WHY MUST WE FIGHT?

Of the many curious questions the staff of this magazine is asked to answer, perhaps the most unusual came over the telephone recently from the Pentagon. An Army agency had been directed to find the answer to a question pertaining to it. To this effect: Why is it necessary for organizations like the National Guard to fight at all? Fully aware that this is a question that is common in all the fields of endeavor, we feel that there is no easy answer. The term "fight" except for occasional major issues. Nevertheless, we decided that the question was broad enough to be answered as follows: "Why is it necessary for the National Guard to fight?" The first line of defense of this country is maintained by an offshoot of the National Guard, the Department of Defense, as well as the Air Force and the Department of Defense. The National Guard is the last of the Army's "helmsmen" and their answer will move toward battling over the sea of our relations. We enjoy being with the National Guard in all its work and we hope that the answer we gave may contribute toward becoming aware of the fine relations we enjoy generally today with all the services.

In response to your request, we are pleased to submit our ideas as to the underlying reasons for periodic differences between the Army and the National Guard and its Association relative to matters of legislation, policy, and regulations. At the root of the matter probably is the inherent difficulty of reconciling military viewpoints and approaches to the handling of problems, with civilian viewpoints and political considerations in the broadest sense, that are the natural consequences of our democratic form of government. The principles may be well recognized by the Army as a whole, but the application of those principles to concrete situations is much more difficult. The nature of the Civilian Perspectives is so markedly different from that of the Active Services—the former's necessity of adjusting personnel procurement policies, training programs, etc., to their members' first priority of jobs and families—that it is understandably difficult for the officer whose thinking and experience are geared entirely to the full-time career Army situation, to fully appreciate, understand, and sympathize with the problems imposed by the part-time situation. This is true particularly with respect to the National Guard, for Active Army personnel are accustomed to thinking only in terms of Federal authority and are prone to forget or become impatient with the States' role in the creation and maintenance of military forces. To forget the essential fact that Federal authority derives from the States themselves, and that the States can and do contribute vastly to the mission of the whole.

A contributing factor undoubtedly comes from the career soldier's feeling that he, being professionally schooled in military matters, is better qualified than the civilian-officer to deal with all things military, including matters of legislation, policy, and regulation, even though these matters frequently involve consideration of facts that are outside the careerist's knowledge or experience.

Thus, specifically, there is a constant tendency to bypass, or brush aside the recommendations of, agencies and individuals placed in the Department of the Army by law with the intent of providing guidance and advice on National Guard matters so as to counteract the tendencies and attitudes I have mentioned. I refer specifically to the so-called "Section 3 Committee" on National Guard Policy, the National Guard Bureau, and the National Guard officers on active duty on the Army General Staff under the provisions of those laws. There also is a strong tendency for the Army to operate in a vacuum in developing the details of proposed legislation, policy, and regulations which affect the National Guard, by the absence of "security" classification, to withhold information concerning such matters until after they have been "finalized." The consequence of this practice is, frequently, friction when the final product is presented, its "secrets" are discovered, and the agencies involved are forced to try to undo the errors. This organization long has felt and often has stated that a vast amount of time and effort could be saved, and friction eliminated, if its representatives and those of the official agencies involved were asked to participate in the start, in the drafting of proposed legislation, policies and regulations.

It should be realized that representatives of the National Guard who are available through this Association and through the official agencies in the Department of the Army, are specialists in the constitutional and legislative background of the National Guard and closely familiar with the practical problems faced by all the elements of the National Guard, as contrasted with the vast majority of officers of the Active Army who from time to time are subject to the same elements of the National Guard.

It should be especially kept in mind that the National Guard representatives are anxious to work constructively with the Active Army in the development of legislation. (Please turn to page 19)

dear guardsmen:

Of the utmost importance to NGAUS members—and to the National Guard generally—is maintenance of constant contact with the Congress and the Pentagon, regarding proposed defense legislation. Key "watchwords" in this respect, at your Washington HQ is Col Mark H Galusha, the NGAUS Legislative Liaison Officer, whose weather eye is continually peered-in cooperation with the NG and Capitol Hill committees—for any dire signs to the National Guard that may crop-up in bills or hearing.

The Colonel came to us in January 1953 from Capitol Hill itself, where since mid-1947 he had been a member of the professional staff of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

A native of Williamstown, Mass., Mark Galusha is a 1933 graduate of West Point. Before being appointed to the Military Academy, he had been graduated in November 1919 as a 2d Lt from the Plt Lee, Va, Int Officers Training Camp. Following West Point, he served as a CAC officer, resigning from the RA in 1927 to enter the CA Reserve. As a Maj AUS, he served a year in the planning Div, SOR, before being authorized to the OOG Div, War Dept General Staff. Colonel Galusha now wears the AF blue.

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our cover

To help Costa Rica, hard-pressed by rebel forces, the Texas AND's 182 Plt-B B made the QVB to supply four combat-ready F58s through the Organization of American States, speedily filled the order. Within six hours, volunteer Guardsmen had completed their inspection, boresighted, armed, fueled, and otherwise put the Mustangs into perfect shape—and the craft were on the way to Central America with personnel of the 178th Firing Up at the controls. Shown loading 50-cal ammo in one of the planes at Brooks AFB are M/Sgt Charles Nigro and T/Sgt Monroe D Fischer. (Tex ANG Photo by J T Elise)

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