Readiness is
(The NGAUS President's Annual Report, Conference on New Orleans on Tuesday,

THIS is the 99th time a president of this Association has presented an annual report. I would not suggest that this has been our year of greatest triumph, or greatest trauma. But, it has been a year of triumph, and a year in which trauma has been minimized.

This 99th year has been a busy, productive year — a year in which your Association has made very real and very positive contributions to your capability to improve readiness. Readiness is the theme of this conference.

I will admit from the outset that the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard are not as ready as this nation’s war plans require them to be. Most of our readiness shortfalls are the direct result of deficiencies which are beyond control of the states and the officers of the National Guard.

The NGAUS has this year worked hard at eliminating those deficiencies and at warding off the creation of new deficiencies. I will leave more detailed discussion of our legislative effort to General (Maj Gen Francis S. Greenleaf, but let me just list some achievements:

- A new Inspector General program continues at an adequate rate.
- The abortive attempt to militarize the National Guard technician force was defeated.
- A harmful redefinition of “Active Duty for Train-

Our program to produce legislation to provide Survivor Benefits to widows of Guardsmen and Reservists who die after completing 20 years of service, but before reaching age 60, is gaining fruit. Hearings on H.R. 97 began Wednesday of this week and I am sending General Greenleaf back to Washington to lend our effort.

The NGAUS is effective because of the unflinching support of the Adjutants General Association, the individual state National Guard associations and their presidents and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States, our sister organizations in Washington, and the membership of the NGAUS.

I believe, however, that we have failed to provide a full opportunity for all Guard National Guard officers to continue their support of their National Guard and to advocate the interests of the NGAUS.

- 2. Develop programs to attract a greater number of retired officers as members of NGAUS, and

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Maj Gen Thomas K. Turnage (CA)

2. Design ways, means, and techniques by which we can avail ourselves of the many talents of our retired officers in achieving legislative goals.

Hoping to have failed to carry our good intentions last year, I now appoint Maj Gen Henry McMillan of Florida as chairman of a Special Committee on Retired Officers, and charge him with the two goals just mentioned.

The combination of continued inflation, and the expansion of NGAUS activities, has strained the Association financially. During FY ’76, we incurred a deficit of $45,451, even though we held expenses $77,000 below the amount authorized by the Executive Council. We are programmed to incur a deficit of $10,000 in FY ’76.

The Finance Committee, the Executive Council, and the elected officers are convinced that our expenses are being held at the lowest possible level, consistent with our operational requirements. We have two choices in this 99th General Conference: increase our dues structure, or accept a serious cutback in Association activities. Personally, and the Executive Council, strongly urge you to vote for the dues increase.

During this year, we have completely revised our NGAUS Insurance Program. Our goals are to improve the services offered to the insureds that is, to technicians and members, and to generate income for NGAUS.

We have created a new NGAUS Insurance Trust, signed on Northwestern National Life Insurance Co.

Continued on page 28

Cover: This month’s front cover shows NGAUS President Richard A. Miller presiding over the 99th General Conference’s concluding event, the traditional States Dinner.

All conference photos by Associated Photographic Services, Inc., New Orleans.

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