The New Drug War

It's almost as if the drug war in the United States was put on hold during the period of Operations Desert Shield/Storm. Not in the streets of our schools, but most public and political conversation about the drug problem in the United States went below the surface after Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait. So perhaps there is a new drug war, one focused on different points of emphasis than before and one in which the National Guard may have an even greater role to play than it did before. And we were doing plenty before. However, while our National Guard attention was turned toward Southwest Asia and the mobilization and deployment that ensued, the problem of drugs in America continued. It also is changing as indicated in some of the articles in this issue of National Guard.

Several aspects stand out as points of departure for the continuation of the war on drugs in the remainder of the 1990s.

One. The National Guard always has understood that one does not justify force structure based on the state mission. While the state mission that attracts the most public attention, the state mission is not where the bulk of our training and operational time is spent or where our resources are concentrated. State funding pays for about 5 percent of the total National Guard budget, if that.

However, the drug war may be a different equation because while it has some semblance to the traditional state mission, it nonetheless is a national mission. We contend that this mission is much more significant for our future well-being.

Two. From time to time, the NGAUS gets proposals from industry to support equipment procurement for the drug war. We have much the same reaction to these ideas as we do to proposals producing force structure for the state mission. Unless equipment is on an equipping document or unless it is in the Army or Air Force procurement system, we really can't support the idea of procuring it. States won't spend much money doing that. Neither would the federal government, at least up until now. DoD agreed to a study of the use of the Light Armored Vehicle (LAV) in the drug interdiction program. Twelve LAVs were borrowed from the Canadian army and provided to four states for this test. The results of the test are due in the near future.

Three. Just before the beginning of Operations Desert Shield/Storm, one prominent educator noted that national youth education remains the real solution to the drug problem for non-Americans. He also said that there was considerable indication already that middle-class American youth are listening to the educational programs about the dangers of drug use and are responding.

Demand reduction is one name to this today. The District of Columbia National Guard has one organization that has taken the lead in putting some of its good NCOs into the school system to talk about drugs. This is an issue from the Mexico and California, New York, Illinois other programs.

Four. One of the dilemmas of a defense planner in 1992 is defining the "threat." Clearly, the Soviet threat to which Americans became accustomed over 45 years of the Cold War is, for practical purposes, gone. Americans are unlikely to lose much money on an armed military that is not new. The definable and understandable threat may be the new crime groups.

However, drug clearly are a threat to the traditional American way of life in much of South America. The governments of countries like Colombia, Peru and Ecuador are becoming weaker and less able to control the drug cartels and other organized crime groups.

The National Guard is considering its role in the drug war. An examination of its role in the drug war is useful. And it is relevant to the National Guard's role in the drug war.

The Drug Czar Speaks Out

DoD Drug Czar Speaks Out

Mr. Richard M.ダンカン, the assistant secretary of Defense for Drug Affairs and the coordinator for the Department of Defense War on Drugs, highlights the continued success of the National Guard in the drug war. This continued success is due to the quality of the soldiers and theirmen. The National Guard has in its ranks.

The National Guard's Drug Czar Speaks Out

The National Guard's drug czar, the director of the Office of Drug Control Policy, a little more than a year ago. His message is clear: the National Guard makes a difference in the drug war. It is a message that he continues to stress. The National Guard, he says, is the best of the military, and it is the only one that is trained for this mission. As such, it is the only one that is capable of making a difference in the war on drugs.

Playing on the Drug Traffickers

Last year, DoD agreed to study the use of the Light Armored Vehicle (LAV) in the drug interdiction program. Twelve LAVs were borrowed from the Canadian army and provided to four states for this test. The results of the test are due in the near future. DoD Drug Czar Speaks Out

Mr. Richard M. Duncan, the assistant secretary of Defense for Drug Affairs and the coordinator for the Department of Defense War on Drugs, highlights the continued success of the National Guard in the drug war. This continued success is due to the quality of the soldiers and theirmen. The National Guard has in its ranks. The National Guard's Drug Czar Speaks Out

The National Guard's drug czar, the director of the Office of Drug Control Policy, a little more than a year ago. His message is clear: the National Guard makes a difference in the drug war. It is a message that he continues to stress. The National Guard, he says, is the best of the military, and it is the only one that is trained for this mission. As such, it is the only one that is capable of making a difference in the war on drugs.