Top Leaders Express Their Support on National Guard Issues

On January 31, 1995, when I became a "retired" adjutant general, I felt that the pressure would diminish. It did not. There seems to be more and more to do with TAC meetings, off-duty, building finance, and a host of other duties that will continue to keep me active. I moved to Washington, D.C. to see if the job could be done. I found that it can. I am very pleased with the way the Guard has responded to the needs of the nation.

Secretary of Defense William J. Perry spoke to the Adjutants General Association (AGAUS) at its midwinter meeting in Washington, D.C. and was very positive about an increased role for the National Guard. During his remarks, he said that we will play a more central role in combat and noncombat missions.

The article continued: "The Air Guard personnel deployed around the world are ready to do their job. We can deploy to support our troops on the ground. The National Guard is ready to be mobilized when called upon to assist our military forces. We are ready and we can do it."

Dr. Perry said that he was working toward a reorganization of the National Guard and Reserve military organizations. He spoke at the midwinter Adjutants General Association of the United States (AGAUS) conference. Other speakers included Gen Ronald R. Fogelman, chief of staff of the Air Force; Gen Gordon R. Sullivan, chief of staff of the Army; and the Honorable Deborah L. Lee, the assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs.

Missourians Revisit Civil War Battlefield

The Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas, which was fought in March 1862, was pivotal in deciding the fate of Missouri and the Southwest during the Civil War. It pitted Missourians against fellow Missourians in a hard-fought battle. More than 100 years later, MG Raymond L. Pendergrass, the adjutant general of Missouri, sponsored a group of Missouri citizen-soldiers on a staff ride of that famous battle as part of his officer professional development program.

What Guard History Means to Me

In keeping the National Guard spirit alive, members of the National Guard Professional Education Center Readiness NCO/Course 12/94 were asked to write short papers explaining the importance of the National Guard's rich history to other Guard members today. In some of the best papers in the class, the National Guard's famous leaders explain the importance of history to themselves and to their Guard careers. A thorough understanding of yesterday is helping today's Guard members prepare for tomorrow.