



LET'S BUILD—NOT TEAR DOWN!

“APPROXIMATELY one hour after President Kennedy’s historic speech concerning the Cuban missile installations, my 12-year-old daughter came home from a girl friend’s house where she had heard the talk.” (This is Lt Col W P Robinson, writing in the Wisconsin ANG’s “Scorpion”). “She said, ‘If there is a war, Daddy, will you have to fight?’

“My mind searched quickly for some way to alleviate the obvious anxiety she was struggling with. Finally it came to me that no truthful answer could stay those fears. I said simply, ‘If there is a war, all of us will have to fight. That is, we will have to fight if we want to continue living as we have.’

“She cried. This was not the answer she wanted, nor the one I wanted to give. But the fact remains that the potential of war necessarily requires each of us, young and old, to inventory our conscience. It requires that we face-up to the reality of the struggle that we have been waging since WW II, and the struggle we face in the future.

“These realities require each of us to exercise the maximum self-discipline of which we are capable. I do not understand all of the problems facing the U.S. today. But I don’t believe it is necessary to understand them all. It is necessary that we believe that our way of life is worth fighting or dying for. We all have this right of self-determination. I believe that all of you, if you exercise this self-determination intelligently, will decide that you, too, are willing to pay the price, even if it is high.”

“THE struggle we face in the future,” again to quote Col Robinson—is the struggle we—as Guardsmen—primarily must keep evermore in mind.

For, in the weeks since those words were written, we have stepped back a few paces from the brink of war—but just a few paces. Let us pray that we never again come that close to the precipice. But let us never be lulled into wishfully thinking that an apparent setback for Mr Khrushchev means the end of tension. Never let us forget that in the Communist philosophy, this is only a setback—not a defeat.

The Communists have endless patience. They will wait. And then they will “test” again. Will it be in Berlin? or Vietnam? or Korea? Africa? Indonesia? India? Will it come under Khrushchev, or Malinowsky, or some as-yet unknown who is destined, some day, to claw his way to the top of the Kremlin’s heap? Will it be sparked by a Chinese? or an Albanian? Who knows when it will come, or where it will come?

Let’s assume that whoever the Communist master of that day will be doesn’t really mean to unleash the tempest of nuclear war. But who can guarantee that someone’s finger, poised over a pushbutton, won’t let it slip—or be jarred?

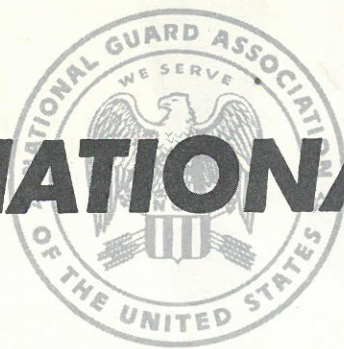
In this climate of uncertainty—a climate in which an inadvertent error could have horrible consequences—can we confidently assume that it will be only a “small” war—a war that can be fought with a tidy packet of the Regular Forces and just a segment of the Reserve Forces?

With our Nation’s life in the balance, can we assume that we won’t have to muster every able-bodied man and woman into Armed Forces on the scale of World War II? If we can’t safely make such an assumption, then we can’t dare to see our Reserve Forces cut back.

Can we, now, utterly discard any organized unit? True, as time goes by, we will require new types of organizations. But no matter what weaponry they possess, no matter what gadgetry they employ, the basic structure and general training they represent will apply: chain-of-command, administrative and supply procedures, communications principles, messing arrangements, discipline, leadership principles, and grounding in basic subjects common to all soldiers. An Army of units is far readier to go than one that has to be “cadred” and built-up slowly, painfully, in the manner of World Wars I and II.

Measured against the requirements of those two wars, what we have now is little enough. Let’s build on it—not tear it down. Let’s “realign” within the framework of the existing structure.

Modernization? Yes!
Reorganization? Yes!
Dismantlement? NO!



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DEAR GUARDSMEN: Regarding our old pen-pal John P Conlon, as a quasi-member of the staff, we offer him this forum for some trenchant observations:

“What with these yo-yo crises, we should gear our Armed Forces to the long pull. Not like the period from 1919 to 1939, but like the years when the Byzantine Empire of long ago faced barbarian threats every couple of years and rode them all out, fighting when it had to, bribing when it could, waiting-out the impatient nomads, and clobbering those who showed staying powers. This went on until a couple of hot-heads first saddled them with too much space for their troop list to cover, then foolishly went after glory. The Empire of the East had a lot of ideas that weren’t improved-on for centuries, though their government left a hell of a lot to be desired.

“We may have to keep an eye on the Reds for a long time. Crash programs should go out the window, and the long haul studied. We should try the Byzantine tricks, and also some new ones, such as finding the cracks in their armor and turning a few propaganda fleas loose, heckling them or eating their sterns out as needed. Someone in Laos found that instead of TV they had wandering minstrels who wandered about singing about current events, so they took them around to see the sights and then sent them back home to sing sarcastic tunes about the sobersided Reds. Music about the incredible ancestors and low moral habits of the Reds amused the farmers, where the humorless Red approach (“I am in love with my Mark 4 Mod 2 Tractor Plow” or equivalent) left them dead.

“I think we could scorch the pants off Fidel, if we tried. Ancient Ireland used to have a class of bards called Satirists, whose compositions were known to drive men to drink or over the hill. We should cultivate a few.”

OUR COVER: The Army Guard has had a missile capability in theory since it switched to the Pentomic Division structure in 1959 and thus acquired HONEST JOHN Batteries, but this was the first year that a few of the \$18,000 nuclear-capable rockets could be made available for actual firing practice by Guardsmen. On our cover, Artillerymen from Indiana’s 38th Infantry Division send one of the supersonic weapons screaming downrange on a six-mile, four-second flight.