

## The Debate Goes On



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

**T**HERE is cause for considerable concern in the Army and Air National Guard in two developments which, though seemingly unrelated, have a great potential as grounds for a great deal of future trouble for the Guard.

One is the Presidential decision, made some 19 months ago, to expand the Active Forces and commit sizeable combat forces to Southeast Asia without mobilizing National Guard or Reserve units for the purpose. The other, not a specific event so much as the gradual evolution of a working theory, is a growing Pentagon attitude that the Guard's value as a military force is related more to what it contributes today, by performing "live" defense missions, than to its long-range importance as a Reserve Force in the classic sense.

Though the decision against a callup was based on valid reasons, and those reasons were carefully spelled out, it represented a departure from normal procedures for augmenting the Army and Air Force. As a change from traditional policies, it never has been fully understood by many members of Congress, by the Press, or by broad segments of the general public, despite strenuous explanatory efforts. Even more disturbing from a more immediate point of view, it caused planners and decision-makers in high military councils to start asking: "If we can't count on the Reserve Forces being available for use in an emergency like Viet Nam, then just when *can* we count on them?"

Contingency planning, to be valid and useful, must be based on reasonable assurance that the forces assigned will be available. In the eyes of Army and Air Force planners, some portion of that assurance was lost when the callup they had recommended was overruled on grounds that were at least partly non-military.

As a result, the Army in particular found it necessary to organize new combat support units, from the ground up and from scarce resources, when well-trained units of the desired types were standing by in the Reserve Components. Thus, the possibility is posed that responsibility for maintaining many of the so-called "round out" units may be shifted to the Active Army permanently, thus depriving the Reserve Components of an important mission area.

A similar threat is raised by the tendency to assign undue importance to the cost savings in the performance of "live" missions by many units of both the Army and Air Guard. Such programs as the overseas airlift, Air Guard runway alert, ARNG NIKE-HERCULES operation, and radar watch *are* important, and Guardsmen can be justifiably proud that they *can* relieve the Active Forces of many such tasks. But these are only by-products of our most important mission: that of maintaining a high level of readiness in a sizeable combat force against the day when the Nation may face a major threat. Thus, the danger arises that still another kind of mission may be, if not denied to us, at least narrowed considerably.

The outcome of this welter of misunderstanding and debate cannot be predicted, of course, or even guessed at. Our kind of logic seems to rule out cutbacks in *any* branch or component of the Armed Force at a time when one conflict is being waged, and other perils threaten. The same reasoning also seems to suggest that continued instability and uncertainty in the Reserve Components is both dangerous and costly. ♦

# GUARDSMAN

The National



March XXI 3

## CONTENTS



Eagle-eyed FACs provide close air support for the Infantryman as the Army and Air Force work together.

CLOSE AIR SUPPORT: HOW IT WORKS TODAY	2
<i>Superb close air support highlights Army and Air Force cooperation in Viet Nam. Here's how the system came about and how it works today.</i>	
"BIRDDOG" OVER THE JUNGLE	10
<i>Take a flight in an O1A and discover how Forward Air Controllers earn their daily pay.</i>	
DEFENSE PLANS FOR THE RESERVE FORCES	14
<i>"Posture" and Budget statements reveal Department of Defense plans for the Army and Air National Guard.</i>	
CARTOONS RIDE TENNESSEE TRANSPORTS	17
<i>"Snoopy," "Grog," and "Beetle Bailey" span the Globe on C97 transports of Memphis' 164th Military Airlift Group.</i>	
HOW TO GET HARD-TO-GET PEOPLE	26
<i>An Air Guard Recruiting Officer tells how his unit got those hard-to-get Pilots, Pilot trainees and prior-service Airmen.</i>	
DAKOTANS SWAP BLIZZARD FOR ARCTIC'S SUB-ZERO	28
<i>South Dakotans learn to live in the frigid Arctic while blizzard hits home State.</i>	
NGAUS' COMMITTEES APPOINTED FOR 1967	31

Official publication of the National Guard Association of the United States. Publication office: Telegraph Press Building, Harrisburg, Penna. Second class postage paid at Harrisburg, Penna. 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, 1967, National Guard Assn. of the U. S. All rights reserved.

MARCH, 1967

## STAFF

EDITOR / Col. Allan G. Crist

ASSOCIATE EDITOR / Maj. Corb Sarchet

ADVERTISING & CIRCULATION / Maj. John Bibb