HISTORY SPEAKS FOR RETAINING A STRONG DEFENSE STRUCTURE

Federal support was furnished to the states. Jefferson had a penchant for the smaller standing force supported by a prepared Militia force. He sought the legislation to strengthen the Militia, but it failed in Congress. The concept did not disappear however.

With Great Britain was declared on June 18, 1812. To respond, Congress authorized a land forces of approximately 160,000 men, of which 100,000 were Militiamen. No mobilization plan was in place to meet sustain, train and employ such a large force. Despite this, we went to war and won.

Immediately following the War of 1812, the Army was reduced to 10,000 men. The Militia forces were sent home and Federal Volunteers disbanded. Between the War of 1812 and the War with Mexico, the nation did little to address a strong Militia to balance the small standing force. Again we entered the War with Mexico in 1846 with little or no thought to mobilization or preparedness.

U.S. armed forces entered the Spanish-American War ill-prepared as in previous 19th century conflicts. For the first time, except the War with Mexico, mobilization of the National Guard for a foreign war had begun. The National Guard reported in better condition than it had in previous wars. Most of its officers had had military training and experience from the Civil War. However, equipment was minimal and outdated. Training was hampered by the constant influx of new recruits into the units.

The aftermath of the Spanish-American War was the thrust for the modern day National Guard. Imperialism abroad and a member of Congress, Charles Dick, who came forward to repair the damage of previous mobilizations. Through his leadership his colleagues will enhance his unit for what was. Dick, act to be the National Guard began to receive the federal recognition and support it needed.

In 1892 during this era, 1892 to 1914, that the National Guard fought some of its most bitter battles of principle and survival. Throughout this era, Guard leadership delivered a message that is echoed even today - individuals do not win wars, teams and units win wars. Therefore, the proper equipment, training, and benefits of the National Guard can provide a reliable, cost-effective force.

After years of internal battles, it was the National Defense Act of 1916 that clearly outlined the nation's mission needs as an emerging world leader. The regular Army was increased to 175,000, the Army Reserve was established and the National Guard was guaranteed as the secondary defense force.

The Guard was mobilized in 1916 to the Mexican Border War to fight Poncho Villa. The mobilization was almost a dress rehearsal for the First World War. Great debate revolved around the ability of the National Guard to mobilize and deploy to fight in support of national interests. The concept that the Guard had done an admirable job and simultaneously was ready for World War I.

World Wars I and II, the great battles of the United States, demanded full participation from all the elements of these forces. Wars were little doubt that the standing army will build a global level with a trained, ready National Guard in each conflict, the Guard deploys with modern equipment and training to meet the standards. After these wars, power was drawn down and equipment became outdated in the replacement.

Korea and Vietnam again proved the precedents wrong. The military history speaks for itself and the fact that the United States.

Alabama Guard Gives Aid

Floods from the north, mixed with Alabama’s hot weather, forced a killer tornado that ripped through Huntsville, Ala. Guard members went to work immediately, searching for victims, aiding in the cleanup and providing security.

COVER:
Following an earthquake that devastated the San Francisco Bay area, the California National Guard mobilized. Before a landslide in the Santa Cruz Mountains could be cleared, SFC Steven Brown from D Company, 579th Engineer Battalion, cuts away the uprooted trees. Photo, SFC Jim Ober, Design, Johnson Design Group.

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WAFRICHTER: Realistic Combat Training

The Civilian Combat Training Program is a computer-driven program designed to be as realistic in simulating combat that soldiers might face. Although 300,000 veteran and corps commanders can go to war without firing a shot, the military's role in training and combat readiness is an important one for the National Guard.