valley. It is only by sharing our history that we can correct those who misrepresent it.

Explaining and sharing our history goes hand-in-hand with the comprehensive effort MG Robert F. Ensslin Jr. (ret.), our executive director, talks about in *Capital Focus*.

I look forward to greeting you in Normandy in June 1994 so that we can share in another part of National Guard history.

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FEATURES

The Guard Secures Our Heartland 14

Is there anything more to say about the Great Flood of 1993? Yes! More than 10,000 Army and Air National Guard men and women came to the rescue of their neighbors. It is just one more example to America that the next century isn't going to get any easier without hometown Guard members ready to respond to any call.



DESERT CALM Is Anything But 22

Even though Hussein denies any damage to radar sites and Iraqi aircraft as a result of recent attacks, the Wild Weasels of the Idaho Air National Guard know better. Within less than a year, the 124th Reconnaissance Group changed aircraft and missions while remaining combat ready to meet Saddam Hussein head on.



Moving Medical Readiness Forward 26

The Army and Air National Guard medical services are poised on the brink of a new era of medical readiness. Along with the NGAUS Medical Readiness Task Force, they are preparing to meet the future needs of the nation and the world.



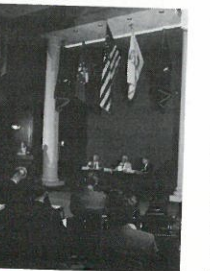
Caulk's Field Signaled the Coming 32

Although the Battle of Caulk's Field on August 31, 1814, is largely unknown in national histories, it was significant as it was the first instance of a major British defeat by an American Militia. It gave hope to desperate Americans after the burning of Washington, D.C.



Don't Leave Home Without Us 36

The NGAUS sponsored its first national symposium. Military and civilian leadership agreed that modern-day evidence shows the nation needs to continue in its support of the Abrams Doctrine. GEN Creighton Abrams expressly believed the nation needed more reliance on the Guard and Reserve.



COVER:

Talk about Total Force! A Texas Army Guard CH-47 Chinook drops in a load of sandbags on a critical levee along the Great Mississippi River for Missouri Guard members saving their neighbors homes and farms. Photo, MSG Jerry Bratten, MOARNG. Cover, Howard Design.



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