Major General Edward R. Fry, President, NGAUS

A RELECTION ON THE DEFENSE OF THE clearly that we are among friends.

They think we represent an impressive team.

But the best thing about these gentle-

men—and something we have to believe

bodes well for us—is their real and evident

friendliness and keen interest in the role

of the National Guard. It has been almost

an article of faith for new appointees to

start with a dismal lack of information.

A commonly heard phrase around the Na-

tional Guard Bureau and the National

Guard Association of the United States

(NGAUS) is the somewhat frustrating

comment that a newcomer in a vital spot

in the Pentagon "doesn't know how to

spell National Guard." Not so with any of these gentlemen—and especially the two whose day-to-day work will bring them into the very closest association with us—Messrs. Korb and Phibin. To borrow a Naval phrase, we like the idea of having our sleeves rolled up. Through their work, we look forward to working with them.

Since all relationships are two-way con-

duits, we, for our part, hope they can re-

flect with satisfaction upon their first

formal association with NGAUS. Most of

our association, needless to say, will not

be under such formal circumstances nor

in public view. Much of it will be routine

assignment correspondence and rubber

shoulders during congressional testimony.

We hope these gentlemen left Bicxi

with an understanding of what we do and

and how we attempt to do it. We hope

they came away with the realization that

they were, above all, among friends. There

is no adversary relationship between us.

Even friends sometimes disagree as to

how common goals and objectives should

be reached. And so it is logical to con-

dude that we will not always agree

on tactics or methods.

But we do hope they saw us in a firm ally

in the cause of improved U.S. national

security, for this is what NGAUS is all

about. We are proud of the fact that from

the earliest origins of the NGAUS in the

late 19th century to the right down to the

current era, we have always put the interests of the nation ahead of our parochial interests. We fight like tigers for the things we believe the National Guard needs—to make it more effective and more efficient as an element of national defense.

To sum it up for the readers of this col-

umn, we have met the new civilian leaders

of the Pentagon and we came away with

the feeling that we were among friends

and among skilled professionals, who know what has to be done.

1985

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COVER: The 14th Tactical Fighter Wing of the Colorado Air National Guard was the winner of Gunsmoke '81, the air-to-air France-wheeling competition held for the first time since 1982. Air Guardsmen like the one on the cover put on an impressive show in the Nevada desert.

NGAUS, Inc. December 1981. The NGAUS, Guam Magazine (ISSN 0162-9345) is published monthly, by the National Guard Association of the States, with editorial and advertising offices at One Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001, Telephone (202) 789-0011. Second class post age paid at Washington, D.C., and at additional mailing offices. Copyright 1981 by the National Guard Association of the U.S. All rights reserved. All members of the NGAUS receive National Guard, NGAUS, Inc. member subscriptions $4 per year domestic; $5 per year foreign. Bulk rate for 100 or more copies of one issue to the same address: $24.95 each. Single copies 50¢. The Editor welcomes original articles bearing national defense, with emphasis on application to or implications for the National Guard. Manuscripts and artwork must 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 endorsed an agreement thereof by this Association or its members.