MAJOR cause of delay in the construction of armories for the National Guard has been the imposition of rigid and unrealistic criteria as to the maximum amount of space such armories may contain, if the States wish to obtain Federal contributions toward the cost.

There have been numerous conferences and communications on the matter, and at last, a glimmer of light may be detected.

One of the most recent complications was introduced in the form of a letter, dated 10 Nov 1954, from the Chief, National Guard Bureau, on the subject: "Space Criteria—One-Unit Armories." This letter, and the determination relative to the space criteria, was based on a Memorandum dated 29 Oct 1954 from the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Properties and Installations, addressed to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Logistics and N & D, and referring to Army recommendations relative to space criteria, set forth in a 23 Sep 1954 Memorandum.

The directive of the Assistant Secretary of Defense to the Army, and in turn to NGB, involving joint utilization of armory facilities, was unsatisfactory in the following respects:

1—That as a result of a 29 July conference among Senator Leverett Saltonstall, Massachusetts, Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee; Maj Gen Verne D Mode, USA-Res, member of the Committee’s staff; and Maj Gene W. H. Harrison, Jr., Massachusetts; Maj Gen John D. Hall, New York, and E. A. Walsh, President of the National Guard Association of the United States, the immediate understanding that if Army approval was forthcoming for increased criteria as recommended by the Association’s Armory Space Criteria Committee, approval by the Department of Defense should be forthcoming in the same manner. However, and notwithstanding the fact that the Bureau and the Army have agreed to the Committee’s criteria (except for 100 square feet for a check room) in the amount of 15,000 square feet, the Department of Defense has reduced that figure to only 10,140 square feet.

2—That as a result of this reduction, the Department of Defense either had overlooked or ignored the fact that the Association representatives and its Special Committee had stressed that 15,000 square feet would have been sufficient for about 85% of the armories, and that there would only have been required a special, or common, criterion, for multiple-unit armories, and those for Div HQ & Hq, Div Artillery Hq & Hq, Signal, Ordnance and Tank companies, Field Artillery Bns.

3—That 2 of the 10 Nov letter from the Chief, NGB, not only nullified the procedure theretofore prescribed which included a blanket agreement by a State relative to joint utilization of an armory, but precluded erection of any armories under the new space criteria by prohibiting its application to a project unless it was covered by a separate agreement in each case providing for joint utilization; and, since the States could not and would not accept such a procedure, the net effect was that no construction was possible under the Chief’s letter.

4—That the requirement imposed by Par 2 of the Chief’s letter was unrealistic in that while reducing the space criteria, it nevertheless, by req agreement for joint utilization, was in effect adding X number of bodies within a space that already was deficient to accommodate the strength provided.

5—That the wording and application of Par 2 was contrary to the express provisions and intent of Sec 4 (d) of the National Defense Facilities Act of 1950, which states: “Provided, that except as agreed at the time the contribution is made the facilities provided through contributions made pursuant to Section 2 (e) of this Act shall be subject to joint utilization only to the extent deemed practicable by the State concerned.”

The National Guard Association has pointed out again and again that since the first appropriation was made for armory construction under the 1956 Act, millions of dollars have been spent for armories for the Army Reserve, and most expeditiously, while the National Guard program not only has been hamstringed by the imposition of obstacles, through red tape and delay piled upon delay, but there is marked discrimination in the type of buildings erected and facilities provided for the Army Reserve and the Army National Guard, much to the detriment of the latter. The Association submits that in no instance, insofar as it is aware, has the Army Reserve ever been required to execute any agreement with a State in the matter of joint utilization, or has any State been consulted relative thereto.

6—That from the inception of the program, the States have been thwarted and delayed by dilatory tactics and imposition of requirements that, in the view of the Association, were tantamount to contributions as clear and unmistakable, namely 75 Federal and 25% State, or even less in the case of

The National Guard

Official Publication of the National Guard Association of the United States, 100 Indiana Ave., N. W., Washington I, D. C. Price: 50¢ per copy. 25¢ per year to members. TWX: WASH 930

January, 1955

Vol. 9, No. 1


Domestic subscriptions: $1.50 per year to members of the National Guard Association of the U. S. $2.00 per year to non-members (Foreign and Canada $2.00).

HOMEBASE DELIVERY TO NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED MEN: $1.00 PER SUBSCRIPTION, WITH CHOICE OF PREMIUM. SPECIAL RATES TO NATIONAL GUARD UNITS FOR BULK SUBSCRIPTIONS TO ONE ADDRESS:

1 to 100 subscriptions, $1.75 per subscription

101 to 200 subscriptions, $1.50 per subscription

251 to 500 subscriptions, $1.25 per subscription.

SINGLE COPIES, 25c.

Massachusetts and pictures should be addressed to the Editorial Office. Unsolicited manuscripts must be accompanied by return postage, and no responsibility is assumed for their safe handling.

Address changes should be forwarded to Circulation Dept., The National Guardman, 100 Indiana Ave., N. W., Wash-

ington I, D. C. PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR OLD ADDRESS WHEN REQUESTING CHANGE TO NEW ADDRESS.

Copyright, 1954, The National Guard Association of the United States. All rights reserved.

NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES

OFFICERS

Maj Gen Lee, E. J., President

Maj Gen Leo W. Kreider, Vice-President

Maj Gen D. W. McGovern, Secretary

Maj Gen G. W. Anderson, Treasurer

COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION

Maj Gen E. J. Studtde, Chairman

Maj Gen W. H. Alexander, Vice-Chairman

Maj Gen K. E. Berry

Maj Gen V. E. Deane

Maj Gen H. F. W. Brandt

Maj Gen James H. Friend

Maj Gen J. A. F. Flanagan

Maj Gen W. H. Alexander

Maj Gen D. W. McGovern

Maj Gen V. E. Deane

Maj Gen K. E. Berry

Maj Gen H. F. W. Brandt

Maj Gen James H. Friend

Maj Gen J. A. F. Flanagan

Maj Gen W. H. Alexander

Maj Gen D. W. McGovern

Maj Gen V. E. Deane

Maj Gen K. E. Berry

Maj Gen H. F. W. Brandt

Maj Gen James H. Friend

Maj Gen J. A. F. Flanagan

EXECUTIVE STAFF

THE NATIONAL GUARDMAN

Allen G. Ort, Editorial Director

C. William Theory, Associate Editor

C. H. Reynolds, Production Editor

January, 1955

Contents

As We See It

Inside Front Cover

Death in the Pimelottos

An Englishman Looks at the Pentagon

Washington Report

The Nonsense of Chivalry

Pentagon Paragraphs

Technical and Tactical

New NGJA Committee Lineup Announced

Posting the Guard

"Miss Flying Buccaneer"

"... and then I pulled the trigger"

The Great Outdoors

The Lighter Side

Sound Off!

Our Cover

In the East Canyon of Utah's rugged Wasatch Moun- tains, National Guardsmen from the 113 Engr Gp re- ceive practical field training, while at the same time they perform a public service to the State. This log-echo bridge connects portions of the Pioneer Memorial Highway—a six-and-a-half-mile road built during two-week-end hievous.

DEAR GUARDMEN:

That soft Southern drawl that greets you, should you chance to phone the Association's Washington Headquarters—especially for the Blessings to Virgin- gina-born Katherine Dawson. She's of course, the official Receptionist, and not least the of the re- sponsible poste at 100 Indiana Ave NW, Fair, not only does she oper- ate the central switch- board, but handles in- coming and outgoing messages over the office's Western Union Desk Fax and teletypewriter (and during spare moments) assists in typing and distribution of mail.

A graduate of Occoquan High School, across the river in "Virginia," Mrs Dawson served with the Inter- natal Revenue Bureau before joining us in March '53, as Assistant Membership Statistician. She has been "receptionizing" since September 1953. Katherine's an avid Subbanian, and whenever she can find the time (weather permitting) in the care of a four-year-old son, she's off with rod and line. She's enthusiastic, too, about athletics—as a spectator—giving particular attention to football, baseball, basketball, and soccer.

THE STAFF