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## The Guard Proves Itself

*"Rest assured, law and order will be preserved."*

Those were the concluding words in a message which the National Guard conveyed to Americans through the medium of newspaper advertisements after last Summer's disorders. They were no idle boast, as Guardsmen in many States demonstrated during the disorders which shocked the Nation following the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's shameful assassination.

In State after State, either in State or Federal status, the National Guard laid to rest any lingering doubts as to its ability to cope with urban disorder. The Guard response was swift but measured, effective but restrained. The approach was reasoned, the results outstanding.

On every hand, the conduct and performance of the National Guard won acclaim—even from some of its most severe critics of a few months ago. Guardsmen, civil authorities and Active Army commanders had planned carefully and had closely coordinated their preparatory actions. Once the action started, this cooperative spirit was maintained, providing ample justification for the long months of joint planning and training.

New approaches and new tactics were sought, and found, following last Summer's disastrous upheavals. Lessons learned in Detroit, Newark and elsewhere were incorporated quickly into new planning and training programs, and the results were apparent in the smooth, efficient response of Guardsmen, police and Army troops in April.

Better use was made of show-of-force techniques. Chemical agents were used more quickly and more extensively, drastically reducing the need for gunfire. Few shots were fired by military forces. In Washington, D.C., more than 11,000 Guardsmen and Army troops spent 12 days on duty, and coped with wide-spread looting and arson, without a single injury or death caused by military gunfire, even in the midst of swirling disorder, mass turmoil and occasional sniper fire.

In many cities, disorder was prevented by the rapidity with which Guardsmen were alerted and assembled. This demonstrated the value of quick decision-making and a rapid, effective show of force before a situation gets out of control.

I commend you who have served, often at considerable personal sacrifice and for lengthy periods, to make your communities and your Nation a safer place to live. You served your States and the Nation in an outstanding manner in the recent crisis, as you have served so loyally on many past occasions. Soon, additional thousands of you will go to active duty to augment U.S. military strength in the face of the current international crisis, and to you too, the Nation owes a debt of gratitude.

Out of all this, the Nation cannot fail to recognize that the National Guard, Army and Air, not only stands ready but is eminently capable of performing any and all of the important missions assigned it. ♦

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## CONTENTS



Not war-torn European, but riot-torn American, cities witnessed scenes like this early in April.

RIOT REACTION FORCE 2  
*True to precedent, tradition, and predictions, the National Guard . . . in green and in blue . . . was the first line of military force when violence exploded in American cities in April. This issue focuses on highlights and the details, as well.*

M-DAY IN MAY 18  
*Army and Air Guard, in the second partial mobilization in less than four months, again contribute the bulk of the combat power called from the Reserve Forces to reinforce U.S. troops in Viet Nam and beef-up the Strategic Reserve.*

GUARD FLIERS PLOT "RADIATION" 21  
GUARD'S "JUNGLEERS" EARN HONORS 26  
*Unique Indiana unit, swinging into new mission, passes its rugged training course at School of the Americas—and gets mobilization alert notice.*

GET READY, STAY READY 28  
*Advice to Air Guard commanders to be set for mobilization or civil disturbance proves timely.*

## DEPARTMENTS

YOU OUGHT TO KNOW	20
WASHINGTON REPORT	22
PENTAGON PARAGRAPHS	33
POSTING THE GUARD	34
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR	40

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