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# NATIONAL GUARD

# Inside

Volume 55, Number 8  
www.ngaus.org

## Features

### 20 Cut to the Bone

The Senate Armed Services Committee expects an answer this month to its July 25 question: What do you plan to do with the Air Guard bomber units in Georgia and Kansas that could soon lose their aircraft and their missions? Air Force and Guard officials have been looking for a solution for the last month as they have come under fire for their decision to cut and consolidate the Air Force B-1B bomber fleet.

### 24 'We should be able to change and rearrange'

Air Force Secretary James G. Roche was not on board a month when he found himself in the middle of a controversy. The Air Force initiative to eliminate the Air Guard B-1B bomber fleet stunned the affected units and Congress. The secretary sat down with NATIONAL GUARD magazine to talk about the issue and others involving the Guard.

### 26 Worth the Wait?

President Bush's amended defense budget request is still too general to know exactly how well the National Guard will fare in fiscal year 2002, but there are encouraging signs. The House Armed Services Committee began marking the bill late last month; Senate authorizers and both appropriations committees will follow suit in early September.



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**ON THE COVER** Dru Blair's painting, *Power*, illustrates the sleek strength of the B-1B Lancer. The North Carolina artist specializes in military aircraft. For more information about his work call (800)-828-3634 or visit his Web site [www.drublair.com](http://www.drublair.com).