

Assoc of U S Army  
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I always look forward to the opportunity to speak to a group such as this--men dedicated to the preservation of our nation's fundamental freedoms and dedicated to the maintenance of a strong national defense posture as the one guarantee against loss of these liberties from without.

Subversion and deterioration of our basic rights from within cannot possibly succeed in the face of patriotic and thoughtful men and women organized together as you all are here tonight.

My interest in the military forces of our country has several foundations. I have served personally in the United States Navy and am now an officer in the Air Force Reserve. My foster son is now proudly serving this country of ours as a member of the United States Air Force.

My association with my Army, Air Force and Navy friends always makes me grateful for the effectiveness of our military establishment and proud of the men and women who wear the uniforms of our country's armed forces. The value of the military forces is so much greater due to the devoted sacrifice of our reserve personnel, called derisively "weekend warriors"

and other uncomplimentary names, these men and women persevere and continue to serve their country when it is no longer fashionable to do so. I am grateful for their service and devotion and think you ought to be, too.

The office of the Attorney General is essentially a civilian job with little to do with the military side of our society or so it would seem. The Attorney General has been characterized properly as the "chief law officer of the State".

In that capacity he has great responsibilities to ensure that the rule of law prevails for all citizens of our State--rich and poor, military and civilian.

When emergencies arise and disorders break out, the Attorney General finds himself in the unenviable position of legal advisor to the Commander in Chief of the State's military forces, the Governor of North Carolina. He must advise the Governor who ~~deals with~~ *in turn must deal with* many sided problem of balancing the needs for an orderly society--free of terror and free of riot--against the needs for individual citizens to be protected in their basic constitutionally-guaranteed rights of free speech, free press and free assembly. The governor's

duty to determine the best course at the time and the Attorney General's responsibility to advise him are not pleasant ones and are not looked forward to by anyone concerned.

Fortunately, the Attorney General has more pleasant times in his work. As many of you know, I enthusiastically endorse and support the efforts of our Consumer Protection Division to stamp out deceptive trade practices which have <sup>long</sup> preyed on the public of North Carolina. Regretably these unscrupulous fly-by-night operators victimize most those who are least able to protect themselves--the economically disadvantaged and the transient military man and his family.

Our efforts in North Carolina have been reasonably successful in offering assistance to the victims of consumer frauds as well as in <sup>explaining</sup> ~~enjoying~~ the continuation of fraudulent and deceptive business schemes. We have reached a good segment of the public with the news of remedies available to them.

But, We have failed to some extent to ensure that this assistance is widely known about in the military community. The legal assistance officers in the Judge

Advocates' offices are doing a good job within their limitations. How much better could we both do by working together.

The State Attorney General in all but 10 states is responsible directly to the people and therefore enjoys an uncertain future at best. To assist State Attorneys General in understanding their job and in doing it better, the National Association of Attorneys General was organized.

One aspect of the duties that few of us really understand is just how to best serve the transient military man and his family stationed in my state as well as serving the North Carolina Serviceman stationed outside of North Carolina. Another aspect of the problem deals with the role of the National Guard and how best we can advise and protect the State and the individual guardsman from liability when mobilized by the Governor.

In an effort to seek answers for these thorny questions the National Association has activated a Special Committee on Legal Services to Military Forces which is to make recommendations for:

- 1) improving liaison at both the State and national level;

- 2) developing model legislation to clarify legal problems where this appeared indicated; preparing manuals and related materials concerning the legal status of members of the National Guard;
- 3) collecting, analyzing, and disseminating information on existing laws and administrative practice; and
- 4) strengthening relationships between legal advisers, military forces, and law enforcement officers, especially during emergency situations.

I'm glad to have this Special Committee looking into these serious problems. This first formal meeting will be held in Washington, D. C., and will be attended by those Attorneys General on the Committee or who otherwise have an interest, the Judge Advocate Generals of the Army, Navy and Air Force, the General Counsel to the National Guard Bureau and members of my staff who are also National Guard, or Reserve officers assigned in legal positions.

With this type of high-level attention to the problem, I'm confident we will make some progress toward better serving the public as a whole including that segment of the public which serves our country in uniform.