MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT

It was predicted as the 1960's came upon us that this would be a decade of change and turmoil. It was said the change predicted would affect the way of life of people throughout the World and that we would undergo adjustments in every phase of life. Science, government, society, industry, and the arts would be affected. It has already had its impact.

Adjustments in World politics, and changing strategies, as remote as they may appear to be, eventually influence the missions and composition of the forces of the United States Armed Forces. We have seen in the recent years the increasing centralization of our National Government, and, as a result, greater programs and activities that were once almost the sole responsibility of the States.

While change is inevitable and so often influenced by factors beyond our control, we must bear in mind the principle upon which this Nation was founded and developed—national defense is the right of every American. If we are to maintain this cherished heritage which must be protected against encroachment.

The missions of the State military forces—the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard—will be influenced by what is happening in the World and we will continue to be called upon to make adjustments in our organizations. It behooves us to hold firm to the Militia concept and the Constitutional right of the States to maintain military forces. The States desire to make contributions to the Nation's defense. The high levels of readiness which have been attained by the National Guard, both Army and Air, evidence not only this desire but the capability of the States to provide the Active Military Forces with their most ready augmentation.

The National Guard has accepted and carried out a variety of missions in the United States and the Air National Guard's run-away alert program are examples. These sometimes complex missions are the result of the need for maintaining the defense forces of the United States in a state that will assure not only effective deterrent but rapid retaliation in the event of attack. These conditions and the need for having priority Divisional and supporting elements in a state of readiness, which is far beyond anything we could anticipate.

While we all look hopefully to a time of true World peace, there are still substantial numbers of effective arms control and eventual disarmament, we all know, as Major General William H. Harrison, Jr., told us at the recent SGA Conference, that such goals will not be achieved in our lifetime and we must therefore continue to have a defense organization.

We may expect, I am sure, that both our Army and Air organizations will be called upon in the future to participate in even more advanced training than is presently scheduled. There was talk during our recent Conference of the employment of Army National Guard units, possibly up to Divisions, participating in Active Army maneuvers. Due to our proven effectiveness and the reliance placed upon us by the Federal Government, we are competent, if we so choose, to take the lead in the defense of the Nation.

As you already know there are many of you who have served in the National Guard and have been called upon to do so, and others who are in close proximity to the Army who could be called upon in emergency. To those who are so called upon in your units, you must meet the call of duty and the expectations that will be made of you. These are the days of our lives in which we must strive to leave to posterity a record that is worthy of the name of soldier that we bear.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES P. CANTWELL
Major General, NJNG

NOVEMBER, 1963

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DEAR GUARDSMEN: Somebody in the Pentagon is trying to do away with "drill." For a couple of centuries, Guardsmen have been "going to drill," though as Guardsmen have been using, officially, the term "unit training assembly." Marine Corps Reservists still call it "drill." Army Reservists seem to prefer attending "meetings." The Air Force Reserve uses the word, "inertive duty training assembly." Coast Guard Reservists use "drill" and "meeting" interchangeably. "Drill" evokes the old-fashioned "bayonet, straw foot" kind of discipline instruction rather than the more advanced training and methods of instruction that is taught and practiced in the thinking behind a paper that’s been wending its tortuous way from one Defense agency to another, in search of a more descriptive term. Navy and "drill" evokes the old-fashioned "bayonet, straw foot" kind of discipline instruction rather than the more advanced training and methods of instruction that is taught and practiced in the thinking behind a paper that’s been wending its tortuous way from one Defense agency to another, in search of a more descriptive term. Navy and AF spokesmen reportedly feel it's impractical to try to rig "drill" out of all Regulations, since it's embedded in numerous laws, besides. But the USAR, in its publications, is switching to "training assembly," NGB, to "armory training period." As for Richards like us, we're sure "drill" will stay in the language for a long time to come.

That's not all there is to the current word game. The Reserve Forces Act has been much-amended since 1955, so, by official decree, we'll have to say no more "RRA trainers" or "RFA programs," or the like, substitute for the latter: "Reserve Components Enlisted Training Program."

Now do you understand why Pentagon inhabitants call it "the Puzzle Palace"? ---AGC