



James F. Cantwell
President

National Guard Association
of the United States

Guardsmen: Extraordinary Citizens

THE kind of people who volunteer to join the National Guard are people who demonstrate by that very act that they are not just ordinary citizens, they are more interested in serving others than in serving only their material appetites. Their generosity extends not only to performing a military job, but also to employing the skills that they possess and their vast resources in helping solve the problems of our society.

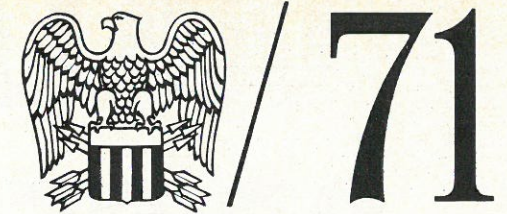
Since the National Guard from the days of Concord traditionally has been rooted in the community in which it is located, each unit shares the responsibilities of the community and participates in a variety of community programs. We now call this domestic action.

On 28 April the Department of Defense recognized many National Guard units by awarding them plaques and certificates for their outstanding service in their local areas. A list of the Guard units who received these awards is contained elsewhere in this issue. But this list includes only an infinitesimal number of National Guard elements that have performed magnificently in helping solve many problems that vex our communities and in improving the quality of American life.

These programs are conducted entirely on a voluntary basis. No pay is involved. Guardsmen contribute from their extra time, and sometimes entirely fund from their own pockets the cost of food and recreation where underprivileged children are concerned.

These activities range from State-wide to local ecology and environmental problems, support to needy and underprivileged persons, assistance to governmental agencies, and service projects to youth activities. Many projects are continuous, year-'round ones; some are one-time as the need is seen. The sum total of Guard efforts adds to a staggering amount. Yet each one relates a Guard unit closely to its community.

While we congratulate and pay tribute to these award winners for this outstanding service to community and Nation, we would be remiss if we failed to also recognize the thousands and thousands of individual services performed almost on a daily basis by nearly every National Guard unit in our troop lists. Our Nation owes its thanks and gratitude to each of you who have participated in this area of action. It is a demonstration of the great humanitarianism which has typified the National Guard throughout its history. ♦



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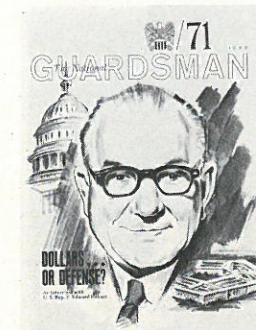
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"Tar Heel" Guardsmen prove the mission possible.



The U.S. Capitol, the Pentagon and Rep. F. Edward Hébert, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, are a natural combination.

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