THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It will not, in my opinion, be possible to maintain authorized strengths of organizations remaining in the States unless we are permitted to recruit young men aged at least through age 21. We must continue our efforts, of course, to enlist veterans and prior service men with remaining military obligations, but I am doubtful that this will produce sufficient numbers to be an appreciable factor in the maintenance of strength.

The current actions to strengthen the Military Services are, it has been implied, designed for the long haul. This is a realistic reaction to the very anxious fact that should the current crisis be resolved, we will continue to be faced with Communist trunculence and the military threats of Communist nations for an indefinite period. We no longer can live from crisis to crisis. It is imperative, therefore, that the measures that have developed during our Active service, there must be no lessening of the strength and readiness of the Reserve Components. We must continue to provide for the part-time military training of the largest possible numbers of young Americans.

Even at the increased rate of induction, the tremendous manpower available in the selective Service pools will be tapped to a point hardly below the surface. There will remain large numbers of men in the military service who will not be called, and the Coast the Country can expect of those in service is in a Reserve Component. Some of these men under age 21 will, of course, continue in Active Service, but hardly enough to make a noticeable dent in the large numbers available.

One important factor in any overall analysis is that the total, has been that organizations of the National Guard ordered to active duty have not been returned to the regular component. This is a logical and frequently the numerical designation has not been returned. It is our hope that with the reorganization of units now called to active duty, there will not only be preserved the integrity of the organization in view of service, but that the whole organization will be of service to the nation for the duration of the active duty of the organization which it housed. The Air National Guard, similarly, will be important to the continued efficient administration and training of the Army National Guard.

ACTIVE DUTY TRAINING

As the delegates will know, the National Guard Association is in the training of our Adjutant General and our senior commanders never have been convinced that a full six months of training for our Reserve Officers prior service will be sufficient to bring to the proper level of training to be effectively integrated with his National Guard units. As a result of the discussions and our strong advocate, of course, the continued of the active duty for training program as provided for in the Reserve Forces Act of 1955, has been, however, the feeling of a great many that too large a proportion of this period has been expended in training for the National Guard, which could be given at home stations, or on travel between training stations, and in leave.

There have been many years considerable discussion among the possibilities of this organization of the reduced period without such a training, and it is only satisfactory and perhaps contrary to the national interest to provide a minimum of three months. It may be recalled that, prior to and following the passage of the Reserve Forces Act of 1955, which

authorized a period of basic training for non-prior service enlisted, the National Guard Association was opposed to the idea that the period of training be increased by the Defense Department. It was our feeling then that six months was unduly long and unnecessary. We were assured that it was the decision of the Army that all men willing to enlist in the Army National Guard would be considered for active duty training could not be accomplished in a period between school semesters. I know that this matter has been given study from time to time by the headquarters of the Army. I feel, and I know that this feeling is concurred in by a great many experienced officers, both on the Army Staff and in the Army National Guard, that the same training could not be accomplished in a shorter period, provided for the new replacement training of our Active Service forces, and that the training was limited to Basic and Advanced Individual programs. There are, of course, the economies of this matter to be considered. With the reduction of the training period to four months and the elimination of the cost incident to the transfer between training stations, the total monies appropriated for such training could, of course, accommodate substantially increased numbers.

In view of the above, the following sub-section was placed upon the Army as the result of the current partial mobilization and the increases in Active Army strength, this matter is especially significant. There could be no more appropriate time for a re-evaluation of the program. The shorter training period would certainly ease the Army’s load.

CARRER PLANS

Departure plans from any State of a sizable Army National Guard organization or an appreciable number of smaller separate units is a result for these service men involved in some personnel problems affecting our full-time Technicians. There will be, undoubtedly, some lessening of the requirement for a full-time force. It is my understanding that this may be especially so in the operation of Georgia, T. M. Shops and the United States Property and Fiscal Offices.

Similarly, we will have the problem of maintaining personnel in the Air National Guard, particularly to the Air National Guard, recognizing that both the Federal and State Governments have tremendous investments in these installations and in the equipment and technical forces that have been built up over the years. By leaving adequate caretaker forces to provide for other provisions to maintain air installations in the States, the Air National Guard has taken the proper steps for the protection of this investment.

In conclusion, I shall be pleased to have any comments or suggestions that those of you, as active advocates of the Army National Guard, can offer in the discussion which will follow. I certainly value your thoughts.

OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOLS

I have had occasion during the past year to observe and to hear many fine comments on the operation of our Officer Candidate Schools. I am sure you all agree that this program to train young and qualified leaders is probably the only successful type of contribution our war projects and their cause upon these young leaders rest the future of the Army National Guard. I am confident that those Officer Candidates who may be in units now mobilized or to be mobilized will be permitted through some special arrange- ment to enter the Army National Guard. In view of the fact of training. I know the Chief of the National Guard Bureau

CONCLUSION

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DEAR GUARDIANS: One thing that constantly plagues us (and many another publisher, too) is complaints about non-delivery of magazines to subscribers. Unquestionably, we goof occasionally—but experience and back-checking has shown that in the overwhelming majority of cases, either we’ve been given an incorrect address, or we haven’t been told of the subscriber’s change of address. We’d much rather have our magazine going where it shouldn’t, not only because we want it to be read, but because every label clipped and returned by the mailman costs us hard cash.

Have a hunch that some membership renewal forms sent to us have picked up old addresses of members who’ve moved in the past year, and for whom we had effected address changes. If you know of any addresses in this category, please include your old as well as your new address.

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WASHINGTON REPORT

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