

army

L A N G N E W S

air

By And About Louisiana's Guardsmen

RECRUITING MADE EASY - - -

Gov. Long yesterday announced any 17 to 18½ year old who joins the Louisiana National Guard right quick-like before new limitations are placed on recruiting by the National Guard Bureau will be deferred from the draft.

In his proclamation, authorized under the Selective Service Act of 1948, the Governor stated that it has become apparent that the authorized strength of the LA NG cannot be attained thru enlistment of draft-exempt youths, meaning veterans and men over 25.

This announcement should be pounded into the public ear continuously. A two-page news release on the subject was sent to 165 Louisiana newspapers and radio stations yesterday evening. It has been suggested that every CO contact his local papers and radio stations to urge the fullest utilization of this important news. Copies of the release have also been sent to all units.

An all-out effort to sign up as many of these 17 to 18½ year old youths as possible within the next few days is an absolute "must" before the NGB clamps on the recruiting lid--which it has promised to do as soon as Guard strength nationally tops the 341,000 mark. That 341,000 figure will hold until 30 June 1949.

It will really be a shame if the lid is slapped on while the 17 to 18½ year olds are pounding on the door asking to join the National Guard.

Time is short, men, so sign em up today--tonight. Tomorrow will be too late.

LOUISIANA OUT IN FRONT - - -

"Minnesota and Louisiana haven't let any grass grow under their feet in this matter of training administrative assistants," says the December issue of the National Guardsman. Its on P. 28. And in the Nov. 30 issue of the NGB's PIC News Letter Louisiana got the lions share of news about the 51 Guard organizations of the nation.

ATTENTION ALL HOLD-OUTS - - -

Uncle Sam's tax gatherers are going to start deducting income tax from drill pay checks starting January 1st--just when we were getting hopeful drill pay would be exempted from taxation. But on the other hand plans are to bring the pressure to bear on the 81st Congress to raise army pay scales considerably. All members of the regular armed forces on January 1st not only will lose tax exemption privileges they have held since 1942 but Uncle is going to start withholding taxes on their pay rolls.

FIRST TRAINING MANUAL OFF THE PRESS - -

The first complete training manual prepared especially for the National Guard, a 725-page manual, will shortly be distributed by the National Guard Bureau.

THAT RUSTON AFFAIR - - -

The dedication of Company M's armory at Ruston last Saturday had the earmarks of a Hollywood production, what with an air show, parade, band festival, military review, aerial salute, street dance and armory dedication presided over by none other than the head of the whole doggone National Guard--Gen Cramer.

Gen. Cramer went all the way from Washington to dedicate the neat red-brick M Co armory and to address a big crowd of public officials and leading citizens of Ruston at a banquet in the million-dollar Ruston High School.

Early in the day an air show at the local airport brought large crowds to the field. Gen. Cramer was there, too, and when the C-47 loaded with State Hq staff officers rolled in the NG Chief's stock soared high indeed as he congenially met everyone and made them feel as if he'd known them all his life.

Later, after an aerial salute by planes of other components of the armed forces, at nearby Louisiana Tech stadium more than a dozen high school bands from northern Louisiana and southern Arkansas put on a spectacular show and then joined with the entire 199th Inf Regt in parading from the stadium to the new armory in Memorial Park. There they gathered with the local citizenry to hear Gen. Cramer pay tribute to the people of Ruston for "establishing a base here in Ruston for our defense if ever we are attacked" and for evidence of "a renewal of faith in your city and your nation."

Gen. Hufft said the Ruston armory was another unit in Louisiana's million-dollar armory construction program and complimented Maj. Walter Johnson for his remarkable work in organizing the day's festivities, and then introduced Gen Cramer.

With Gen Cramer and Gen Hufft on the speakers stand were Gen Redding, Gen. Burns, Col Spiess, Col Norman and Col Shane.

Concluded Gen Cramer at the dedication: "We must prepare ourselves against any attack on our homes and our freedom, won by the soldiers of past generations."

After presentation of awards to the outstanding bands and some mighty cute majorettes, there was a banquet at the high school where Gen Cramer gave a detailed account of the past, present and future of the NG to the large group of political, civic and military notables. He called the NG "the oldest military organization in America" and said we now have the best NG in our entire history.

Gen Cramer was introduced by City Atty Hale Walker of Ruston who served as Gen. Cramer's aide during War II combat.

Senator-elect Russell Long cracked a few jokes and then said seriously that the NG offers more in the way of national defense dollar-for-dollar than any other component of the armed forces.

Afterwards came a review and football game at Tech stadium and then a dance.