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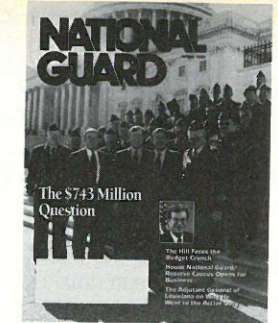
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# NATIONAL GUARD

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## FEATURES

**The \$743 Million Dollar Question . . . . . 18**

This year's challenge to the National Guard on Capitol Hill is the Defense Department's fiscal year 1998 budget proposal. As it stands, President Clinton's proposal would leave the Guard \$743 million short in funding for force structure, resourcing and military construction. The NGAUS has addressed this problem head on, vigorously petitioning congressional members for their help to correct this debilitating shortfall.

**General Stroud Explains His Decision. . . . . 38**

MG Ansel M. Stroud, the adjutant general of Louisiana, is the first adjutant general to request that an active component officer command a National Guard unit. Some members of the National Guard Association have expressed their concern about this decision and how it will affect the National Guard. In this article, General Stroud explains how he arrived at this decision, how it is working out and what it will mean for the Guard.

**Guard and Reserve Caucus Opens For Business. . . . . 48**

The newly formed House National Guard and Reserve Caucus recently announced its plans to formalize the federal funding process of equipment in the budget cycle. Representatives Paul McHale (D-Pennsylvania) and Steve Buyer (R-Indiana), co-chairman of the Caucus, discuss how their plans to support the Guard and Reserve on Capitol Hill will be conducted.

## DEPARTMENTS

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**Cover:** Members of the North Dakota Guard stand tall with their congressional delegation during a recent visit to Capitol Hill. In the front row (from left): Lt Col William Ziegler, president, National Guard Association of North Dakota; and Maj Gen Keith Bjerke, the adjutant general of North Dakota. Many other state associations have paid visits to their congressional delegations during this legislative season. Such visits are a crucial means of communicating Guard concerns to the people who can make a difference in Washington. Cover by Dennis & Sackett Design.

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