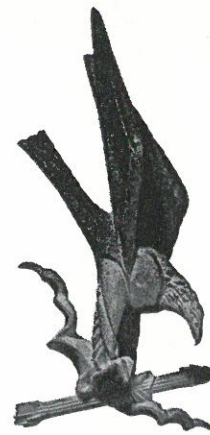




AS WE SEE IT

A RECALL TO ARMS

By MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM H. HARRISON, JR.
President, National Guard Association of the United States



PRESIDENT Kennedy's message, delivered to a Joint Session of the Congress on 25 May, was one of particular significance to the National Guard. This is so, not only because he gave added emphasis to the military threat which continues to confront this Nation and the whole Free World, but because he detailed some far-reaching changes in the structure of both the Active Army and its Reserve Components. For the latter he forecast a more critical role in defense with his announcement that the Army is developing plans to make possible "a much more rapid deployment of a major portion of its highly-trained Reserve Forces."

The President, while he did not spell-out these plans, did say that when they are completed and "the reserve is strengthened, two combat-equipped Divisions, plus their supporting forces, a total of 89,000 men could be ready in an emergency for operations with but three weeks' notice." He added that two more Divisions could be ready with but five weeks' notice, and six additional Divisions and their supporting forces could be deployable with less than eight weeks' notice.

His aim with this new plan is to permit doubling the combat power of the Army in less than two months, which compares, he added, to the nearly nine months heretofore required.

This announcement of the reorganization of the Reserve Components to achieve an optimum readiness was prefaced by his revealing that he had directed the Secretary of Defense to reorganize and modernize the Army's divisional structure "to increase its non-nuclear firepower, to improve its tactical mobility in any environment, to insure its flexibility to meet any direct or indirect threat, to facilitate its coordination with our major allies, and to provide modern Mechanized Divisions in Europe and new Airborne Brigades in both the Pacific and Europe." Into limbo will go the nearly five-year-old Pentomic structure. In revealing these proposed reorganizations and in commenting on "a further reinforcement of our own capacity to deter or resist non-nuclear aggression," the President said he envisioned no present need for large new levies of men. What is needed, he said, is rather a change of position to give us still further increases in our flexibility, our adaptability, and our readiness.

Following the President's message, the Army summoned the Washington press corps to a briefing on the new Divisional organization. It was of considerable disappointment that in this briefing it did not reveal any details of the proposed reorganization of the Reserve Components or discuss how it hoped to achieve the tremendously-increased readiness of the ten priority Divisions. The following day, Secre-

tary of Defense McNamara held a press conference, ranging over a wide variety of defense matters, including questions related to the reorganization of the Reserve Components, with particular interest evidenced among the Press in the ability to develop the necessary readiness called for by the President in the ten priority Divisions. No details were forthcoming from Mr McNamara.

At this writing, the plan for the reorganization of the Reserve Components continues to be locked in the tightest secrecy. The Army Section 5 Committee has been briefed, but there is no evidence that all of the details of the plan have been worked out or all of the problems in connection with attaining a higher degree of mobilization-readiness for the priority Divisions overcome. It was intimated that most, if not all, of the ten priority Divisions would be Army National Guard Divisions. It is anticipated that some announcement will be made with respect to the reorganization before this issue is in distribution.

The President's proposal to increase the readiness of the Reserve Components, particularly of having ten super-ready Divisions with supporting forces in a matter of eight weeks, is a proposal that must be studied, in conjunction with the proposed force reorganization, in the greatest detail. I do not believe that any hasty public reaction or comment is in order. There are many factors to be considered. As the President and other high Government officials have reiterated, these are perilous times—the threat to World freedom continues and it seems to grow. The President continues to call for sacrifice, but in the minds of a great many, he has failed to spell-out just what is demanded of us. Perhaps this is unnecessary, knowing as much as we do of the threat and what is required to overcome it. Obviously, the sacrifice of any National Guardsman in a priority unit would be a greater giving of his time and a greater effort to achieve the combat-readiness for which the President has called. We must be mindful, however, and so must Defense officials, that, within the limits of time available to the civilian-soldier in the Army National Guard (and by sacrificing many weekends in each year that might normally be devoted to his family and friends), the National Guard already has attained a higher level of mobilization-readiness than ever believed possible. Now we are being called upon to do even better. Any sacrifice necessary, I feel confident, National Guardsmen are prepared to make, but there are practical matters necessary to translate a spirit of sacrifice into action.

To gain what the President is seeking will require cooperation and dedication all the way down the line. In the National Guard it will require not only the support and

—Continued on page 28



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PICTURE GALLERY	INSIDE BACK COVER

DEAR GUARDSMAN: Whenever a woman's down in the dumps, she goes out and buys a new hat or switches the living room furniture around. Now, after long and perhaps jaundiced observation, we know how military people get rid of their occasional doldrums. They, too, change things, usually some of the alphabet-heavy abbreviations with which their trade is afflicted.

Item: In the Air Force, "Airman first class" was abbreviated A/1c. Then for awhile, it was A1c (without that all-important slash, you'll note). Now it's back to A/1c again (or is it the other way around?).

Item: The United States Army Air Defense Command long has been "US-ARADCOM," pronounced "uh-RAD-komm" with the US silent. Now, decrees one of those familiar changes that clog your library of ARs, it is to be just plain ARADCOM, without the US.

Final thought: as long as these periodic changes are inevitable, why can't someone do something about ANACDUTRA, and ACDUTRA? What is wrong with just plain "field training," abbreviated FT, pronounced "Ph-f-f-t?"

—WDM

OUR COVER: Whenever Nature flexes its muscles and wreaks havoc on Man's puny works, there stands the National Guardsman, on one hand a missile age Minute Man ready to defend his Nation, on the other a tower of strength in time of disaster for millions of Americans. So much we see in our striking cover painting by Lt Col Robert B Rigg of the US Army—a Guardsman battling the flood as a symbol of Guardsmen everywhere.

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