

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

on the Total Force.

Volume XLIII, Number 7



COVER:

The plight of three California gray whales trapped off the coast of Alaska captured the attention of the nation and the world. Coordinating the rescue effort was the Alaska National Guard. Shown is an Alaska National Guardsman comforting a trapped whale. Photo, SPC Wade Palmer, AKNG. Design, Johnson Design Group.

CHANGES IN THE NGAUS' ELECTIONS PROCESS UNDER CONSIDERATION

NGAUS General Conference last fall in San Antonio will agree, I'm sure, that the election for president was an interesting and in some ways exciting experience. What many also would agree is that the conduct of that election demonstrated that some changes are needed to improve the process.

To that end, shortly after assuming the presidency, I appointed a special study committee headed by Maj Gen Drennan A. (Tony) Clark of Nevada to examine what happened in San Antonio (and before) and what could be done to avoid the pitfalls experienced in the conduct of the 1988 election.

First, it should be noted that 1988 was not the first time we have had vigorously contested elections in the NGAUS. Neither is it the first time we have had vigorously contested elections for president. However, it was the first time we have had two sitting NGAUS vice presidents, one Army and one Air, competing over the future leadership of this Association. This was one aspect of the experience that begged for examination.

What did seem new in the 1988 experience was that the emotions between the two camps were much more exaggerated last year.

The Clark Committee identified several reasons why. One, of course, might be that both candidates for president last year brought long experience, very senior status and vast networks of supporters. Thus, both Mai Gen Francis R. Gerard of New Jersey and I found ourselves with strong followings as we pursued our campaigns from home station to San Antonio and the Conference.

What was different last year was the change in the NGAUS By Laws in 1986 that made it more likely we would run against each other. This was the change, brought in good faith as a good idea, that the NGAUS have two vice presidents instead of one as before: vice president/Army and vice president/Air. But going further than

hose who attended the 110th that, in changing the By Laws, the It also recommended that one provision that prohibits either an NGAUS president or vice president from running for reelection was retained for both vice presidents. That created a sort of "up-or-out" system.

> It should be noted here that this provision of non-reelection was put in the By Laws in the 1960s for good and sufficient reason. Over the years, we had had several NGAUS presidents who sought and won reelection for several or many terms. Such a system may have been useful in the times of such towering National Guard leaders as Ellard A. Walsh and Milton A. Reckord in the pre- and post-World War II period. Now, however, it would be an impediment to vigorous and vounger leadership.

> This year at the NGAUS 111th General Conference, delegates will be asked to approve a slight change in this procedure as a first step in helping us avoid another tumultuous presidential election in 1990. At the instigation of our immediate past president, MG Ansel M. Stroud Jr., the NGAUS Executive Council is proposing merely to delete the provision that prohibits a vice president from seeking reelection. This may and probably will allow the Nominating Committee to propose a name for president and then recommend reelection of the other vice president. And, of course, should the Nominating Committee choose a third party as its candidate for president, both vice presidents could be renominated.

> G oing beyond this, the remainder of the Clark Committee's ideas have been referred to the NGAUS Long Range Planning Committee for further study and refinement, and possible presentation to the General Conference in some future year. The Clark Committee recommended, for example, that the office of immediate past president be abolished, that the office of "president elect" be created.

presidency be eliminated. This ide FEATURES would be designed to smooth the: cendency to the top position in Association, create continuity amor the officers (which the immediate n president now is designed to provide and to encourage those wishing Representative G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery to begin at the bottom.

gone by—and in some other organd Representative Dave McCurdy (D-Oklahoma) and its effect nizations-men and women who a pire to the presidency begin by se ing election to a lower office. In NGAUS, it has proved valuable if the have served a term or two on the BRIM FROST: Air Base Ground Defense worth pursuing.

The Clark Committee also ha some other ideas. It suggested the so long as the Executive Council hall two positions for retired/separate members, that retired Guardsmer be permitted to serve in the position on the Council (one Ar one Air from each of six areas). would match the current requirement that the adjutant general mem from each of the areas be a servi AG, and that when he ceases to be li TAG, he automatically leaves Council. We would appreciate membership's views on this idea.

Another idea, which I have per ally supported for some years, l abolish the two at-large com grade members and elect one pany grade member from each of six National Guard areas. That P posal, also, went to the Long Ra Planning Committee.

It should be added, finally, another approach is to do noth it ain't broke, don't fix it' al policy that should be followed circumstances dictate.

The officers and the Council will be supporting at troit Conference the one name posed By Laws change men the outset. We look forward ing from you on these propos

lead this Association as a top office NATIONAL GUARD Magazine talks with Representative G.V. Sonny" Montgomery (D-Mississippi) about the national service This latter notion has merit. In year bill introduced into Congress by Senator Sam Nunn (D-Georgia)

Executive Council. This is an ide The 274th Military Police Company, District of Columbia Army tional Guard, was given the opportunity to train in air base round defense during operation BRIM FROST in Alaska. This mission evolved into a rear area security mission, which denanded close coordination between the Army and Air Guard

Alaska's National Guard Is in the News

her the past year, no matter what newspaper you picked up, it's most guaranteed that you would come across a story involving e Alaska National Guard. From the rescue efforts on behalf of trapped California gray whales to the rescue of seven lost drus hunters, the National Guard was on duty.

erial Refueling Issues Discussed

demand for aerial refueling has grown dramatically over the The NGAUS 2007 Report discusses the Air National and tanker force and its recommendations for meeting future

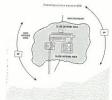
ation Switch and the Arizona Guard Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Ari-

ational Guard, originated Operation Switch in order to I traditional Guardsmen with the opportunity to plan, and accomplish a unit training assembly without the ion of the full-time work force.



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