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National Guard Association
of the United States

Service In the Best Tradition

IN its report to the annual meeting of the National Governors' Conference last July, the National Guard Committee of that Conference stressed that, in 1968, for the first time in history, the National Guard had been called upon to make major commitments, simultaneously, in both its Federal and State status.

The Committee went on to state, in discussing the dual status of the National Guard, that "there are priorities within the concept of dual status. Traditionally the Federal mission takes precedence and that order, despite the increasing need for protection within the States, remains unchanged."

Thus, the Governors, acutely aware of the need for strong security within the States, recognized that the primary mission of the National Guard is its Federal mission.

With four Air National Guard Tactical Fighter Squadrons committed to combat in Viet Nam, two more such Squadrons deployed in Korea, a Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron in Japan, two Army National Guard Infantry Brigades and a number of other combat and combat support units in Federal service in the Continental United States and several ARNG units now deployed to Viet Nam and others scheduled for overseas movement, the National Guard is proving once again that it is the Nation's first-line Reserve Force.

Every report indicates that both the Army and Air units are rendering superb service. We are proud of them but not surprised; all Americans too should be proud but not surprised, for this is in the tradition of the National Guard, solidly established in more than three centuries of service.

While this has not been a major mobilization, it assumes added significance because of the increased training schedules of the National Guard units remaining in State service and the frequency with which they have been called upon for civil disturbance duties.

Most of the Air National Guard units remaining in State status are making major contributions to the defense effort by performing air defense and airlift missions that in the past could have been performed only by units in active Federal service.

The point is that the National Guard, in these difficult times, is rendering near-maximum service in both Federal and State status.

Little more than a year ago, the National Guard Association of the United States, in a series of statements published in several of the Country's most influential newspapers, assured the American public that the National Guard was prepared to perform efficiently in response to either Federal or State needs. We went on record in those statements as being fully confident that the Guard would deliver.

And deliver it has for both State and Nation. ♦

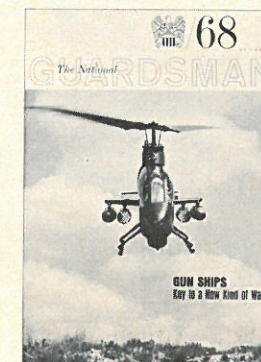
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CONTENTS



Just the very look of a "gun ship" coming straight at you is enough to give pause to even the bravest soldier.

GUN SHIPS . . . KEY TO A NEW KIND OF WAR	2
<i>Wholly new tactics have evolved around the firepower and mobility afforded by heavily-armed helicopters . . . tactics that fit the kind of war that's being fought in Viet Nam, at least.</i>	
"GUARD STRIKE II"	10
<i>Once again, tens of thousands of Army and Air Guardsmen pair-up in their own huge communications and ground-air exercise.</i>	
"GRUNT AND GROAN"	18
<i>There was plenty of both as Air National Guardsmen toiled to construct a youth care center.</i>	
THE BACKBONE OF THE MILITARY	22
<i>Air Guardsmen learn in class and in practice some of the things it takes to be a REAL noncommissioned officer.</i>	
ON ACTIVE DUTY	26
<i>What the "Pueblo Crisis" Army and Air Guardsmen are doing in the U.S. and overseas.</i>	
THESE TROUBLED TIMES	30
<i>Illinois Guardsmen praised for manner of performance in "Convention" duty. . . . Others engaged in prison outbreak, other disturbances.</i>	

DEPARTMENTS

WASHINGTON REPORT	14
YOU OUGHT TO KNOW	20
POSTING THE GUARD	34
PENTAGON PARAGRAPHS	39

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