MOBILIZATION: THE REASON FOR READINESS

The worst of times and the best of times...Charles Dickens' words frame the tale of Two Cities are more applicable today than ever before. We, as a nation, are living in the best of times. Since World War II, our nation has had a defense posture of strength through readiness. In the closing months of this decade, it is this military posture and a worsening economic situation in communities throughout the country that has forced the communist community toward more democratic policies.

Is it too bold now to say that we have won the Cold War? The Berlin Wall is cracked; there is an open flow of people between East and West Germany. The Czechoslovakian Communist Party is practically null and void at this point in time and the people are preparing for free and open elections. The United States is sending economic aid to Poland and Hungary. At the very least, the Cold War is thawing quickly.

But these events also are creating the worst of times. The democratization that seems to be occurring rampant in Europe and the United States is bringing about a broad speculation that our nation does not need to continue its policy of strength through readiness. Obviously, the administration, our congressional leaders, the Department of Defense and the Total Force will need to respond to the strong demands to immediately reduce our forces. But that black cloud is not a sign of a wide range of cuts, including the possible loss of five wings in the Total Air Force, two or more divisions in the Total Army; and as many carrier groups in the Navy that they give the appearance of an unreasoned flurry of activity rather than a measured, logical reaction to change.

The world environment is tenuous at best. It is hard to any reductions are to deny the perilous nature of demilitarization, glasnost and perestroika. As new initiatives are being established, the Soviet government is simultaneously sending alternate signals, both indicating a slowdown in rearmament, the denial of a reunification of the two Germanies and a continuing commitment to Warsaw Pact members that their alliance will remain as strong as ever. The Tiananmen Square incident in China demonstrated how abruptly democratic movements can be shut down. Currently, the Department of Defense, as directed by Congress, is undertaking a full study of force structure/mix of forces that will most likely define the Total Force well into the 21st century. Budget constraints, the rapid changing world and the declining level of support for a large defense establishment presage significant changes in calculating the strength of our nation and the defense structure required to meet that threat.

The pressure to respond to world events has led to renewed calls for a reduction in our defense structure in order to maintain research, development, deployment and procurement of modern and more capable weapon systems. Additionally, we already have seen there is a demand for review and quite possibly adjustment of current burden sharing with our allies around the world.

Facing all these ramifications, the National Guard Association of the United States is not the entity to define the threat and cannot determine the qualitative optimum force mix currently meeting the threat. What we can and must do is continue to work to ensure that the forces that are placed in the Guard are sufficiently resourced in all key readiness areas to be able to mobilize and perform our assigned war-time missions.

We are on the right track. However, we still have a long way to go. Our great strides in the 80s have come from the maturing of the Total Force Policy. This policy and the strong support from the members of Congress that have allowed the National Guard to be more ready than ever before in its service to the nation. We can be assured during these tempestuous times that the Total Force Policy will continue as the viable defense posture to provide the nation with affordable, as well as well-trained, ready forces. Through this haze of projection and predictions more times than not it has been proven to be the right choice.

The 169th wins GUNSOMKE '89
South Carolina Air National Guard's 169th Tactical Fighter Group came out on top during this year's GUNSOMKE '89 competition flying F-16s. This was their third time competing in a GUNSOMKE competition, and as one crew chief said, "It's a bad feeling being number one this year."

Log Leaders Speak Out
The Honorable Michael P.W. Stone, Secretary of the Army; Maj. Gen. John B. Conway, vice chief, National Guard Bureau; MG Ronald Bertoldi, director, Army National Guard; Maj. Gen. Philip Kilby, director, Air National Guard, discuss the National Guard's role in the 1990s and its readiness capabilities. LTG Herbert R. Temple Jr., chief of the National Guard Bureau, gives his farewell thoughts to the Guard community.

A Soviet Perspective of the Army Guard
There is no definitive answer as to how the Soviet military hierarchy views the U.S. National Guard and its capabilities. A North Carolina Army Guardman tries to give us some insight into their thinking. One thing is certain, there has been increased Soviet interest in the National Guard over the past few years.

Simulators—The Wave of the Future
Equipment simulators have proven to be a cost-effective and a time-efficient way to meet training requirements allotted to units on a large scale. In 1986, the National Guard Bureau began funding the development of its own simulator, GUARDFIEST 1, which trains pilots. Simulators have now evolved into all areas of the services.

Army and Air National Guard Equipment
Analog and digital equipment has put together a list and describe has brought us to the point of how the Cold War and strengthens its capability to support defense movements throughout the world.

Cover:
Maj George "Jet" Jernigan, team captain for the 169th Tactical Fighter Group, South Carolina Air National Guard, completes his preflight inspection before taking off during the GUNSOMKE '89 competition. The 169th was the overall winner at this year's GUNSOMKE. Photo, Paul Bower, Design, Johnson Design Group.