

National Guard One Of State's Big Businesses

RALEIGH — The green uniform worn one weekend a month by the some 12,000 North Carolina Army and Air National Guardsmen is symbolic in more ways than just being the traditional military color.

Money is also green. You probably never thought of the National Guard as a business. Nevertheless, it is one of the state's largest businesses.

The impact which guard payrolls and operational expenses have upon the state's economy is substantial.

Last year, for example, more than \$23 million of federal funds were used to pay the troops and operate the National Guard in North Carolina. Of this, the Army Guard accounted for \$29 million and the Air Guard, \$3 million.

The federal payroll for the state's guardsmen totaled nearly \$18 million. This includes pay for the nearly 500 full time civilian technicians. However, the major portion of the payroll, \$11 million, goes for inactive duty and annual training exercises for the state militia.

For most guardsmen their military duty and the pay which they get for it constitutes a part time job. This further multiplies the effect which guard money has on the state economy.

"Yes, you could certainly say that the National Guard is a big business," said Colonel William F. Keeton, administrative assistant to the United States Property and Fiscal Officer for North Carolina.

The USPFPO consists of a staff of 66 full-time employees who receive and account for all federal property and monies issued for use by the Army and Air National Guard units in the state, according to Col. Keeton.

"Not only is the amount of money significant," Col. Keeton said, "the manner in which we are required to spend it is also important. A good deal of the money which we handle is spent in the form of cash transactions by individual units throughout the state."

"We are obligated to see that this money is spread around. We can't spend it all with the same vendor even if he has offered the lowest price."

This policy of spreading the money around is the result of a federal requirement designed to assure that federal expenditures will generate as broad economic impact as possible.

In addition to being one of the state's large employers, the National Guard is also a large pro-

erty owner. Value of equipment such as jeeps, trucks, rifles, helicopters, tanks, etc. used by guard units around the state exceed \$100 million. Armories and real property belonging to the guard total another \$12 million.

New property is constantly coming in. For example, during the past few months the North Carolina National Guard has been issued new equipment worth in excess of \$5 million.

Thirteen UH-1D (Huey) helicopters worth more than \$3 million have been assigned to North Carolina units along with another 11 OH 23 helicopters valued at \$1.5 million.

Radio equipment worth \$400,000 has been issued recently. Twenty-seven dump trucks worth another \$500,000 have been assigned to the state.

Two combat engineer vehicles valued at \$175,000 have been issued. Not all of the equipment, however, consists of major items. For example, Tar Heel units have received 7,000 new protective masks worth \$112,000.

Although the Air Guard represents only about 10 per cent of the total guard strength in the state, they own a substantial portion of the property. For example, the Air Guard has six C-130 B cargo carriers valued at \$2.8 million each.

A business with a \$100 million inventory is certainly a big one. Operational expenses for the National Guard in the state totaled \$4 million last year. This does not include the \$1 million of state funds required to operate the adjutant general's office.

You might ask the same question of a typical Tar Heel family. Troops have to be fed, clothed, equipped, sheltered, etc.

Not since the days of the Civil war have civilians been called upon to help take care of the troops. It costs money to provide these services. Lots of money.

Take groceries, for example. How would you like to have a quarter of a million dollar grocery bill on your hands? The USPFPO estimates it will cost \$277,000 to feed Tar Heel Guardsmen during their monthly weekend drills this year.

According to Col. Keeton, most of these funds are spent the individual guard units in their home towns. It will cost another quarter of a million dollars to buy fuel for the ground and air vehicles used by guardsmen in the performance of their training duty missions.

There are other expenses for automotive repair parts, office supplies, maintenance supplies.

Record Phones Are Installed During 1971

In 1971 Southern Bell Telephone company experienced the largest demand for new service in its history in North Carolina. John J. Ryan, vice president and general manager announced today.

A record 356,000 telephones were installed in the state during the year, Ryan said, and this is the largest installation program in the more than 90 years Southern Bell has operated in North Carolina.

Nevertheless, North Carolinians continued to be extremely transient as evidenced by the fact that Southern Bell's net gain in telephone was 91,000. Ryan pointed out, "This means four telephones were installed to gain one, and the average investment for each new main telephone gained was approximately \$2,800 for 1971."

During the year, demand was high for a wide range of our service, Ryan said. Touch-Tone service, telephones with touch buttons instead of dials, increased 34 per cent over 1970.

Wide Area Telephone Service (WATS), a long distance service where a user can make an unlimited amount of calls to a pre-selected area, increased over 20 per cent.

Telephones served by Private Branch Exchanges (PBX) reached a total of 159,000 across the state. This number represents seven per cent increase over 1970.

According to Ryan, in 1971 the state as a whole placed 139,563,000 long distance calls with Southern Bell. This is an increase of over 17 million or 14

per cent for the year, although the average revenue from each call is declining.

Staying abreast with the unprecedented demand for telephone service placed greater demands on our company in 1971 than in 1970, said Ryan. A record \$102.9 million was spent on new construction to improve and expand our services to meet the communications needs of North Carolina.

To provide the quality of service North Carolinians have come to expect and appreciate requires huge amounts of capital. In addition, this great demand for various telecommunication services—capital dollars are at an all time high, Ryan pointed out.

To help bring our revenues more in line with our increased costs of doing business, it became necessary to appear before the Utilities Commission for some rate relief, Ryan said. "It's significant to note," added Ryan, "that this was our first general rate increase since 1951. Unfortunately, the amount granted by the commission left a deficit of urgently needed revenues, which necessitated the filing of a second rate request in October."

A large part of the state's \$102.9 million construction ex-

penditure went for new central office facilities, and many major additions to existing offices were made in practically every area of the state. A significant portion was spent for additional cable routes into suburban and rural areas to eliminate strain on existing toll facilities.

Southern Bell's customers are making more calls than ever before and, one would conclude, enjoying it more according to Mr. Ryan. Phone users in North Carolina are now placing over seven million local calls per day and we are proud to state that 87 per cent of our residence customers have private lines, Ryan pointed out.

"During these times of economic uncertainty planning and day-to-day operation of a regulated business is increasingly involved. Meeting the challenge of producing every improving service is our total commitment. Our employees welcome this challenge and we intend to continue to meet it to the absolute best of our ability," Ryan said.

The name ounce is applied to the Jacaria in Brazil and in central Asia to the snow leopard.

U.S.S. LaFayette. — Navy Petty Officer First Class William D. Wise, husband of the former Miss Barbara W. Sellers of 301 E. Boston Ave., Bessemer City, is a crew member of the nuclear powered ballistic missile submarine USS LaFayette, home ported at Charleston, S. C.

He is a graduate of Bessemer City high school. Brigadier Gen. Milred Bailey, as director of the U. S. Women's Army Corps, is the third woman in the Whole U. S. army to gain the rank of general. A native of Craven county, she is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

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EXTRA GREEN STAMPS 50¢

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A MAJOR DISEASE EMPHYSEMA IS NOW

In the past ten years, deaths from emphysema almost tripled and in the past five years, the number of new emphysema patients has more than doubled. In simple terms, emphysema occurs when the walls of the lungs break down, the blood vessels and elastic tissue in the walls disappear and the bronchial tubes become flabby and collapse. This obstructs the flow of air into and out of the lungs causing labored breathing. It comes on very slowly and at first there are no symptoms.

Although there is no cure, because you cannot reverse tissue damage, there is treatment to hold down further deterioration. Breathing cleaner air, no smoking, medications, controlled breathing and special devices such as nebulizers are part of the overall treatment plan. If you have any trouble breathing see your doctor at once.

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