NATIONAL DEFENSE AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

The Nation's defense posture was a matter of considerable public interest during the period of Governor Tawes' second term. Changing military needs, prompted in part by an increased commitment in Southeast Asia, resulted in a reorganization of the Maryland National Guard. It was during this period, too, that Lieutenant General Milton A. Reckord retired as the State's Adjutant General, a position to which he had been appointed in 1920. The addresses which follow reflect a wide range of interests in military affairs, from the education of military personnel to the remembrance of past sacrifices made in defense of the nation and its ideals.

STATEMENT OF NATIONAL GUARD REORGANIZATION

ANNAPOLIS

October 13, 1965

The extraordinary demands of national defense at this time are resulting in increased demands upon our State's National Guard.

Following a meeting of National Guard leaders in Washington yesterday, Lieutenant General Milton A. Reckord, Adjutant General, advised me that all of our units in the State of Maryland will be affected in one way or another. Maryland is requested to furnish a war strength brigade. This will require the brigade unit to be maintained at an increased strength. At the same time other National Guard units in Maryland will be reduced in strength in order to compensate for the greater strength given the war brigade.

The additional measures for national defense cannot be accomplished without cost. The heaviest burden will fall upon the officers and men of the National Guard who will be in the war strength brigade, as these will have a 50 per cent increase in training time. At the same time our units that are not in this selected force must also maintain proper standards of readiness. In short, the entire Maryland National Guard faces one of the most demanding periods in its history. We can be confident that these fine units, with their long tradition of service in peace and war, will perform their duty. We, their fellow citizens, must support them in every way possible. It is right