A sea of change in American politics

This year, more than 60 members of the House already have declared they either are running for something else or retiring. What primary elections in congressional races also are showing is that incumbents are being defeated by challengers. Further, the challengers often are novices at politics, not the local elected officials or members of legislatures who traditionally have moved up when congressional seats changed hands.

In this election year, it is imperative that all National Guard members get involved at the grass roots level. Ask questions and only accept straightforward answers.

This situation will provide both an opportunity and a challenge for the National Guard family. It will be a challenge, particularly if we find—as seems to be indicated—that we have upwards of 200 new members of Congress in January 1993 rather than the handful we have had in recent years.

A freshman class of 200-plus will be a volatile mix. It will be composed of men and women with few allegiances, certain not the allegiances to special interests promoted by the fact that political action committees (PACs) often have donated the lion’s share of a successful incumbent’s campaign money. This is the case now.

Such a change also can be a great opportunity for the National Guard. Unlike whatever adversaries we have in the nation’s capital, the National Guard’s success in the political arena always has had its greatest strength at the grass roots level. Thus, the November 3 election provides a mandate for the National Guard’s leaders. Get involved at the local level. Find out who your candidates for Congress are. Ask them questions.

"Do you favor or oppose the DOD’s proposal to deactivate units in your state?"

"Do you favor or oppose doing one third of the armories in your state and this district?"

"Do you favor or oppose increased reliance on the Guard and Reserve as a time of lessened international tensions and global threat?"

All candidates for House and Senate offices, as well as for governor, should be asked such questions, plus any others you can think of that should keep track of the response. Daley is affordable for general support for a strong national defense. Force candidates to be specific if they are incumbents. Ask them where they stand on the cut list.

Ask them if they have committed support that support of Secretry of Defense and GENUT’s position of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the chief architect of national strategy.

And finally, talk to your colleagues, and your subordinates. If they talk about the people in the future of a strong National Guard, the 1992 election is one they too, will want to become involved with. That includes getting involved with the political process as well as voting and encouraging others to do so.

What do we do about the (RF) in Bunt?"

This is an opportunity to promote what we have accomplished in the past, how we will continue to promote our future in the present, how we will protect our future in the future.

If you are not interested, you are not interested.

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