I AM THE GUARD
THE STORY OF THE NATIONAL GUARD FROM MUSKETS TO MISSILES

AT CONCORD I FIRED THE FATEFUL SHOT...
I CHARGED THE HILL AT SAN JUAN...

I FLEW MIG ALLEY...
APRIL 19, 1775 WAS A COLD, BRIGHT DAY. IT WAS BITTERLY WINDY UPON THAT HILL. I KNOW, BECAUSE I WAS THERE....

THE REDCOATS SHOT EIGHT FARMERS AT LEXINGTON THIS MORNING—AND NOW THEY'RE SETTING FIRE TO CONCORD TOWN.

WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

PATIENCE, LAD—OUR MILITIA CAPTAINS WILL DECIDE WHAT TO DO.

IF IT'S WAR THEY WANT, LET'S GIVE IT TO THEM.

BUT THE REDCOATS ARE PROFESSIONAL SOLDIERS AND THERE ARE 600 MORE INSIDE CONCORD.

WHAT ABOUT THEM! DID WE LEAVE OUR PLOWS STANDING IDLE TO COME TO THANK THE REDCOATS FOR SPILLING AMERICAN BLOOD AT LEXINGTON TODAY?

HEAR THAT LAD? ONLY IN AMERICA WILL YOU FIND MEN LEAVING THEIR PLOWS TO FIGHT FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

IN EUROPE, ARMS ARE BORNE BY MERCENARIES BUT WE BELIEVE IN FIGHTING OUR OWN BATTLES...
"IT'S A TRADITION THAT GOES BACK TO THE DAYS OF JAMESTOWN AND PLYMOUTH. WHEN INDIANS ATTACKED, EVERY ABLE-BODIED MAN WAS EXPECTED TO SNATCH UP A MUSKET...."

"THE FIRST MILITIA FOR HOME DEFENSE WAS FORMED AS LONG AGO AS 1636. BACK IN THOSE DAYS, EVERY MAN HAD TO SERVE IN IT...."

"OUR PART-TIME SOLDIERS NEVER HAD FANCY UNIFORMS... NOR ENOUGH MUSKETS TO GO AROUND. BUT THEY COULD OUTSHOOT AND OUTSMART MOST OF YOUR MERCENARIES. THEY PROVED THIS IN THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR...."

"LATELY, EVER SINCE THE TROUBLE STARTED WITH ENGLAND, THE TOWN MILITIAS HAVE BEEN DRILLING AS NEVER BEFORE. SOME OF US JOINED MINUTEMAN COMPANIES. WE GAVE OUR WORD WE'D BE READY TO FIGHT AT A MINUTE'S NOTICE...."

"TO ARMS! TO ARMS!"

...AND THIS MORNING LAD, THE NOTICE CAME!

FALL IN, MEN—WE'RE GOING ACROSS THE BRIDGE!
THE MINUTE-MEN ARE COMING!

JOIN RANKS FOR BATTLE!

PREPARE... TO FIRE!

FIRE!

THEY'RE FIRING!
FIRE BACK!
FIRE BACK!

HOW WAS I TO KNOW THAT THIS WOULD BE THE FATEFUL "SHOT HEARD 'ROUND THE WORLD"? BUT I WAS THERE...
THE TRADITION OF THE CIVILIAN SOLDIER TRACES ITS WAY THROUGH AMERICAN HISTORY LIKE...

AN UNBROKEN THREAD

THE COLONIAL MILITIA ANSWERED GEORGE WASHINGTON'S CALL FOR TROOPS TO FIGHT THE BRITISH. THE MINUTEMEN FOUGHT TO WIN THE INDEPENDENCE TODAY'S NATIONAL GUARD IS PLEDGED TO DEFEND.

THE MODERN DAY NATIONAL GUARD IS REALLY A CONTINUATION OF THE OLD COLONIAL MILITIA. IT WAS NEW YORK'S 7TH REGIMENT THAT FIRST ACQUIRED THE NAME "NATIONAL GUARD". A UNIT OF THIS OUTFIT SERVED AS A GUARD OF HONOR TO GENERAL LAFAYETTE AT THE START OF HIS TRIUMPHANT TOUR OF AMERICA IN 1824. A FEW DAYS LATER THIS UNIT WAS RENAMED "THE BATTALION OF NATIONAL GUARDS" IN TRIBUTE TO THE COMMANDANT OF FRANCE'S GARDE NATIONALE.

IN THE EARLY PART OF THE 19TH CENTURY SCARCELY A YEAR WENT BY THAT SOME PORTION OF THE MILITIA WAS NOT CALLED INTO ACTIVE SERVICE.

IN THE WAR OF 1812, AT NEW ORLEANS...
IN THE SEMINOLE WAR, IN FLORIDA...
IN THE WAR WITH MEXICO, AT VERA CRUZ;
CONTRERAS, THE HALLS OF MONTEZUMA...

THE GUARD WAS ALWAYS THERE!
In 1832 Captain Abraham Lincoln fought with Illinois militia troops in the Black Hawk War.

Five other guardsmen who became President of the United States were:
George Washington
Andrew Jackson
Chester Arthur
Theodore Roosevelt
Harry S. Truman

National guardsmen fought on both sides in the war between the states. In the ranks of both the blue and gray...the guard was there.

In World War I...of the eight U.S. divisions rated "toughest" by the German high command, six were national guard divisions.
OCTOBER 8, 1918, THE 30TH DIVISION SLUGGED ITS WAY FORWARD DURING THE CAMPAIGN TO CRACK THE HINDENBURG LINE. THE MEN OF COMPANY G OF THE 118TH INFANTRY REGIMENT MOVED SLOWLY THROUGH THE EARLY MORNING MIST. I KNEW BECAUSE I WAS THERE...

BUT THE GERMAN GUNNERS WERE ALSO THERE. AND THEY HAD OUR RANGE.

HIT THE DIRT!

ABOVE THE DIN I HEARD OUR C.O. CALLING HOARSELY...

YOU GOT IT BAD, CAPTAIN? I'LL LIVE, DOZIER. YOU'RE THE ONLY OFFICER LEFT NOW...TAKE OVER!

I HAD JOINED THE OUTFIT JUST A FEW DAYS AGO, AND NOW I WAS IN COMMAND.

NO NEED TO PANIC, DOZIER...YOU'RE A NATIONAL GUARDSMAN... YOU SAW ACTION WITH THE GUARD ON THE MEXICAN BORDER.

WHAT WAS LEFT OF COMPANY G WAS ON THE MOVE AGAIN. BUT SUDDENLY...

CORPSMAN! THE LIEUTENANT'S BEEN HIT!

JUST SLAP A BANDAGE ON... AND STOP THE BLOOD.

BUT THE BUTTERFLIES IN MY STOMACH KEPT FLUTTERING.
JERRY MACHINE GUN NEST UP AHEAD. WE'RE PINNED DOWN.

PVT. CALLIE A. SMITH WENT WITH ME ON A TWO-MAN FLANKING MOVEMENT.

I DIDN'T REMEMBER MUCH AFTER THAT. JUST SQUEEZING THROUGH SOME JERRY BARBED WIRE...THEN A FRACAS AT A HEAVILY MANNED JERRY DUGOUT...

AND THEN...

WE MADE IT, LIEUTENANT! YOU HEAR ME? WE'RE AT OUR OBJECTIVE!

SAVE YOUR BREATH. WE MADE IT ALL RIGHT...BUT WHAT'S THE USE TELLING A DEAD MAN?

BUT THE LIEUTENANT WAS STILL ALIVE. EVACUATED TO A BASE HOSPITAL, HE SLOWLY RECOVERED HIS HEALTH. AND ON JAN. 21, 1919, GENERAL PERSHING AWARDED OUR NATION'S HIGHEST DECORATION, THE MEDAL OF HONOR, TO 1ST LIEUTENANT JAMES C. DOZIER...
Not only in war, on distant battlefields, but also in peace... whenever disaster has struck on our own soil... the Guard has always been there. The National Guard has rendered our nation...

**THREE CENTURIES OF SERVICE**

Our volunteer citizen-soldiers have always spearheaded relief teams in local disasters. There were Guard heroes...

In Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Pennsylvania after the awesome hurricane had struck.

...at Johnstown when the city was buried under tons of water.

In Texas City, fighting the inferno of flames that followed the explosions.

In World War II, 82,000 National Guard enlisted men were commissioned as lieutenants to help train and command the hastily recruited wartime Army. More than 20 guardsmen won the Medal of Honor.

The 18 National Guard infantry divisions that took to the field at the start of the war, doubled the strength of the Army at once.

During the Korean War, 183,000 guardsmen saw active service, both on the ground and in the air...
November 6, 1951, an F-84 flight scored a "good hit" on a North Korean railroad. I know because I was there... 

**I FLEW MIG ALLEY**

I, Captain John Paladino, was flight leader that day.

Mission accomplished...we were heading home, doing better than 500 mph at 32,000 feet.

The air's pretty thin up at 32,000. I should know, because my oxygen apparatus failed on the way home, suddenly my instrument panel went hazy.

That's the last thing I remember, but they tell me my plane began pitching and diving like a bucking bronco. 

Fox leader, this is Fox Two. Are you all right?

Yeah... sure... I'm all right.

Something's wrong... throttle back, Fox leader! Do you hear me? Throttle back!
I DON'T REMEMBER HEARING ANYTHING...

FOX THREE TO FOX TWO. PUT YOUR WING UNDER FOX LEADER'S WING. I'LL GET UNDER THE OTHER... WE'LL TRY TO KEEP HIM LEVEL UNTIL HE COMES TO.

BUT THAT'S WHEN ALL MY TRAINING PAID OFF. WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING, I WENT THROUGH THE MOTIONS OF DECREASING MY POWER... AND THEN... I WAS OUT COLD!

IT WAS AN INCREDIBLE MANEUVER UNPRECEDENTED IN AVIATION HISTORY...

I GOT HIM!

ROGER!

THEY LITERALLY CARRIED ME DOWN TO WHERE THE AIR WAS LESS THIN. I CAME TO AT 13,500 FEET, THANKS TO FOX TWO AND FOX THREE, CAPTAIN JOHN MILLER AND LIEUTENANT WOOD McARTHUR...

AND THE RESULTS OF THE TRAINING BACK AT THE 154-TH FIGHTER SQUADRON OF THE ARKANSAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD.
THE MINUTEMEN AT CONCORD FOUGHT WITH MUSKETS... AND IN THOSE DAYS MUSKETS WERE ENOUGH. TODAY, HOWEVER, MISSILES ARE AMONG THE WEAPONS OF AMERICA'S UP-TO-THE-MINUTE MEN.

TODAY... MANY OF OUR NIKE-AJAX MISSILE SITES ARE MANNED AND OPERATED BY UNITS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD. THEY STAND GUARD 24 HOURS A DAY AGAINST A SNEAK ATTACK BY ENEMY AIRCRAFT.

THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD HAS BEEN REORGANIZED ALONG MODERN "PENTOMIC" LINES, WITH 64,000 WHEELED AND 3,200 TRACKED VEHICLES. GROUND COMBAT FORCES OF THE GUARD HAVE THE MOBILITY NEEDED IN NUCLEAR WARFARE.

THE "HONEST JOHN" ARTILLERY ROCKET ADDS ATOMIC FIREPOWER AND LONG-RANGE PUNCH!
The Air Guard has 76 combat squadrons equipped with high performance jet aircraft.

Heavy transport units of the Air National Guard can fly C-97 "Stratocruisers" all over the world.

Many of them fire radar-guided air-to-air missiles with built-in electronic brains that can outwit and destroy enemy aircraft.

Today...the National Guard is ready! 400,000 in the Army National Guard, 72,000 in the Air National Guard, 472,000 total. Volunteer citizen-soldiers, your neighbors and friends, stand ready to defend America.
The United States National Guard

When

The First Commonwealth Militia was established in 1636. The Army National Guard is the oldest military establishment in the United States, older than the nation itself.

Why

The Guard today has a dual federal-state mission. The readiest of our country's Ready Reserve Forces, it is immediately available for active duty in the event of a national emergency. Units may be called to state duty by the governor, in the event of a local disturbance or disaster.

What

The many different types of units to be found in the Army and Air National Guard include: Air Defense Artillery, Field Artillery, Infantry, Armored Infantry, Armored Cavalry, Engineer, Aviation, Ordnance, Transportation, Quartermaster, Fighter Interceptor, Tactical Reconnaissance, Tactical Fighter, Aeromedical and Heavy Transport, Troop Carrier, Tactical Control, and Communications units.
Training standards for the Guard are exactly the same as for the active army and air force! Technical training is given in radar, electronics, communications, and construction. Officer candidate schools for army national guardsmen are conducted by the active army and by 47 individual states.

The guard is made up entirely of citizen volunteers. Mechanics, students, storekeepers, teachers, farmers and lawyers, your friends and neighbors—all give a part of their time every week to train in defense of their community and country.

Recruits • Obligors • Veterans

You can serve your country in your community as a member of your national guard.
I AM THE GUARD

Civilian in Peace, Soldier in War... of security and honor, for three centuries I have been the custodian, I am the Guard.

I was with Washington in the dim forest, fought the wily warrior, and watched the dark night bow to the morning... At Concord's bridge, I fired the fateful shot heard 'round the world... I bled on Bunker Hill... My footprints marked the snows at Valley Forge... I pulled a muffled oar on the barge that bridged the icy Delaware... I stood with Washington on the sun-drenched heights of Yorktown... I saw the sword surrendered... I am the Guard... I pulled the trigger that loosed the long rifle's havoc at New Orleans... These things I knew—I was there!... I saw both sides of the War between the States—I was there!... The Hill at San Juan felt the fury of my charge... The far plains and mountains of the Philippines echoed to my shout... On the Mexican border I stood... I am the Guard... The dark forest of the Argonne blazed with my barrage... Chateau Thierry crumbled to my cannonade... Under the arches of victory I marched in legion—I was there!... I am the Guard... I bowed briefly on the grim Corregidor, then saw the light of liberation shine on the faces of my comrades... Through the jungle and on the beaches, I fought the enemy, beat, battered and broke him... I raised our banner to the serene air on Okinawa—I scrambled over Normandy's beaches—I was there!... I am the Guard... Across the 38th Parallel I made my stand... I flew MiG Alley—I was there!... I am the Guard.

Soldier in war, civilian in peace... I am the Guard.

I was at Johnstown, where the raging waters boomed down the valley... I cradled the crying child in my arms and saw the terror leave her eyes... I moved through smoke and flame at Texas City... The stricken knew the comfort of my skill... I dropped the food that fed the starving beast on the frozen fields of the west and through the towering drifts I ploughed to rescue the marooned... I have faced forward to the tornado, the typhoon, and the horror of the hurricane and flood—these things I know—I was there!... I am the Guard... I have brought a more abundant, a fuller, a finer life to our youth... Wherever a strong arm and valiant spirit must defend the Nation, in peace or war, wherever a child cries, or a woman weeps in time of disaster, there I stand... I am the Guard... For three centuries a soldier in war, a civilian in peace—of security and honor, I am the custodian, now and forever... I am the Guard.

VETERANS...

YOUR ACTIVE ARMY TRAINING MAKES YOU ESPECIALLY VALUABLE NOW. WHILE HELPING TO TRAIN YOUNGER MEN, YOU CAN QUALIFY FOR ADVANCEMENT TO NCO AND EVEN JUNIOR OFFICER RANK... AND...YOU'LL CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEFENSE OF YOUR COMMUNITY AND YOUR COUNTRY IN THE NATIONAL GUARD.

GET ALL THE DETAILS AT THE ARMORY IN YOUR OWN HOME TOWN!