



Major General William E. Ingram, President, NGAUS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MOBILIZATION TRAINING AT ANNUAL TRAINING

How often does the average Guardsman think about mobilization? And how seriously does that Guardsman—even the average Guard officer—take the idea that he or she might actually be called into federal service in time of international crisis or war and sent off to a faraway combat zone?

A letter to the editor that appears on Page 4 of this issue bears consideration by Guard commanders on the aforementioned subject. Captain Gary A. Gault, the Army Guard ROTC instructor at Christopher Newport College in Newport News, Virginia, points out that very few Guardsmen were involved in the 1968 mobilization for the Vietnam War. That means several generations of active Guardsmen have never been mobilized nor really faced the very serious prospect that they would be. To have been involved in the 1950 or 1961 mobilizations, a Guardsman would have to have served at least 21 or 32 years. Therefore, mobilization and what it entails from a personal and combat-readiness point of view are merely shadowy ideas for many Guardsmen. This means the urgency of preparing for mobilization must constantly be reemphasized by those who were mobilized for one or more of the earlier wars or threats of war.

This subject is being discussed and reenforced today for several additional reasons. The first is that the active Army and Air Force are taking great interest in the training readiness and the mobilization condition of Guard units and individuals. The Air Force has done well at this for a number of years, including its interest on aircraft modernization and providing more flying hours for aircrews. Now, the Army is quickly catching up by enforcing its decision to equip first the units that deploy first. This policy also is being translated into ammunition allocations and other resources, such as full-time military manning for training.

A second reason why the active components are taking additional interest in Guard readiness is the extent to which they are dependent on Guard units to go to war. In the February issue of NATIONAL GUARD, Lieutenant General John Kingston, commander of the U.S. Central Command (formerly the Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force) said his organization can't go to war without utilizing most of the 100,000-man mobilization authority provided to the president short of a formal declaration of national emergency. This fact coupled with the growing awareness of most active Army and Air Force commanders of the Army and Air Guard's crucial role in any future conflict or world crisis means the Guard's readiness to mobilize promptly and efficiently has become the most important single mission of commanders.

What should commanders, particularly Army Guard commanders at the battalion and up size, do? One thing all could do is build more mobilization factors into all training, and particularly into annual training. Major General Herbert R. Temple, director of the Army Guard, notes that the 15 days of annual training each year are nearly identical to the training time many Guard units would have between the time they move to the mobilization stations from home station and the time they would deploy overseas and must be ready for combat.

This means that any battalion, brigade or division commander in the Army Guard can simulate a mobilization each year by studying his mobilization and deployment schedule and working backwards on it to approximate the days of post-mobilization work for any section or team. Hence, they could assign appropriate missions so the unit would simulate deploying to the mobilization station on the first day of annual training, simulate the training required for combat readiness at annual training and then evaluate how *really* ready for combat the unit is, in concert with

the AT evaluation that is reviewed the last couple days of camp.

Similarly, in the Air Guard, where mobilization times are much shorter, mobilization and deployment could even be practiced on a weekend training assembly, with an "alert" given at the beginning of the weekend training and an evaluation of how ready the unit was to "fly away" by Sunday night. The Air Guard is ahead of the Army Guard already on this count because such mobilization factors are tested as a part of recurring inspections.

Exercises of this sort can be done either informally by commanders who decide to test their ability to accomplish the mobilization or through a more formal process called a Mobilization and Deployment Exercise (MODEX) sanctioned by the National Guard Bureau. A MODEX is a highly realistic exercise undergone by an increasing number of units in which all activities associated with mobilization are executed, including all administrative procedures and even inoculations and the issue of equipment. A few units that have done MODEXs in connection with OCONUS training have then deployed overseas much as they would in time of war or international crisis. The lessons they learned and the experiences of unit members who have undergone such training and benefited from the exercises are invaluable.

But if you are a battalion commander, you don't require the resources required of a MODEX nor the luxury of OCONUS training to do many of the things that yield the same lessons and the same training results. If you begin planning soon with an eye to simulating mobilization and deployment at annual training 1984, particularly if your mobilization station is where your annual training will be conducted, you can do most of the same things a MODEX would require within your own unit.

What you learn will be worth the effort.

1878



1983

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MARCH 1983

NATIONAL GUARD

Official publication of the National Guard Association of the United States

March 1983 Volume XXXVII, Number 3



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The 97th Congress "finally" adjourned just before Christmas after passing the Defense Department budget, including add-ons for National Guard equipment. The 98th Congress then convened January 3.

12 ROLE PERCEPTIONS

Leaders and supervisors often act out roles. What they expect from subordinates often determines performance levels.

20 AERIAL PORTS

The Indiana Army Guard STARC ran a major Departure Arrival Airfield (aerial port) at Indianapolis for the Guard, Reserves, active Army.

23 FLYING THE ACADEMY

T-43 aircraft assigned to the Colorado Air Guard have a major mission supporting the Air Force Academy Airmanship program.

28 RETURN TO MANAGUA

Tennessee C-130 crew assisted in film of Nicaragua event they really participated in.

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COVER: Alabama Guardsmen arriving from Montgomery at Indianapolis Departure/Arrival Airfield (aerial port) unload from C-131 prior to boarding Air Force C-141 for trip to REFORGER. Indiana airfield processed Guardsmen, reservists and active Army personnel for overseas missions. Photo, 120th PAD, Indiana ARNG

NATIONAL GUARD, March 1983. The NATIONAL GUARD Magazine (ISSN 0163-3945) is published monthly, by the National Guard Association of the United States, with editorial and advertising offices at One Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. Telephone (202) 789-0031. Second class postage paid at Washington, D.C., and at additional mailing offices. Copyright 1983 by the National Guard Association of the U.S. All rights reserved. All members of the NGAUS receive NATIONAL GUARD. Nonmember subscriptions: \$4 per year domestic; \$5 per year foreign. Bulk rate for 100 or more copies of one issue to the same address: 25¢ each. Single copies 50¢. The Editor welcomes original articles bearing on national defense, with emphasis on application to or implications for the National Guard. Manuscripts and artwork must be accompanied by return postage; no responsibility is assumed for safe handling. Opinions expressed by authors do not necessarily represent official NGAUS positions or policy. Likewise, publication of advertising cannot be deemed an endorsement thereof by this Association or its members.