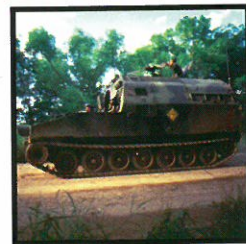


The experienced upgrade partner for systems modernization



United Defense customers worldwide have come to expect the quality and reliability that can only come through fifty years of experience in engineering and manufacturing. Now that experience is being applied to upgrade and conversion programs.

Some examples include the M109A6 Paladin. Thoroughly reconstructed from existing M109A2/A3 vehicles, the M109A6 combines improvements in performance, maintainability and survivability. Onboard digital systems now provide day and night operations capability and secure communications. The M88A2 HERCULES, the ODS Bradley and the entire Bradley family, the M9 Armored Earthmover and the M992 Field Artillery Ammunition Support Vehicle are also successes. Each delivers world-class performance, supportability and affordability.



The fact of the matter is, a combat organization is only as good as its least modernized major system. Our experience in upgrading critical systems enables us to tailor a program to meet the customer's

specific force modernization requirements.

Our skills in technology integration and flexible manufacturing mean lower cost, higher quality and rugged durability in the field.

These capabilities are available from United Defense—the experienced upgrade partner for systems modernization.

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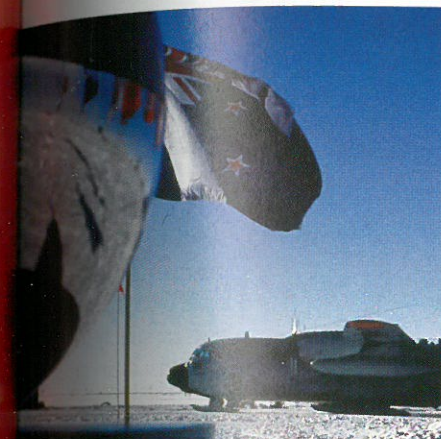
Volume 53, Number 4
www.ngaus.org

Features

14 Air Antarctica

The South Pole — few humans would consider calling it “home.” But some New York Guardsmen do. Lending a hand to the National Science Foundation, they work in a land where, sometimes, the sun always shines but the temperature can freeze hydraulic lines and fingers. It’s a different kind of southern living.

On the cover: Mt. Erebus looms above the Ross Sea Ice Shelf, Antarctica. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael T. Smith



20 The Military Construction Conundrum

“Absurd” underfunding of Guard military construction has left adjutants general scratching their heads, Congressmen searching in vain and the Guard poised to complete all its projects by 3099 A.D. Who’s to blame?



22 Adios Panama

An era ends as U.S. forces pull out of Panama. Nearing the expiration of the Panama Canal Treaty, officials threw a farewell party. And the Guard, with years of service in the area, received a VIP pass.

24 BDU Ambassadors

Bridges, roads, schools and clinics suffered from Hurricane Mitch’s drubbing of Central America last year. Now that all critical emergency needs have been met, the Guard begins an increased role in the region. The Guard has acted as an ambassador to the Americas for years. But this year, their presence is even more important.

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Departments

Sound Off!	4
President’s Message	8
Tielines	9
Newsbreaks	11
State Roundup	26
Association News	28
Return Fire	30