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Immediately Responsive

IN NO period of our history has the dual State/Federal mission of the National Guard been given greater emphasis as a workable concept than in the past two years.

As Air National Guard crews fly increasing numbers of missions overseas—most of them to Viet Nam in support of the Military Airlift Command, and more than 25% of the Army National Guard is engaged in accelerated training to achieve mobilization-readiness—almost equal that required of Active Army units, National Guardsmen in a dozen or more cities have been helping to maintain the peace in support of State and municipal authority.

Both the Air National Guard and the Army National Guard are in an active supporting role to the Nation's overall defense mission while retaining their State status. Simultaneously, National Guard units are responding to State authority.

No other Reserve component is making or can make such significant contributions to the Nation's defense. We are, in State status and unmobilized, participating in active defense missions. We are providing 80% of the Selected Reserve Force, and we are providing the aircraft and flight crews for a considerable number of overseas missions. A more than fair percentage of critical cargo being airlifted to Viet Nam goes with the Air National Guard.

The service of the National Guard in a number of States in the performance of a frequently distasteful duty has been more than exemplary. In the hot and riotous Summer months, the Guard has served, in many cities merely by its presence, as a stabilizing influence.

It appears to me that this situation is the strongest and most articulate rebuttal to those who insist that because of its constitutional State/Federal status, the National Guard is not immediately responsive in its Federal role in support of National defense efforts. As it has throughout history, the record speaks eloquently for the Guard. ♦

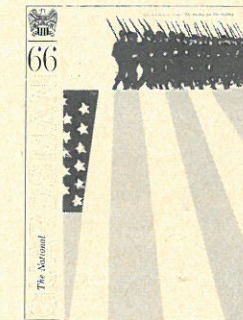
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