Guard needs help, not control

OE obstacle has seemingly continued to fall another, in the National Guard reserve struggle for additional recruitment and retention assistance. In March, for example, two crises hurt our efforts.

First, educational assistance and re-enlistment bonuses were moving smoothly through the House Armed Services Committee approval process when a crippling amendment was adopted during floor debate. While the subcommittee, but it took more than a week of intensive effort by Guardsmen and reservists in Washington and across the country to acquire the full implications of the restrictions. (See "View from the Hill," elsewhere in this issue, for details.)

Then, late in March, the House Appropriations Committee authorized the reprogramming of some $23 million from FY 77 funds to bolster Guard-reserve recruiting, but tied these new conditions to the shift of funds that it will have a severe, adverse impact on recruiting unless the committee modifies its stand.

In approving the request, the committee:
1. Cautioned against granting costly, new Reserve Component recruitment "management structures" that are "separate from, and autonomous to, the Regular Command." Instead, it directed that reservists (and presumably Guardsmen as well) "called to active duty to fill recruiting slots should be assigned to the Regular Recruiting Command," then farmed out to their hometowns for duty.

In the view of some, the massive control of recruiting in the hands of unit commanders, but this Association does not agree with such an interpretation. We think it would be easier for control of recruiters (and thus of recruiting) to the active services, to which Guard leaders and NGAUS object.

2. Guessed that "if the system were revised to make the active into a clear understanding" that providing additional production recruiters and recruiter support personnel, "will eliminate the requirement for Guardsmen and Re-

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(C-KC-75) by Majr Edward Lis, Jahl ANG)

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