



JAMES F. CANTWELL
President
National Guard Association
of the United States

The
President's
Report
to the
87th
General
Conference

THE recent hurricane was a sad and tragic occurrence, and our hearts go out to the people of those States where there was so much death and destruction. One source of pride and encouragement in such tragedies is the willingness with which the National Guard plays its humanitarian role in assisting devastated communities. In the past year, both the Army and Air National Guard have been called upon in many States to respond in State status for such missions and to assist in the preservation of law and order. The manner in which this has been accomplished has reflected great credit, not only upon the units and organizations involved, but upon the whole National Guard.

The 12 months that have passed since the adjournment of our Conference in Detroit have proved to be significant and critical. As we gather in this beautiful resort city, we are confronted with a full agenda of important business. As always, in an area that offers so many varied attractions and diversions, we must give priority to the business at hand and surrender ourselves to the pleasures of the Sunshine City only at the end of the work-day.

* * *

For the past several years, in discussions with the Adjutants General and senior commanders of both the Army National Guard and Air National Guard, my theme has been mainly the changes that have taken place in defense planning since the end of World War II. My point has been that the National Guard, as the principal reserve of the United States Army and United States Air Force, was being affected by these changes to a greater degree than some of us realized, or at least than some of us were willing to concede.

It has been apparent to me, and I am sure to many others, for some years that if the National Guard was to continue to be, in this very modern era, an integral part of the Nation's defense force, it would be compelled to undergo extensive basic reorganization and to submit to a long period of continuing adjustments to conform to changing requirements dictated by world-wide political and strategic change and by the development of more sophisticated armament and more efficient means of communication and transportation.

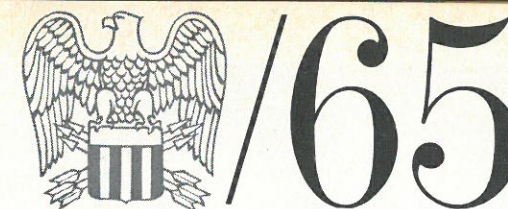
The Air National Guard, by the very nature of its size, organization and mission, and perhaps even more so by virtue of the fact that it came into being in this modern era, equipped almost from the outset with reasonably modern armament, has readily adjusted to demands for continuing reorganization, changes in mission and the necessary transition to more advanced types of aircraft.

It is the Army National Guard that has found it more difficult to accept a redesigning of its forces, for the simple reason that reorganization has been accompanied in nearly every instance by reduction in force. This is not to say that we have not reorganized quickly and efficiently when directed to do so. We have done so frequently.

There has been in our minds for a good many years a conflict of philosophies. The history of warfare as we know it, and as many of us participated in it, tends to dictate the concept of the broad mobilization base, the ability of the Nation to mobilize and deploy on battlefields tremendous armies to engage in massive land warfare.

The coming of nuclear weapons and the creation of infinitely intricate systems of weapons delivery and systems of targeting are in conflict with that concept. Furthermore, the political complexity of a new era has influenced the structure of both the Active and Reserve military forces of the United States.

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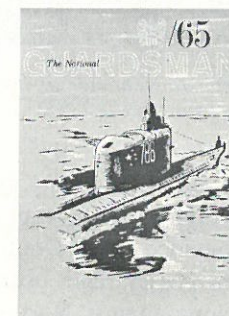
RED CHINA'S WAR POTENTIAL 2
Not right now, but eventually Communist China could pose a real threat to the United States, says Defense reporter William Beecher. Missile-firing submarines, now coming into her fleet, are one danger.

SRF 8
Those initials, standing for the new Selected Reserve Force, symbolize a giant step in evolution of the American Militiaman into a "super-ready" element of the modern National Guard. This article spells-out many of the details.

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"Attack" says the legend (purely imaginary) on the conning tower as our artist envisages a Communist Chinese missile-firing sub, to illustrate "Red China's War Potential."

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