Major General William J. McCaddon, President, NGAUS

35th Anniversary of Normandy D-Day a Reminder of Service to the Nation

June 6, 1944. On that date, the United States, Great Britain, and Canada, along with some might units from the world had ever seen across the English Channel to commence the liberation of western Europe.

The most powerful invasion force in history fought its way ashore on the beaches of Normandy, suffering heaviest losses in history.

The Guard, and Guardsmen, constituted some of the most critical elements in that force. The 26th Infantry Division of Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia, was one of the two divisions in the initial assault element. New Jersey's 102d Armored Cavalry Regiment was a part of a follow-up wave, that afternoon. Beyond that, hundreds of Guardsmen were scattered, as individuals, through the entire force, taken from their own units after mobilization to cadre new units or attend officer training or service schools.

It was my privilege to serve as a Guardsman for a delegation representing NGAUS in France early in June, at ceremonies commemorating the 35th anniversary of D-Day.

Two events were of particular interest to Guard delegations. The first was an observance at Vierville on Omaha Beach, at the monument which this Association dedicated ten years ago. This monument resides on a site which many consider to be the most critical site in France. It is the site of the American beachhead. The monument stands on an old German pillbox, from which a German machine gun controlled the beach and opened fire on American invaders.

A similar message reciting the Guard's First World War performance adorns another face of the monument:

World War I

More than 400,000 National Guardsmen answered the call to arms when the United States mobilized its forces in 1918, and virtually every Guardsman served in France with the historic American Expeditionary Force. Approximately every fifth soldier in the A.E.F. was a citizen-soldier from the National Guard, as were 18 of the 42 combat divisions that served on French soil. National Guardsmen fought in every battle in which American troops were engaged, and of the 48,909 American military deaths, 18,238—or four out of every five Guardsmen who gave their lives that the people of France, Belgium and Holland might live, once again, in freedom and peace.

Since those world-emcompassing conflicts, Guardsmen have been called to duty, and have served effective, even heroically, during the Korean War, Vietnam, and presently in the early Sixties, and the Vietnam War.

As I read those inscriptions, thoughts of those later callups flashed through my mind, and how many lives were disrupted on each occasion when Guardsmen and Reservists were summoned, still another way, to drop their civilian responsibilities and devote as long as two years to the service of the nation.

Chairman, Committee on Retired Officers:

Representative (inactive) Company Grade Officers:
Capt. Robert B. James, Jr.

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President's Message

In this issue of The National Guard Magazine, we feature a number of articles that highlight the diverse roles and contributions of the National Guard. From training and readiness to energy crunches, the Guard continues to serve our nation with distinction. In the article "KEEP 'EM ROLLING!" we explore how the National Guard has been called upon to maintain supply lines and even move jobs in response to the trucking crisis of '79. Another important issue is the introduction of "H" models of the O-120 transponder, which have joined the Air Guard fleet, as discussed in "HERE COME THE "H" MODELS!"

The 10th General Congress of the National Guard Association is also a focal point in this issue, with the theme being inspired by General John F. Millet. This theme is evident in "THE LADIES WILL LOVE CLEVELAND," where we see no shortage of activities for the ladies attending the conference. "SAMARITAN III: AERODESIGN IN ACTION" showcases the competitive spirit among states to provide supplies to North Carolina for realistic readiness training. In "RECONNOITER TOUGH TRAIN," we delve into the rigorous training of officer candidates from Ohio and Kentucky.

The magazine also honors a private who became a Yankee AG, "THE REBEL PRIVATE WHO BECAME A YANKEE AG," illustrating the varied paths that can lead to leadership positions within the National Guard.

This issue is a testament to the Guard's enduring commitment to national defense and readiness, ensuring a strong and capable force for the nation's security.