EDITORIAL

MOBILIZATION LESSONS: LET'S START APPLYING THEM NOW!

LAST Fall's mobilization is generally conceded to have been the smoothest in the Nation's history—meaning that the men, women, and children assigned, alerted, mobilized, and brought to battlefield readiness with fewer starts and greater speed than we'd ever managed before.

Even so, improvements are definitely needed. In the order-up date when they shouldn't have been, a few units wound-up with little to do—militarily, at least—and little to do it with, procedures were permitted to take precedence over results. It's still a bit early to make a well-rounded appraisal of the machinery of mobilization, or to correct all the weaknesses of the recent mobilization turned up, but it's not too early to start. In some areas, a start has been made; in others, the evidence is so clear that it is pointless to delay the required corrective steps—and perhaps even dangerous in today's threatening atmosphere.

Topping everyone's list of things that went wrong, of course, is the "filter problem." Mistakes were made and information was misapplied in a way that was magnified out of all proportion by the bellyaching, letters to editors and mass meetings of a handful of malcontents. They behaved like spoiled kids; they shuffled their frown Guardsmen and Reservists; they deserve nothing but our scorn.

There was a legitimate need for improvement in the handling of M-Day reinforcements, though, and progress already has been made. The Department of Defense has directed all the Services to earmark fillers for specific slots in specific units; to continuously screen personnel records to insure that individual Ready Reservists are in truth ready, and available, and to keep those individuals informed as to their assignment and relative M-Day priority. Even before that, the Air Reserve Command announced plans (now awaiting final approval) to permit each unit to create its own "floating" pool of Enlisted, if any, of personnel, from whom officer candidates can no longer be expected to drill regularly. The Army Reserve is giving serious study to a similar plan. The Air Guard and one proposal "optum" for 100% manning of all or many of its units, thus eliminating the need for more than one fill.

If accepted and given the financial support they require, these plans alone will go a long way toward alleviating the many problems of the recent callup. Thousands of previously unassigned reservists will acquire a military "home." They'll be able to deal directly with a unit through periodic muster days and refresher field training, and the unit will provide an improved channel of communication. It's no cure-all, but it will help.

There are other steps, though, that can be taken now, or soon, to improve the mobilization responsiveness of the Reserve Forces. For the few weeks during which the Guard appropriately can take the load in suggesting, organizing, recruiting, and training—

• Shortening and simplifying the paperwork—of mobilization—

• Intensifying leadership training for junior commissioned officers and non-commissioned officers.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, D.C.

MAY, 1962

ARTICLES:

OUR DUTY "NO SWEAT" FOR AIR GUARDMEN

A report from an ANG flying trip in Spain

THE BIG SLICE

24 different plans led to the job of a huge wreck at the Guard

FROM QUINNAGH TO SKATOOKIL

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN

A veteran's thoughts on how to turn hits into misses

FEATURES:

Washington Report

You Ought to Know

On Guard

Technical & Tactical

Posting the Guard

EDITORIAL

Inside Front Cover

Mobilization Lessons: Let's Start Applying Them Now

DEAR GUARDSMEN: It seems that the same fed-upness with pompous military jargon struck home at just about the same moment recently for the Editors of "Infantry" at Ft Benning, Ga, and "The National Guardsman" at Washington, DC.

Flipping through the March issue of our magazine, the Editors of "Infantry" did a double-take of "Dear Guardsmen," and its ribbing of "profused" phraseology vs. simplicity. For here's what he had written in the March-April issue of "Infantry."

"This concerns the verbiage of nouns, whatever that means. For unprofitable reasons, there are so many fellows who create and perpetuate this verbiage process. Maybe it makes inadequacy. Maybe it is done to murkize an otherwise clear answer to some knotty problems. Or maybe people just like to sound as though they are saying something when they are merely repeating what someone else has said."

"Talk the word 'utilize' (and you're welcome to it). For the moment this one seems to be the bad. There's a fine word which is both easier to write and 99% of the English language by this clever device. Think of the savings in postal charges for mailing an unbridled dictionary which is no larger as large as today's out-of-print version! Want proof? Try this (and when you have it figured out please let us know what we said):"

"Meticalous, formalized conceptualization in the field of dieselization maximizes the minimization of adverse effect upon the Army's transition to vehiculatization of ground forces."

"We stallfied this."

(AGC)