A CREDIBLE DETERRENCE AIDS FOREIGN POLICY

It has been said many times that the best way to assure we won't have to fight the next war is to prepare properly for it. That is perhaps the most important implication of the theme of the 104th General Conference of the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS), "The National Guard and the Nation's Foreign Policy."

At the turn of the year NGAUS president, General William E. Ingram, expressed the Guard's role in the Total Force Policy. "There's no Army without the Army Guard, and there's no Air Force without the Air Guard," said General. "All of our planning is based on the Total Force Policy. Since the 1970's we've organized, equipped, trained and deployed forces as a total force. If we're called again, we'll fight as one force." "No longer do we distinguish between the active and reserve components. There's no need to," said Secretary of the Army John O. Marsh, Jr. and General both noted that a conventional conflict remains a more serious threat than a strategic nuclear exchange between the United States and the Soviet Union, or even the use of tactical nuclear weapons.

"The most likely type of conflict in which we find ourselves engaged will be either in unconventional or conventional warfare," Marshal said, "(to) it is absolutely essential that we have a force for strengthening the conventional resources of the Army because conventional strength - I am convinced - will enable us not only to stay off the conventional battlefield, but indeed to stay off the nuclear battlefield."

General added: "The most likely then, around the world today would be conventional efforts to contain the war... we can get a big payoff in the conventional area, and that is where the Guard should be the most interested." To which Phiblin added: "The very existence of the National Guard must cause the political and military leaders of the Soviet Union to have serious second thoughts about any moves they might make. How could they possibly not weigh the existance of the world's only standing armed forces... they must question the advisability of any confrontation with the United States when you nagged them militiamen, individually and in units, consistently prove your prowess by winning service-wide combat-skills competitions and demonstrate your superb fighting ability in major exercises.

"There must be torrents of querulous questions on Red Square about the fact that the United States enfranchises a major portion of the nation to Guardsmen. I expect the Soviets are not as confident of arming their citizens as we are of arming ours."

While praising the Guard for its contributions, none of the San Juan speakers overlooked the need to make improvements over the next few years. Some, like General, emphasized the need for equipment modernization and the best use of existing systems. The Guard is waiting for the latest new issue. Others, like Marshal, talked more about individual training and physical fitness. Both sides of the issue must be addressed by Guard leadership and by defense and congressional leaders. The Guard speaks with a two years voice on national leadership if the Army and Air National Guard are to truly serve as an extension of the regulars and to other potential enemies of the United States.

To make progress in achieving full combat readiness for the Army and Air Guard, this Association will re-examine its efforts to contain the war... we can get a big payoff in the conventional area, and that is where the Guard should be the most interested." To which Phiblin added: "The very existence of the National Guard must cause the political and military leaders of the Soviet Union to have serious second thoughts about any moves they might make. How could they possibly not weigh the existance of the world's only standing armed forces... they must question the advisability of any confrontation with the United States when you nagged them militiamen, individually and in units, consistently prove your prowess by winning service-wide combat-skills competitions and demonstrate your superb fighting ability in major exercises.

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12 NATIONAL GUARD AND THE NATION'S FOREIGN POLICY Many speakers discussed the impact of the Guard in a full combat mission National Guard on the nation's foreign policy.

Top UNITS, INDIVIDUALS HONORED Fourteen individuals and units received awards from NGAUS.

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COYER-Congressman Bill Nichols (D-AL) was the keynote speaker of the 104th General Conference. "The National Guard Association of the United States is a bastion of our democracy... General James Washington and John O. Marsh, Jr. were the keynote speakers for Army and Air..."