CHANGES IN THE NGAUS' ELECTIONS PROCESS UNDER CONSIDERATION

Those who attended the 110th NGAUS General Conference last fall in Sandusky, Ohio, I'm sure, are aware that the election for president was an interesting and in some ways exciting exercise in the art of "up-or-out" system. I also would agree that the conduct of that election demonstrated some changes that are needed to improve the process.

To that end, shortly after assuming the presidency, I appointed a special task force led 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 for the future leadership of this Association.

This was one aspect of the experience that beggared for examination. What we learned from the 1988 experience was that the emotions between the two camps were much more intense than in the past.

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 Maj Gen Francis R. Gerard of New Jersey and I found ourselves with strong attacks 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 that, in changing the By Laws, the provision that prohibits either an NGAUS president or vice president from running for reelection was retained for both vice presidents. That it should be noted here that this provision of non-re-election was put in the By Laws in the 1980s for good and sufficient reason. Over the years, we 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. Fieckord in the pre- and post-World War II period. Now, however, it would be an impediment to vigorous and younger 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, Maj Gen 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 nominated.

Go 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 offices of immediate past president be abolished, that the office of 'president elect' be created.

It also recommended that one presidency be eliminated. This was designed to smooth the transition to the top position in the Association, create continuity and the officers (who this immediately past president now is designed to provide and to encourage those who wish to lead this Association as a top officer at the beginning of the term.

This latter notion has merit. I hope by doing so we have a term of two or three years in the Executive Council. This is a term of real worth pursuing.

The Committee also reviewed other ideas. It suggested so long as the Executive Council has two positions for retired senior members, that retired General be permitted to serve in the position on the Council from one Air from each of six areas would match the current requirement that the adjutant general of each of the areas be a General of assigned status and that when he ceases to be TASC, he automatically resigns from Council. We would appreciate membership views on this idea.

Another idea, which I have strongly supported for some years, is to abolish the two-at-large senior grade members and elect one junior grade member from each of six National Guard areas. The post, also, went to the Long Range Planning Committee.

It should be added, finally, that this is another approach to the problem of a TASC's having an important policy that should be followed in the circumstances dictate. The officers and the Executive Council will be supporting any change that the常委会 is able to accomplish by Laws change means, as well.

Air Refueling Issues Discussed

Aerospace magazine's Editorial, "Air Refueling has grown dramatically over the years. A much needed new frame for its recommendations for meeting future needs in air refueling." The NGAUS 1987 Report discusses the Air National Guard's needs for air refueling and its recommendations for meeting future needs in the field.

Operation Switch and the Arizona Guard

The NGAUS sponsored an Operation Switch, not to be confused with the Operation Switch, which is a traditional guard with the opportunity to plan, the composure to the full training assembly without the

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NATIONAL GUARD
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Representative G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery

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