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of the United States

The New Team

THE first year of a new Administration can be difficult and uncertain for the Military Establishment. The new President and his top appointees need time to master the complexities of the vast and powerful defense structure, yet many critical decisions must be made before they complete this educational process.

The National Guard is particularly susceptible to bad decision-making in the transition period, for two reasons: first, it is inherently difficult to understand, with its unique and imprecise position *between* the State and Federal jurisdictions and its dual lines of command and responsibility; second, it ordinarily does not enjoy a high-enough ranking on the priority scale to receive separate and sustained attention from the President himself and his senior appointees. There is a tendency to lump it in with all the other Reserve Components despite its wider range of responsibilities.

This year, there appears to be less reason for concern than in some past changes of Administration. Other Officers of the National Guard Association of the United States, and I, called on President Nixon shortly after he took office. We found him to be knowledgeable on matters concerning the Guard, and receptive to other opinions. It was apparent that he had not been briefed especially for our half-hour meeting, yet he displayed a greater awareness of the Guard's recent performance at home and overseas than one might expect from someone whose orientation is not primarily military.

Appointment of former Rep. Melvin R. Laird to be the new Secretary of Defense likewise was encouraging. He served for 15 years on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, in the House, and earned a reputation as one of its most knowledgeable and hard-working members. He is conversant with the National Guard's capabilities, which frequently tend to go unrecognized. When matters arise concerning the Guard, he will be able to summon up a far greater range of personal experience on which to base decisions than any of his recent predecessors. As a Congressman, he also has demonstrated a greater feel than most appointed officials for the strength which the Guard gains from its State and local ties.

We can feel pleased, too, by the reappointment of Secretary of Army Stanley R. Resor. He knows the Guard's abilities, and appreciates our desire to justify our ranking as the Nation's primary Reserve Force. He has treated us with consideration and fairness in the past, and can be counted on to deal honestly with us in the future.

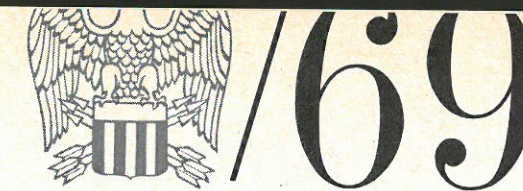
Secretary of Air Force Robert C. Seamans, Jr., is a new element, with whom the National Guard has had no previous contacts. He is recognized as a man of discernment and intelligence, however, and his lack of personal knowledge of the highly professional Air National Guard forces at his disposal will be remedied quickly, I feel certain.

With such longtime friends as Generals Earle G. Wheeler, John P. McConnell and William C. Westmoreland serving as the senior advisors to the civilian Secretariat, we can anticipate that our opinions will be heard, if not always accepted.

The Guard is facing a difficult and eventful period. Demobilization, manpower retention problems, challenges to the Draft system, proposals for an all-volunteer military force, campus disorders, new and complex military pay and retirement proposals—all these will have a direct effect on the Guard. It won't be easy to find solutions that satisfy the needs of the other segments of the Military Establishment, along with our own.

It is heartening, therefore, to know that a great deal of personal knowledge, experience and mutual confidence can be applied to our problems right from the outset. ♦

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PART ONE

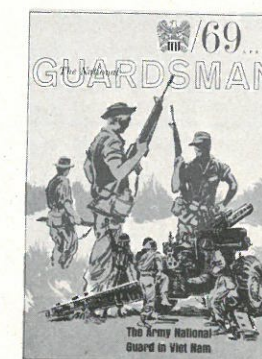
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"They" are the unusual mixture that comprises the ex-Hawaii Army Guard, now active duty, 29th Infantry Brigade. A look at what's happening on the islands.



Army National Guardsmen of the Combat Arms, and Service types as well, are making a respected name for themselves in Viet Nam.

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