

THE NATIONAL GUARD

Resolution adopted by voice vote, without dissent, by the United States Conference of Governors, at Hershey, Penna, 3 July 1962



WHEREAS, International Communism by aggressive military action and subversion continues efforts to gain control over Free World areas and thus to threaten the security of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the unrelenting pressures of the Soviet Union in Berlin and the current military offensives of Communist forces in Southeast Asia forecast the shape and intensity of aggressions we must expect in the years ahead; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the capability for waging conventional war and other forms of harassment, the Soviet Union possesses a large stockpile of nuclear weapons and delivery systems capable of placing such weapons on targets in the Continental United States; and

WHEREAS, because of the war potential of Communist nations, the United States must maintain defense forces of such strength and diversity as to deter or contain aggression by conventional forces and to deter nuclear attack, and, should deterrence fail, have the ability and the strength to recover and retaliate; and

WHEREAS, to fulfill increasing demands for forces in troubled areas overseas, to have adequate strategic reserves in the United States, to provide for a rapid general mobilization, and to be prepared to achieve recovery from nuclear attack, it is necessary that we have a large, flexible defense force, both Active and Reserve; and

WHEREAS, little more than half of our conventional forces are located in the United States and much of this could be lost in a nuclear attack; and

WHEREAS, to have a depth in defense necessary to sustain military operations and to assure a capability to recover from nuclear attack, the United States must have a large and ready reserve force widely dispersed; and

WHEREAS, the National Guard has consistently furnished the Department of Army and the Department of Air Force with the types of organizations requested and has maintained these organizations at high levels of readiness, as evidenced by the speed with which the state forces responded in the Berlin crisis and the manner in which they carried out assigned missions; and

WHEREAS, the determination of the Army National Guard to maintain and increase the professional competence of its organizations and individual members is evidenced by acceptance of active defense missions and by organizing Special Forces units and operating state officer candidate schools; and

WHEREAS, the several states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia are prepared to furnish the Department of Defense the type of units requested at desired levels of readiness,

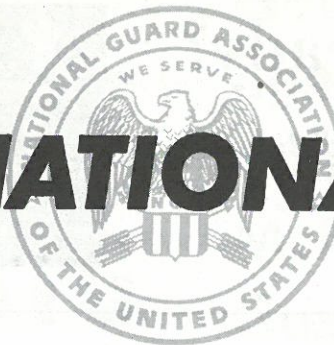
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the 1962 Governors' Conference that:

1. The Army National Guard be continued at an average strength of 400,000;
2. The existing units of the Army National Guard be retained, including its 27 combat divisions, and that new type units required by the Active Army to assure a properly balanced and modern force be achieved by conversion of existing units to combat and combat support types required and be comparable in size to units converted;
3. The strength of non-priority divisions and non-divisional units of the ARNG be manned at levels sufficient to permit effective training and thus assure the maintenance of all divisions and non-divisional units at reasonably high levels of mobilization readiness, in general 60 per cent;
4. The Secretary of Defense be urged to direct a restudy of the proposed reorganization of the Army National Guard and that such a restudy be undertaken with a view to effecting changes in the Army National Guard structure at the same time as the conversion to the ROAD concept is implemented, and, further, that the requirement in every State for an adequate, organized, trained and equipped recovery force be given due consideration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governors support the principle of greater readiness in the Nation's reserve forces, but oppose firmly any plan the implementation of which would drastically reduce the size and effectiveness of the National Guard in many states and over-all reduce the capability of the Army National Guard to fulfill its historic role as the first line reserve.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no action be taken in any state with respect to proposals made to the individual states until the Advisory Committee on the National Guard has had further opportunity to study the details of the proposals and to confer again with the Secretary of Defense.

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EDITORIAL:

The National Guard . . . The Governors' Resolution Inside Front Cover

DEAR GUARDSMEN: This issue of "THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN" finds tens of thousands of Army National Guardsmen in the final stages of a 10-months hitch of active duty which immeasurably enhanced the Nation's ability to cope with a threatened crisis.

We plan to devote next month's issue largely to a comprehensive review of what they accomplished and how they accomplished it; of problems they encountered and how they met them; of Guardsmen's and others' thoughts on how to forestall some of the "bugs" that crept into this mobilization, as in all mobilizations. This, too, will embody our more formal "welcome home" message.

With this issue, the "ON GUARD" section in which we've highlighted many units' activities and accomplishments will pass from our pages. We deeply appreciate the splendid cooperation of Active Forces Public Information personnel, Guardsmen, and others who have contributed material for these pages.

OUR COVER: Distinct surprise for about 50 Air Guardsmen returning from overseas "Berlin Crisis" duty was a personal meeting with their Commander-in-Chief, who arrived from Hyannisport about the same time as the Guardsmen. Meeting President Kennedy in the cover photo is A3/C Ron Jatrinski of Jefferson, Mass. (Photo by Wide World)