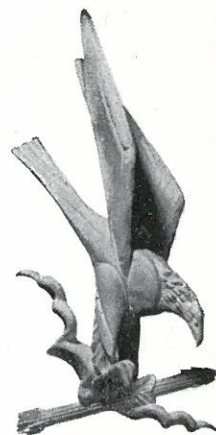




# AS WE SEE IT



## THE NATIONAL GUARD AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

BY MAJ GEN WILLIAM H HARRISON, JR.  
President, National Guard Association of the United States

FOR the third successive year the President's Budget, as submitted to the Congress, asks for funds sufficient to support the Army National Guard at a strength of only 360,000. This would require a 10% reduction in our current 400,000 strength.

While the difference in the cost of funding the Army National Guard at the 400,000 level and the proposed 360,000 level is only about 7/10 of 1% of the total Defense Budget, the effect on the largest and most ready of the Army's Reserve Forces would be disastrous. Primarily, it would require reducing the strength of units in some instances to a point below what is considered a minimum strength for efficient training.

Because in the opinion of, not only members of the Army National Guard, but the Depts of the Army and Defense, a reduction in the strength of the Reserve Forces would further reduce our over-all defense capability, this Association once again has taken a determined stand in opposition to a cut in strength. It is important that the officers and enlisted men of the Army National Guard be aware of the Association's position and what steps it is taking to make known its opposition to the Administration's proposal.

The broad policy of your Association is that the United States, in order to assure its security now and forever, must maintain a balanced defense force capable of fighting any type of a war any place at any time. This force should support a strategic concept which Gen Maxwell D Taylor, retired Chief of Staff of the Army, has described as one of "flexible response." Quite simply, this means that we must be prepared for any emergency, and that, in the event of a nuclear attack on this Country, be capable of achieving recovery and retaliating with equally devastating

blows. It means further that we must have ground, air, and surface forces in sufficient strength and equipped with modern weapons to wage effectively a conventional type war, either limited or broad in scope.

It goes without saying that such a force must be backed up by a reserve of civilian soldiers well-trained, organized in units, and with equipment in hand. The largest and most ready of these forces, of course, is the Army National Guard.

Critics of the National Guard intimate that in seeking to maintain its strength the National Guard is motivated by selfish interests, wanting to stay big for the sake of bigness. Nothing could, of course, be further from the truth. The fact is that this Assn fights to maintain Guard strength because it is convinced that the National Guard makes a significant contribution to National defense. The Assn is convinced, also, that any reduction in the Nation's over-all defense capability in the face of the increasing might of the Communist nations invites disaster.

Leaders of the National Guard Assn of the US and the members of the Assn staff continue to work closely with Defense officials, members of the Congress, and the leaders of veterans' organizations and other groups, who have taken like positions with respect to National defense. These actions are augmented by the efforts of the Adjutants General of the States who have undertaken to assist in making known the National Guard position with respect to National defense, particularly the proposed reductions.

Individual Guardsmen may help in this effort by taking advantage of every opportunity to impress upon their friends and neighbors the important role which the Army National Guard plays in National defense.



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DEAR GUARDSMEN: "Never underestimate the power of a woman," someone once said sagely. (We won't try to pin-down who said it, because quotes like that have a way of being claimed by umpteen different "originators.")

Apart from the nurses who've become important members of our family, there's officially no distaff side to the Guard. But as any veteran husband knows, the gentler sex has a profound direct and indirect influence on the citizen's efforts to make himself a part-time soldier or airman. The "National Guard widow" who twiddles thumbs impatiently at home while hubby's down at the armory or depriving her of his weekend or vacationtime company, may have shortened many a Guard career in the interest of keeping peace in the family. Others patiently have soothed worried brows and offered quiet, prideful encouragement.

We've become increasingly aware, over the years, of the fact that many of these "widows" have, in self-protection, banded themselves together into auxiliaries or clubs; that they do good works of one kind or another.

We'd like someone in each of the auxiliaries to give us a run-down on how and when they got organized, what units they represent, how many ladies they involve, specifically what they do and how they go about doing it. After we've accumulated a bale of information, we may have an interesting story for a future issue. —AGC

OUR COVER: Maybe this version of the "Minuteman" statue, maybe another—a permanent reminder of this sturdy forebear of today's National Guardsman will stand in the patio of the imposing National Guard Memorial in Washington. Choice of the final design rests with the National Guard Memorial Commission, now charged with carrying-through the project as one means of serving notice that THE MINUTEMAN BELONGS TO THE GUARD!

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