

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT



IT was predicted as the 1960's came upon us that this would be a decade of dynamic and changing years. It was said the changes predicted would affect the way of life of people throughout the World and that we would undergo adjustments in every phase of government, society, industry, and the sciences. Certainly in defense, change 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 defense forces of the United States, both active and reserve. We have seen in recent years the increasing centralization of our National Government, and, as a result, its greater influence over 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 that the principles upon which this Nation was founded and developed have proved to be sound and are a 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 recent years that are well beyond the ability of other Reserve Components. The Army Air Defense on-site program and the Air National Guard's runway alert program are examples. These sometimes complex missions are the result of the need for maintaining the defense posture of the United States in a state that will assure not only effective deterrent but rapid retaliation in the event of attack. These conditions are what dictate the need for having priority Divisions and supporting elements in a state of readiness that is far beyond anything we comprehended just a few years ago.

While we all look hopefully to a time of true World peace and our Government works towards effective arms control and eventual disarmament, we all know, as Major General William H. Harrison, Jr., told us at the recent 85th General Conference, these goals will not be achieved in our lifetime and we must therefore continue to have a powerful defense.

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.

Despite our proven effectiveness and the reliance placed upon us by the Federal Government, we are compelled, unfortunately, to constantly defend the Militia concept and the interests of the States in National defense. It is difficult to comprehend why the most effective military reserve in being—the National Guard—must be ever-ready to protect not only its basic interests but to assure that it is adequately supported, mainly to perform missions assigned by the Federal Government. But such is the case. The organization responsible for protecting those interests and assuring the future of our component is the National Guard Association of the United States. The Association's purpose is two-fold: first, to promote adequate National security, and, second, to foster and improve the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard both as State military forces and as components of the Armed Forces of the United States.

In order to fulfill its purpose, our Association must continue to be an effective spokesman, and, otherwise, an instrument for the attainment of our goals. As we experience changes in strategies and the whole scheme of defense becomes more complex, the tasks of the Association become more demanding. The solutions of ever more difficult problems in administration and training require greater attention and study, resulting in proposals or counter-proposals that will permit the accomplishment of missions assigned without detriment either to the basic principle of the Militia concept or otherwise to the wellbeing of our forces. Just as the Army, Air Force and Navy must be continually pressing for adequate funds and other forms of support to carry out their missions, we are required to do likewise. We must be ever more effective in the field of legislation, public relations, and liaison with the various Executive agencies with which we are involved.

To be truly effective requires that we speak as one. Our strength as an organization is in the unity that binds us in a common interest. While we may from time to time have differences in individual viewpoints, as is the case in every group, we must resolve these differences within our family. Happily, this always has been the case in our Association and herein lies our strength. The Officers and Staff of your Association can function effectively only so long as they enjoy a full measure of support from every National Guardsman in every State. Certainly we must assure that our members understand the purposes of the Association and are impressed with what it does to benefit the individual Guardsman, the National Guard, and the Nation.

The newly-elected Officers of your Association follow in a great tradition and in the footsteps of men who have served us well. In assuming office, we have accepted the responsibility, which in these times may better be described as a challenge, to assure that the National Guard of the future will play an ever more critical role in the defense of the Nation.

JAMES F. CANTWELL
MAJOR GENERAL NJARNG
PRESIDENT



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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 Air 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 jawbreaker, "inactive duty training assembly." Coast Guard Reservists use "drill" and "meeting" interchangeably.

"Drill" connotes the old-fashioned "hay foot, straw foot" kind of paddle-foot instruction rather than the far more advanced training and methods of instruction that us amateurs indulge in these days. That's 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 rip "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 diehards 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 no more "RFA trainees" 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

