THE NEW YEAR OF 1988: AN END AND A BEGINNING

Part of this exercise, it has become clear, will be efforts to reduce Defense spending from projected levels. We have felt somewhat comfortable with much of what is contained in the Department of Defense’s Program Objective Memorandum (POM). But if the POM can’t be financed, where will we be? Choices will have to be made. Our efforts to support the Legislative Action Plan will be in the direction of articulating, explaining and ensuring that the conventional weapons and equipment needed by the Army and Air Guard are given sufficient priority in the procurement process so that our well-kept dates for equipment issue aren’t well into the 21st century.

“Commanders are the epitome of the grass roots. Commanders, who have to make units combat ready, are our most effective spokesmen.”

In pursuing this course, we are executing the mission our members agree upon at each NGAUS General Conference when the delegates adopt resolutions. Sixty-three resolutions were adopted in Portland last September, enjoining us to work for the goals they espouse. A majority of these resolutions express a requirement that can best be addressed by Congress.

With the distribution of our Legislative Action Plan, the ball shifts from the Capitol Hill court to the court of our members at the grass roots. Several groups will have a role in accomplishing their part of the mission.

Adjutants General. Without the support of the chain of command in the states, our program faces great difficulty. As a state official, an adjutant general has the opportunity to be the most effective spokesman for the National Guard’s requirements with the public officials from his state, also can turn his leadership loose work all its will at the grass roots. In the most effective mechanism, have for getting the word to the people who make things happen.

State Associations. State associations have a key role to play in making any legislative action possible. They have organized and the second program in the wake of the congressional hearings that AGR programs should be reviewed for cost-effectiveness and manpower requirements.

PLDC. A Do-It-Yourself Course

The program has been more than three years old and integrated into all the states. The PLDC has developed into one of the best training tools for junior NCOs. Hand-on, common task training and field training exercise planned and conducted by the same junior NCOs has developed the Army’s best into fighting soldiers, regardless of what MOS is held.

QRMC Studies Guard/Reserve Retirement

QRMC Studies Guard/Reserve Retirement. Governor Kenner called the 6th Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation to study Guard and Reserve military benefits. One member of the group study writes of the benefits the retirement system has offered to build strength among the reserve compo-