What Civilians Can Contribute to the Nation’s Security

By LT. GEN. I. D. WHITE

I have been asked to talk on how you can contribute to the nation’s security. Oklahoma’s interest in this matter has always been outstanding. Your great 45th Division “Thunderbirds,” and your steadily increasing reserve activities are inspiring examples of this interest. There is, however, another area which requires even greater attention by you community leaders. I refer to the tremendous need for the home, the church, and the school to more completely fulfill their rightful responsibility for the moral and spiritual toughening of our youth if they are to behave like men when the nation’s security is challenged.

This toughening process is really nothing more than the developing of a firm and lasting conviction that our religious beliefs, our American institutions, our way of life, our rights and privileges, are the best in the world and are worth fighting for.

As a combat commander it has been my privilege to persuade soldiers to perform miracles. The mission of the Army is victory in battle, and you must realize that the miracles the military can be expected to accomplish are only military miracles. The Army cannot take youths who are psychologically unprepared to face life, and turn them into giants of spiritual courage. The military will do all that it can; but there is never time for such work, no matter how much we should like to accomplish it. The responsibility for the proper moral development of our young men rests squarely on the home, the church, and the school. Unfortunately, many of our people refuse to face up to this fact.

For many generations we have prided ourselves on the patriotic conduct of our youth, and we have had ample cause to do so. But we have refused to believe, or failed to see, that a young American can be false to this heritage.

The Nation was amazed and humiliated to learn that some American prisoners in Korea traded their heritage for the false promises of Communism. American parents may well be proud of the manner in which the majority of their sons fulfilled their responsibilities to their fellow men, to their country, and to their faith under the trying conditions of Communist captivity. They resisted the inclination to profit personally from the misery, or at the expense of others. The vast majority of our soldiers never wavered in the face of Communist pressure.

However, the fact that even a few men gave in to Communism should be a matter of grave concern to all of us. The reason for their defection should concern us even more.

The press carried many bitter comments and articles about an alleged failure of the Armed Forces to prepare the young men of America for the conflict in Korea. But in truth the Army did its part to prepare them properly. Our troops regularly defeated the Reds in combat, despite the consistent numerical superiority of the enemy. This was the mission the Army was supposed to accomplish. It was accomplished in spite of the peculiar rules and conditions which limited our ability to bring our full potential into action. The Army had only a relatively short time to train the average youth in the techniques of fighting, and it did this.

The Nation had twenty-odd years to develop in the same youth an unaltering faith in American principles, and obviously had failed in some cases where men gave in to the enemy. The shortcomings of those men reflected whatever spiritual weaknesses there may be in our generation.

Home, church, and school had failed somewhere along the line to make them real Americans.

Captured enemy documents and enemy propaganda broadcasts spell out in detail the scope of this failure. A number of estimates of the character of the American military man were prepared by the intelligence agencies of the Chinese Peoples Volunteer Army, and some of them fell into our hands. I would like to read you a paraphrased summary of these intelligence estimates:

Based on observation of American soldiers and officers captured in the war for the liberation of Korea from capitalist imperialist aggression, the following facts are evident:

1. The American soldier appears to have weak loyalties—to his family, his community, his country, his religion, and his fellow soldiers.
2. His concepts of right and wrong are often hazy, and opportunism is not difficult for him.
3. By himself he feels insecure and inadequate; he underestimates his own worth and his own strength—and his ability to survive.
4. He is largely ignorant of social values, social tensions, and conflicts.
5. There is little knowledge or understanding (even among university graduates) of American political history and philosophy; the federal, state and community organizations; civil rights, freedoms, safeguards, checks and balances, and how these things all work.
6. He is exceedingly insular and provincial, with little or no idea of the problems and the aims of what he disdainfully describes as “foreigners” and their countries.
7. He has an unrealistic concept of America’s eternal and inherent, rather than earned or proven, superiority and invincibility.
8. He fails to appreciate the meaning of, and the necessity for, military organization and discipline, his army’s traditions and its mission, and its objectives.
9. Often he feels that his military service is a kind of hateful, unavoidable servitude to be tolerated briefly and then escaped from, or he is a “peacetime soldier” who sees it only as a soft and a safe job. Both these types resist hardships and sacrifice of any description, as if these were unreasonable and unfair to them personally.

This is what the Communists had to say about our men. It certainly is not complimentary, if taken at face value. We must make allowance for the fact that these estimates were used for propaganda purposes, and it is doubtful that the Communists themselves accepted them as being entirely accurate. But they are evidence of a lack of fortitude in some of our PW’s, a lack which indicates inadequate indoctrination in American concepts and traditions.

There are people who excuse this lack of fortitude by saying that our captured soldiers were the victims of brainwashing. They also attempted to blame the military because certain few individuals succumbed to brainwashing—or they say that youth and inexperience made these men easy victims. How old must an American be to have a firmly developed faith in his country and what it stands for? Some of our men were brainwashed, but few people realize what brainwashing really is or how it is applied. Brainwashing is nothing more than an intensive educational system.

Brainwashing does not involve torturing prisoners into submission or driving them
much the same, whether the recruit enlist to make a career of the Regular Army, or enters through Selective Service. The first step is to train him to be a soldier. The second step is to have him serve as a soldier. These men train in an Army whose organization and doctrine have been proved in battle and with the finest equipment that our industry and science can provide.

We must achieve the highest possible state-of-combat readiness and in a very short time. To make the best use of this time, we must select only the essential training subjects. We constantly ask this question, “In the time available, will this subject better than some other prepare the soldier for success in combat?” We do not have time for the “nice-to-know” information. We have time only for the “need-to-know” facts. Instruction must be directly related to success in battle. This requires selectivity. We can cover only the most essential things as we turn out battle-winning teams.

When we use up training time to cover subject matter which should have been adequately covered prior to the young man’s entrance into the Army, we definitely compromise his training for combat. This means that his time is available for training which bears a direct relationship to fighting, living, and surviving on the modern battlefield. It is important that this be understood because the Army realizes that physical and technical proficiency alone does not make battle-winning teams. We recognize that moral and spiritual training is definitely related to success in combat and our men need moral and spiritual strength in abundance. We would, however, like to have our men come to us with that moral and spiritual strength properly developed from childhood by those primarily responsible.

Actually, the Army should be required only to insure that our young men in service live, train, and play in wholesome surroundings and atmosphere. And it should be enough that they are required to adhere to the Army’s customary high standards of personal and professional conduct. The Army realizes, however, that under present conditions this is not enough, and we feel that we must assume further responsibility.

Every unit has a chaplain. The soldier has unlimited opportunity to worship as he chooses, whatever his faith. Moreover, he is actively encouraged to attend services. I am proud to report that the Fourth Army during the past year has led the six continental armies in attendance at religious services. We have had an average attendance of over 75 men at each religious service, and the average attendance per chaplain per month stands close to one thousand, two hundred men.

The Army’s Character Guidance Program impresses our men with the need for high personal standards. The program is a command responsibility at all levels, and the ability of a commander to co-ordinate successfully all the means at his disposal to encourage such high standards is officially considered a mark of efficiency.

Our Troop Information and Education Programs inform and educate the soldier on the problems facing America today. Soldiers are encouraged to complete or further their education, and the Army can take justifiable pride in the increasing number of soldiers who do so. For example, throughout the Fourth Army there are some five thousand, five hundred officers and men actively taking courses in civilian institutions of higher learning. On the other hand, I must also point out that some twelve thousand men in my command have only an eighth grade education or less. This is a matter of serious consequence, and we are doing everything possible to bring all

About the Author

Ever since he entered the Regular Army as a Second Lieutenant of Cavalry in 1923, after graduating the previous year from Norwich University, Lieutenant General White has had a distinguished career in the training of troops and as a combat commander. His name, it is said, “is synonymous with mobile warfare.” With the Second Armored Division, the famed “Hell on Wheels” Division, he served in eight major campaigns in North Africa, Sicily, and Europe, successively as commander of a battalion, a regiment, and of the Division in 1945. After the War, as Commanding General of the U. S. Constabulary in Germany, he established the Non-Commissioned Officers Academy and the Tank Training Center. In August 1932, he assumed command of the X U. S. Corps in Korea, and in September he became commander of the Fourth Army. He has received many decorations not only from his own government, but also from France, Belgium, Holland, Russia, the Philippines, and the Republic of Korea. This Armed Forces address was given before the Chamber of Commerce, Norman, May 20, 1955.
these people to at least an eighth grade
level.

All this is fine, but we must keep it in
its correct perspective. The Army's concern
should be on becoming more military. It
must become more intensely disciplined
and more tightly organized. A high stand-
ard of discipline is essential to combat ef-
ficiency. On today's atomic battlefield,
where dispersion is the key to survival,
leadership is required at the lowest echelon
more than ever. Battle leadership can exist
only where discipline results in immediate,
quickness, automatic reaction to com-
mand and authority. Training must be
tougher with more realism. Realistic train-
ing may cause more injuries in training,
but as a result there will be far fewer
reactions to situations. A leader at any
level who fails to grasp the importance of
absolute enforcement of all orders, direc-
tives, and instructions at all times, is doing
him the greatest disservice possible. He
is laying the seeds for uncontrollable hyster-
ical reaction in the first day of battle. Dis-
cipline cannot, like charm, be turned on or
off to suit the occasion. It is evident that
the time the Army can and should devote
to further moral and spiritual development
of its young soldiers must be consistent with
its primary mission of turning out trained,
battle-winning teams. Any time spent be-
ond that limit seriously impairs the ac-
complishment of that mission.

Properly, the Army should supplement—
and then in a very minor way only—the
instruction given by home, church, and
school; but as long as this instruction is
inadequate, the Army must do far more
than supplement. This is an unwarranted
burden. It is a task which cannot be ac-
complished in the short time available. Real
moral and spiritual strength of the tough-
ness we need to win over the Communists
cannot be developed overnight; it has to be
developed over the years and must come-
ence at the very outset of a man's life.

Success or failure in turning out trained
soldiers thus depends to a great extent on
what you have done with our youth. The
things that have happened in his own
home, his school, and his church will de-
termine whether or not he is amenable to
discipline, receptive to instruction, and
aware of his duty to serve his country.

You must develop in every youth, from
childhood on, the feeling that the security,
the well-being, and the happiness of his
family and community are his respon-
sibility. To achieve this, the family must once
again really be the center of our society; and
all our social institutions—schools, churches,
civic organizations, welfare groups—must

Continued inside back cover

**AMERICA'S MOST CRITICAL
DEFENSE FRONTIER**

By COL. MORGAN GOODHART

It has been estimated that fewer than
twenty well-placed thermonuclearbombs
could paralyze, and perhaps decimate, much
of the heavily populated northeastern
United States. Such destruction would
cause irreparable damage to the entire
country. The key problem of United States
security is to prevent such damage to the
structure of the nation while maintaining
unimpaired our ability to retaliate should
such an attack occur.

I believe we all recognize that the United
States, by virtue of its position and
activity as leader of the Free World, re-
mains the principal target for Communist
attack. The basis of our own national se-
curity, as well as that of the rest of the Free
World, necessarily rests, therefore, upon
American power. To the extent that the
United States can adequately provide for
its own air defense against nuclear and
thermonuclear attack, to that extent, the
United States adds to the security of the
Free World as a whole; and likewise adds
to the deterrent against Soviet aggression
afforded by the American capability to
make atomic retaliatory attacks.

Significant was the view expressed early
in the postwar era by General Henry H.
Arnold, Commanding General of the
Army Air Forces in World War II, when
he said, "If there is a third world war, the
strategic center of it will be the North
Pole." The basis for this view is the fact
that the Arctic lies athwart the shortest fly-
ing distances, the great circle routes,
between the two Super Powers. In fact, a
glance at the polar map shows that the
Arctic lies near the center of the great in-
dustrial and population centers of the
world, all of them located in the Northern
Hemisphere.

That the Soviet Union is likewise cog-
nizant of the strategic and military im-
portance of the Arctic in a future war, is
borne out by numerous indications of
Soviet military and economic activity in the
Arctic region.

I believe that a critical examination of
the position of the Soviet Union and the
United States and Canada in the Arctic will
show that the Arctic is indeed America's
most critical defense frontier. Such an ex-
amination should reveal the extent to
which these powers have responded to the
challenge and to the opportunities afforded
by the Arctic in the Air Age World. From
such an analysis we may reasonably hope
to draw some pertinent conclusions rele-
vant to the air defense of the United States.

**COMPARISON OF THE SOVIET AND
NORTH AMERICAN ARCTIC LAND
AREAS: POPULATION**

As to the "defense" value of the Arctic
mainland and islands, two fundamentally
opposed schools of thought exist, as shown
by Mr. Vilhjalmur Stefansson, the noted
Arctic explorer and author. One view holds
that northern lands are most valuable if
they remain uninhabited, and are used as
deserts which it would be difficult for an
enemy to cross; the other maintains that
the northern lands should be colonized so
there may be resident populations which
could supply food, housing and other aid
to a military force. "In effect," he says, "we
of North America are acting on the de-
fense-by-desert theory, they of Eurasia on
the defense-by-colonization theory."

A comparison of population data, for 1950
and 1951, supports Stefansson's view.
North of the Arctic Circle the Soviets have
500,000 people against our 10,000, and
north of Anchorage, Alaska, 5,000,000
against our 100,000. "Most of Russia's
northern cities are manufacturing centers
as well as locations for air fields and other
military establishments," asserts Stefansson.
"In the sub-Arctic," he continues, "our con-
tinent has no city of even 50 thousand that
is more northerly than Edmonton (Can-
da), which is about 53 and 1/2 degrees
North Latitude." North of that latitude the
Soviet Union has at least 50 cities of more
than 50 thousand each. Moscow, for in-
stance, is more than 150 miles farther north
than Edmonton, and counts her population
at more than 5 million.

On the one hand, these population data
reflect an intensive Soviet development of
resources and transportation in their Arctic
regions; while, on the other hand, they
possibility, and in view, further, of the present inadequacies of United States-Canadian air defense, the need to develop our capabilities to operate effectively in the Arctic is imperative. Time is of the essence—and to again quote Colonel Fletcher, "It may be later than we think." It is certain that only the fullest and most dedicated effort on the part of both military and scientific-technological personnel will successfully off-set the problem posed by Soviet Russia's tremendous trans-Polar striking capabilities.

**What Civilians Can Contribute...**

Continued from page 24

You must insure that our young men are not living in a vacuum aloof and oblivious to the great moral issues confronting us. Do not let them be too busy with their academic studies or too preoccupied with the ease of our current way of life to exercise their ability to think and to reason and to be aware of the inescapable fact that the actual survival of their country and their own freedom is at stake today. Make our youth constantly aware of the great efforts in behalf of freedom which have been undertaken by this country solely in the interest of freedom and which have been based primarily on our belief in the rights and the dignity of the individual human being.

We must endow our youth with an inextinguishable faith in God and an unquenchable love of freedom under God. As long as they harbor a burning determination to preserve their heritage of freedom, then no weapons—material or spiritual—can conquer them. We would like these young men to come to us with pride in service. We would like them to have been imbued with a sense of privilege, not of obligation. We would like them to come with the spirit of those hundreds of thousands of gallant men who, in each of our crises, saw the shape of things as they were, and stood up to them in defense of their faith.

The road ahead of America is very simple and very clear. It is whether our country will survive as a free nation or disappear. We have the best weapons in the world, and the Army and other elements of the Armed Forces will do everything within their power to insure that this Nation does survive. The choice, however, does not lie entirely within the grasp of the Armed Forces. The Armed Forces are no stronger than the conviction and the understanding of those who create them, support them, and depend upon them for protection.

The real decision will not be made on the field of battle. The decision will be made in our homes, our churches, and our schools where the weapons of the spirit are made. The weapons of faith and honor must be forged from the very outset at home and, if necessary, in the woodshed; they must be tempered and edged in the school and in the church. Without marked improvement in these fundamental weapons, our men will continue to succumb to Communist pressures, whenever and wherever they are exposed to them. A morally strong America will never be defeated.

If you will give us men, we will make them soldiers.

**The Democratic Whip...**

Continued from page 19

In a purely personal way, there is no question but that my new duties have made this the most satisfying year I have yet spent in Congress. As the conclusion of the current session draws near, I already find myself looking forward to the opening of a new session next year, and to the new experiences that I know lie ahead.

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