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## Features

### 20 Another Conversation with Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum

Nearly 18 months into Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum's run as Guard Bureau chief, many things are different—from Guard headquarters consolidation in each state to plans for improved rotation schedules. But as Guard transformation plans continue to evolve, many—including the adjutants general—wonder about the impact in their individual states. Blum visited the National Guard Memorial on July 19 and sat down with NATIONAL GUARD to discuss his first year as chief and address issues that will shape the Guard in the coming months.

### 24 Phenix Raised

In 1954, a town across the Chattahoochee River from Fort Benning, Ga., offered every conceivable vice: gambling, prostitution, bootleg whiskey, drugs. In addition, backroom abortions and baby selling were part of the local trade. Although these things were illegal in Phenix City, Ala., it meant nothing. The city was a 20th-century Dodge City until the Alabama National Guard showed up.

### 32 Still ChalleNGing

The National Guard Youth Challenge Program has come a long way in the past 10 years, graduating over 45,000 at-risk youth, many of whom have gone on to prominent careers and college. The program is ever growing and officials want expansion. But the process has been difficult due to a lack of Congressional funding and mounting costs.

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