

California Guard at High Mark Since End of War

Strength of the California National Guard both Army and Air has hit a new high of 27,279, surpassing all previous records in its 107-year history, Major Gen. Earle M. Jones, state adjutant general, said yesterday.

The Guard had a net gain of 626 for the month of March. Of this number 585 joined the Army Guard and 69 became new Air Guardsmen.

The California Army Guard is now only 1449 men short of its fiscal year end quota of 24,262. General Jones said he is confident the Guard will meet the June 20 goal set for it by the Department of Defense.

He explained he believes the steady strength rise is due mainly to the increasing awareness on the part of young men in the age brackets of 17-18½ of their military obligation under the Armed Forces Reserve Act of 1955.

Entitlements to Close

General Jones warned that once the California Guard reaches its strength goal, enlistments will probably be shut down since the Guard will not receive Federal support beyond what has been budgeted based on its strength quota. He urged all eligible young men to avail themselves of the many benefits offered by membership in the National Guard before the doors are closed to new enlistments.

Many young men in the 17½ year age bracket are joining National Guard units in their own communities because the Selective Service Act provides that any young man who joins the Army or Air National Guard after 17 and before 18½ years is classified as I-D and is not subject to induction so long as he remains a member of the Guard. They can continue their education and still fulfill their

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