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## **09/04/1947 Letter from the United States National Guard Bureau to George W. Welch**

Butler B. Miltonberger  
*United States National Guard*

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WAR DEPARTMENT  
WAR DEPARTMENT SPECIAL STAFF  
NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

4 September 1947

FROM  
THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS  
730 JACKSON PLACE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Hon. George W. Welsh, President  
Mayors' Conference  
City Hall  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Dear Mr. Welsh:

The new National Guard is destined to be a very vital part of the nation's military establishment. It is to be a force in being, trained equipped and capable of immediate mobilization in the event of any enemy aggression.

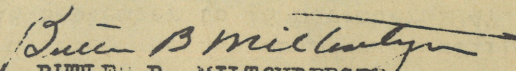
Because of its importance to the national defense, President Truman has proclaimed 16 September 1947 as National Guard Day and has directed that a nationwide recruiting campaign be conducted to fill its ranks.

In accord with the President's desire, the National Guard will conduct a recruiting campaign from 16 September to 16 November 1947. It will be known as "Operation 88,888", and its goal will be to enlist an additional 88,888 men, or a pproximately a man a minute during the two-month period. The present strength of the National Guard is 112,000 men, and its proposed strength is 682,000.

I would like to take this occasion to ask that you give your support to this campaign and urge the members of the Mayor Conference to give their endorsement in their respective cities. I can assure you of the deep appreciation of the War Department and of the National Guard of the United States for any support you may give during this critical period.

May I hear from you concerning this request?

Sincerely yours,

  
BUTLER B. MILTONBERGER  
Major General, USA  
Chief, National Guard Bureau