# **Modernized systems**









# essential to the nation's strategic forces.

The M109A6 Paladin self-propelled howitzer delivers responsive close fire support and the Bradley A2 Operation Desert Storm infantry fighting vehicle provides lethal, survivable support to the Army National Guard maneuver forces. The M88A2 HERCULES Improved Recovery Vehicle brings essential, safe tank recovery capability under severe battlefield conditions. United Defense-the National Guard's modernization partner.

United Defense

...changing the future of defense



### 20 In Harm's Way

With more than 9,000 Guardsmen deployed in Operation Enduring Freedom, "special operations" groups quickly came to the forefront. The experiences of Kentucky's 123rd Special Tactics Squadron are no exception. After a five-month tour in the mountains of Afghanistan, cut off from the outside world and existing on MREs in the harshest conditions imaginable, three parachute jumpers from this elite Air Guard unit recount their harrowing experiences as one of the first forces on the ground in the war against terrorism.

### Connecting the Guard

Training Guardsmen in almost 600 different specialties across the globe has resulted high-tech solutions that have become some of the most cost-effective aspects of the military's transformation efforts. At the cornerstone is the Guard's high-speed education network that connects more than 300 classrooms and provides command and control capability in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and three U.S. territories.

#### 28 Bylaws

With the growth of NGAUS as a multi-million dollar non-profit corporation, Maj. Gen Ronald O. Harrison ordered a review of NGAUS bylaws. The result is a streamlined set of bylaws that better reflect the association's current status and business practices. Some of the most common questions surrounding the changes are answered here.

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On the cover The map of Afghanistan was designed and produced by Tom Raben Horst (UMBC) and Ray Sterner (JHUAPL). The overall cover was designed Ben Roberts (Pixels and Ink).

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