



## A NEW "GAP" TO BE CLOSED

NOT so many years back, public attention was focused upon a supposed "missile gap."

Today, a gap whose long-range effect is almost equally erosive on America's military effectiveness goes largely ignored, probably because it can't be so readily "glamorized."

It's the mile-wide gap between what the Military Services are expected to accomplish, and the support given by those who are supposed to provide the wherewithal.

For instance: Material recognition and reward for men and women of the Armed Services.

It's been a good five years since Servicemen were given a pay raise to compare with what their civilian opposite numbers in Federal employ receive. While Civil Service people spend last year's raise, plan for next year's, and look forward expectantly to still a third boost in pay as recently proposed, a military pay proposal makes its way through Congress at a slow and painful pace. Even if it finally passes, the Pentagon proposal falls far short of what Service people had every right to expect. Troop morale can hardly be restored by I & E lectures when, for example, proposals are heard to delay the raise awhile so as to save one fiscal quarter's money (at the Servicemen's expense).

The timing of the proposal to give Civil Service workers a third raise was particularly unfortunate, for it came just when the military pay proposals were being trimmed-back substantially.

We've talked with a good many men in the Active service who reluctantly intend to leave the service after 20 years (just when the skills they've acquired make them most useful), while they're still young enough to find other employment. Reason: they just can't put their kids through college on Service pay, even on the pay of field grade officers. *Esprit* is the most valuable asset of a military organization, but good *esprit* can't survive habitually short rations.

Here's another "for instance"—and one which we understand best: Support of Reserve Forces readiness.

With higher standards of readiness than ever have been imposed on parttime forces, less rather than more financial support is in prospect for many of the vital ingredients of such readiness.

ITEM: *Technicians*. Defense spokesmen have talked more than once about the need for more of these key full-time people if readiness is to be advanced. Yet for lack of funds, the National Guard Bureau has had to direct the discharge of 335 of those already employed by the Army Guard, and warns that another 194 may have to be dropped. Instead of rising to meet increased readiness demands, the level of manning is falling!

ITEM: *Training*. Extensive reorganization made school retraining necessary for many officers and men; ROPA makes it mandatory that we graduate more men from

State OCS and send them away for Basic Branch schooling; pressure for stepping-up the training pace creates a requirement for more "school money." Yet \$4,800,000 less has been tentatively allocated for the new Fiscal Year than was provided for this year!

ITEM: *Materiel*. The Guard's new "ROAD" Divisions fit the newest organizational concepts, but they'll be armed with substitute or obsolete weapons and equipment. They're "bob-tailed" (short of key units) for lack of aircraft. Self-propelled artillery, improved communications equipment, armored personnel carriers, M14 rifles and M60 machine guns are only a few of the vital training necessities that are lacking. At field training, only priority Missile Battalions will get a chance to work with, and fire, an actual HONEST JOHN!

These are the everyday, unglamorous elements of the gap that most needs closing. There's not a headline in the lot, but there's something far more important to America: solid, effective military strength.

## THE GUARD'S TECHNICIANS

THE "Technician" in the sense of today's great corps of fulltime Army and Air Guardsmen is a new breed of citizen-soldier or airman.

Leaders of the National Guard Assn of the US originated the concept in the immediate post-World War II years, and obtained legislation which translated idea into action. Out of it has grown a great and vital force of dedicated officers and men who often have been described as the backbone of today's Army and Air National Guard.

But as with any new concept, new problems have been discovered—problems that arise from the Technician's unique half-military, half-civilian status; problems of job security; of pay, of retirement, and of other benefits.

It would be safe to say that no one aspect of the Guard has demanded and received more time, more serious thought, more conscientious effort by leaders of the NGAUS, the Adjutants General Assn of the US, and the National Guard Bureau, than have the host of matters impinging upon the rights and welfare of the officer and enlisted "career Guardsmen."

It is significant, we believe, that the NGAUS Executive Council took several concrete steps at its June meeting which may lead to a greater measure of security for this vital group of Guardsmen. It accepted sponsorship of an insurance program to fill a long-felt need; it reconstituted a special committee to take a completely new look at job security problems created by ROPA, and it officially gave Technician retirement and other proposals relating to true career status the Number One spot on its legislative program.

All Technician problems won't be solved overnight, but the intensive and intelligent effort that's promised by these moves foretells progress.

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DEAR GUARDSMEN: Ordinary father-son and brother combinations have become commonplace in the Guard, so much so that we've finally had to modify our long-held editorial opinion that they automatically merit news space in THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN. There are so many of them today that we haven't space for them all, so (we recently told ourselves firmly), we'll accept them for publication only when they have some unusual angle. So what happens? We'd hardly got this new policy formulated when first comes a photograph of a Guard father signing up his twin sons, then a story of four Dads signing their sons up at the same time, then an item about a wife (nurse) swearing in her husband, and finally a photo of a WWII vet and his son enlisting in the Guard together. (All will appear in this or succeeding issues). Now Mrs Claude U. Peters of Milford, Mich, informs us that her husband, a Chief Warrant Officer, is one of four brothers who currently are employed on Detroit area NIKE-HERCULES sites. The others are CWO Dale H. and 1st Lts Robert L. and Wayne Peters, and Mrs Claude adds in a postscript which other Guard "widows" will appreciate, "All are fulltime Guardsmen—days and lots of nights!"

(All right, here's the policy: no more family combinations unless they're really unusual, like four generations or something. Got it now?) —WDM

OUR COVER: No one can tell you what that first taste of military training will be like. It's one of those things you have to find out for yourself at the Army Training Center where all new Guardsmen spend a rugged six months. From men like those in the Squad on our cover, and in the photos on Pages 21-26, though, we gathered some helpful hints for future trainees. See "Sergeants Don't Have Horns."