

State National Guard to Study Its Regulations on Riot Control

5-9-70
NYF

The New York National Guard has decided to review its methods of riot control following the killing of four students by National Guardsmen at Kent State University in Ohio earlier this week.

"We would be negligent if we didn't review our plans," Lieut. Col. Raymond F. Joyce Jr., the public affairs officer for the State Division of Military and Naval Affairs in Albany, said yesterday.

Colonel Joyce went on to say, however, that "whether there will be any change depends on what the review reveals."

Spokesmen for the National Guard in New Jersey and Connecticut said they did not plan to review their methods. Both spokesmen said officers and men were periodically reminded of the Army's rules of engagement for civil disturbances and disasters.

Colonel Joyce said that under present regulations, every Guardsman is required to take eight hours of riot control in-

struction during his six months of basic training.

Once the man is assigned to his unit, the officer said, he gets 16 hours of additional training. That 16 hours is an annual requirement for all units in the Guard, he said.

Maj. Robert K. Kroesen, public affairs officer for the New Jersey Department of Defense, said that last April 24, a week before the incident in Ohio, a letter had gone out to all commanders ranging from generals to squad leaders.

The letter, Major Kroesen said, "reiterated the policies of the rules of engagement." These rules, he continued, prohibit the carrying of ammunition by Guardsmen unless an order has been given by the commanding general.

Once the ammunition has been ordered, Guardsmen are not allowed to load their weapons until a direct order has been given by an officer, Maj. Kroesen said. Orders to fire would also have to be given by an officer.