



JAMES F. CANTWELL  
President  
National Guard Association  
of the United States

## Questions and Answers

ONE point becomes abundantly clear when one tours Bases in the Far East at which mobilized Air National Guardsmen are serving:

Wherever Air Guardsmen are stationed, whatever their assignment, however imperfect the conditions under which they live and work, they are doing their job in a manner that does credit to them, to the National Guard and to the Air Force of which they are a part, and with all the matter-of-fact competence you would expect of professionals.

In company with Maj Gen Winston P. Wilson, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, and National Guard leaders from several States, I recently toured Bases in South Viet Nam, South Korea and Japan.

We talked with Guardsmen individually and in groups, to ascertain their most prevalent problems and to answer, where possible, questions that cause them the greatest concern. We made a special effort to seek out and talk with those who had been separated from their parent units and assigned elsewhere.

In addition, we interviewed Commanders at every level, Air Force and Air Guard alike, to identify problem areas for future study. We discussed the Air Guard's performance with such distinguished and busy military leaders as Gen Creighton W. Abrams, top U.S. Commander in Southeast Asia; Gen George S. Brown, Commander of Seventh Air Force in Southeast Asia; Lt Gen Thomas K. McGehee, Commander of Fifth Air Force in Japan, Korea and nearby areas, and Brig Gen Arthur Holderness, Air Force Commander in Korea.

We sat through many briefings, and from these sessions gained a new insight into the maze of problems with which military leaders must deal along Asia's Eastern periphery.

Some points emerged that are significant for the National Guard.

I already have mentioned the first of these: that Air Guardsmen serving in Viet Nam and Korea, two of the World's hot spots, are demonstrating a military competence that leaders at every level recognize and praise.

Guard Squadrons made their long, overwater deployments with smooth proficiency. Once in place, they commenced flying missions almost immediately, attaining full operational momentum even more quickly than most Active Air Force Squadrons. An officer at Phan Rang Air Base tells how Gen Westmoreland visited the Base two weeks after Colorado's 120th Tactical Fighter Squadron arrived, and asked Lt Col Robert Cherry when his Pilots would be ready to start flying. "Sir, we've just completed our 172d combat mission," the Colorado Colonel replied.

Air Guard Squadrons in Viet Nam habitually have set the pace for other Squadrons in their Wings. They have led their Wings by such significant yardsticks as total sorties flown, damage inflicted on the enemy, mission accomplishment, aircraft in-commission rates and low abort rates.

Virtually every Air Guard Pilot in Viet Nam and Korea is qualified as a Flight Leader—unusual in an Air Force beset by high turnover rates. Commanders of Active Air Force Squadrons comment enviously on the extensive flying experience of most Guard Pilots.

We found Guard airmen assigned to senior supervisory posts throughout each Base—a direct reflection of their individual competence and responsible attitude. So extensive, in fact, is this assignment of Guardsmen to key jobs that there is command concern over the void that will be created by their forthcoming release from active duty.

More than 2,000 Air Guardsmen are serving in South Viet Nam, another 3,000 or more make up the bulk of our Air Force structure in South Korea, and several hundred are assigned to Bases in Japan.

Several thousand of these went overseas as individual replacements, to flesh-out Active Air Force units. These men deserve particular credit, for they have performed with dedication and skill despite separation from hometown friends and familiar associations of their own units.

It is regrettable that so many units were broken up, their laboriously-built teamwork discarded. Under the circumstances of our Asian involvement, and

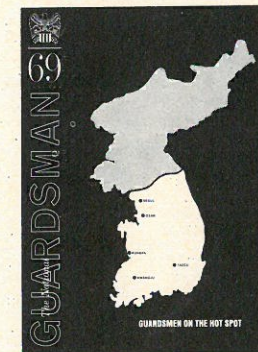
—Continued on page 38



# The National GUARDSMAN

JANUARY XXIII 1

## CONTENTS



Map indicates how close some mobilized Air Guard units are to the never-ceasing Red threat to Korea.

GUARDSMEN ON THE HOT SPOT	2
<i>An account of how things are with mobilized Air Guardsmen who are standing alert in Korea.</i>	
MAN AGAINST THE ELEMENTS	10
<i>Air Guard experts join in search for what makes weather.</i>	
PERIPATETIC CADETS	18
<i>On their own time, much-traveled eager OCS Cadets in Rhode Island get a taste of life in other Services.</i>	
"OPERATION PATRIOTISM"	21
<i>Sports fans' disrespect for National Anthem sparks action.</i>	
DUEL IN THE SKY	27
<i>Airman/reporter tells what it's like on an intercept mission.</i>	
GUARDSMEN WIN PUBLIC OFFICES	28
AIR GUARDSMEN "ON CAMERA"	31

## DEPARTMENTS

WASHINGTON REPORT	14
YOU OUGHT TO KNOW	20
ON ACTIVE DUTY	22
PENTAGON PARAGRAPHS	29
TECHNICAL & TACTICAL	30
POSTING THE GUARD	32
LETTERS	40

## STAFF

EDITOR	/ Col. Allan G. Crist
ASSOCIATE EDITOR	/ Luther L. Walker
ADVERTISING & CIRCULATION	/ Maj. John Bibb

Official monthly publication of the National Guard Association of the United States. Publication office 1 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. Second class postage paid at Washington, D.C., and at additional mailing offices. All correspondence and address changes should be addressed to 1 Massachusetts Ave. N. W., Washington, D. C. 20001. "THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN" welcomes original articles bearing on National defense, with emphasis on the Army and Air National Guard. Manuscripts must be accompanied by return postage, and no responsibility is assumed for their safe handling. Domestic subscriptions for home delivery: \$2 per year. A year's subscription is included within NGAUS members' annual dues. Subscriptions to foreign addresses, \$2.50 per year. Single copies, 25¢. Copyright, 1968, National Guard Assn. of the U.S. All rights reserved.

JANUARY, 1969