Major General William J. McCadden, President, NGAUS

DRAFT REGISTRATION: A TEST WE CANT AFFORD TO FAIL

Now it is going to be up to the American people—all of us, not just the young men of 19 and 20—to determine whether the Selective Service registration this summer will send a message of national resolve to our friends, our foes and the uncommitted.

The legislation to provide the funds to conduct the registration is well underway, the deplorable status of the Selective Service System came six full months after the initial Presidential request. The legislative process started at the height of the nation’s frustration over the holding of the U.S. hostages in Iran and at the time of a great wave of national indignation over the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

The call for registration was not warmly received by all those who normally stand four-square for strong national security. There were questions as to why the administration, which adamantly opposed registration in the summer and fall of 1979, unexpectedly in favor of the move in January, 1980. A viewpoint was even expressed that there was no correlation with the success or failure of the all-volunteer force. For registration to be a useful purpose of registration was to provide a signal of our determination to be ready to defend U.S. national interests, if need be.

A debate ensued in which the principal issue seemed to be whether registra-
tion now would, or would not, substantially improve the Selective Service System’s ability to speed up the time needed to identify and mobilize those needed for military service in a time of national crisis. Whether we like it or not, the entire process has taken on the foiled sim- bolic effect and, indeed, a message is being formulated. This makes it all the more important that registration be accomplished quickly, quietly— and quietly. This is not a matter in which the 19 and 20 year old registrants hold all of the cards that will determine just how the registration will proceed and what message it will convey to the world as to our “resolve.”

True, there is going to be pressure on these young men to follow in the footsteps of those who helped to turn our winning war effort into a shambles and who shunted families, communities and the nation itself. For example, a Washington Post columnist, named William Greider, said he hoped that U.S. youth would “resist, not resist, at the Post Office door.”

But those who are opposed to registra-
tion are capable of far more than mere on the 19 and 20 year old. They are capable of exerting pressure on all of us. What makes the whole affair so sad is the unwillingness on our part to see the potential, ultimate disaster in this national once again as we enter what has been widely described as “a most dangerous decade” for the United States and its traditional interests.

The ink was scarcely dry on the new registration law when the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) immediately said it would take the issue to the courts. Some of the distinguished civil libertar-
tans see a requirement for military service as “indendent senility” and they prefer to “let John do it.” But the main thrust of the ACLU case in 1980 appears to be the fact that Congress did not make any provision for the registration and potential drafting of women.

Never mind that the wartime Army requirement for women is not large enough to warrant a draft of the ladys—what we now have (says ACLU) is reverse discrimination against men. What we now have is a Catch 22 situa-
tion which could, conceivably, delay the scheduled July 21-August 3summertime registration and defer it to the fail. This would, in all likelihood make it both a campaign and a partisan election issue. One can only speculate upon the spectacle which then might take place, artfully engineered in the glaring light of the television camera lens.

We truly cannot afford to be diverted by a public issue on the side issues. We have got to move ahead with this serious issue. The Kremlin is un-
doubtedly following this U.S. issue with great interest. How it comes out will be of greater significance to the movers and shakers in Moscow than the counting of Olympic gold medals.

For those of us in the National Guard, there is a great danger in the way in which our nation plans—or fails to plan—for the possibility of a rapid transition from peacetime to wartime considerations.

We understand, as do the opponents of registration, that having young Americans register now will not add one, single trained soldier or airman to the forces whic is going to meet the first enemy threats should it someday come to an armed showdown between the two super powers.

We have put in the National Guard register and we know that this will not put any new manpower into the volunteer force of the National Guard. But we are persuaded, given the appropriate and necessary support by the Defense Department, we can provide Army and Air National Guard units with places alongside active forces in a wartime structure. We feel it would be a terrible thing if, as we’ve heard, the Senate, responding to a wartime environment, we then have to scramble around to divert the manpower that would be needed to conduct registration—and all that goes with it in war time—just to get out of the way of politics.

Registration has been for, several years, one of the goals of this Associa-
tion. We also stand for the screening (Continued on page 38)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Area I (CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, RI, VT)

Area II (DE, DC, WV, VA, MD, NC, OH, PA, WV, VA)

Area III (ME, PA, NH, SC, TN, VA, WV)

Area IV (VI, AK, CA, CO, NM, ND, NE, SD, WY)

Area V (MD, VA, D.C., Del., ME, Mass., RI, Vt., W.V.)

Area VI (AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY)

Chairman, Committee on Resolutions

Col Gen Robert F. Moulthrop (RI)

Representative, Company Grade Officers:

Col Richard B. James, JR. (NY)

Past Presidents:

Col Gen James F. Cattrell (NJ)

Col Gen Duane L. Corning (SD)

Cover: An A-10 prepares for a sortie at sunset during RCAF Res. Unit’s new page 136 of 138, Avs. UBAF and design by Tom Powers of Bill Dudley Associates.

THE NATIONAL GUARD MAGAZINE

ISSN 0163-3945

Published monthly by the National Guard Magazine Association, Inc., 1801 Independence Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20006. Telephone: (202) 944-3111. Second class postage paid at Washington, D.C., and at additional mailing offices. Copyright 1980 by the National Guard Magazine Association, Inc. Rights reserved. All members of the NGAUS receive the National Guard Magazine. Nonmember subscriptions: 12 per year domestic; $5 per year foreign. Bulk rate for 100 or more copies to the address: 25¢ each. Single copies 50¢. The Editor welcomes original articles bearing on national defense, with emphasis on application to or implications for the National Guard. Manuscripts and art work cannot be accompanied by return postage; no responsibility is assumed for safe handling. Opinions expressed by authors do not necessarily represent official NGAUS positions or policy. Likewise, publication of advertising cannot be deemed an endorsement thereof by this Association or its members.

DEPARTMENTS

President’s Message Inside Front Cover

From Washington 2

Newsbreaks 4

View from the Hill 24

People in the News 30

Posting the Guard 34

Memo for the Record 40

PUBLICATION STAFF

BRIG. GEN. BRUCE JACOBS, FB. PUBLISHER

COL. RAYMOND E. BELL, JR., EDITOR

S. CAROL J. DUNN, ASSISTANT EDITOR

JOHN E. HARB, ADVERTISING

DON DESAI, CIRCULATION

FEATURES

The Medical Connection 8

Shock Trauma Center provides oasis of medical training

The Wait Wears Thin 11

Problems at Fort Chaffee Cuban relocation center eased by Guard

On the Edge of the Mojave 14

Exercise PDF-Red Flag provides a lesson in combat readiness

Another Show at Sea Base 17

New Hampshire Guard faces anti-nuclear demonstrators for fifth time

The Calisthenics of Military Preparedness 20

STARC ready for Proud Spirit/MOBEX ’80

She Roared and Blew—but the Cleanup Has Just Begun

Cleanup continues after devastating gale of Mt. St. Helen’s

Manning, Modernization, Mobilization 20

1802 General Conference to address readiness as major theme

AUGUST 1980 VOLUME XXXIV, NUMBER 7

COVER: An A-10 prepares for a sortie at sunset during RCAF Res. Unit’s new page 34. Photo by 131Avs. UBAF and design by Tom Powers of Bill Dudley Associates.