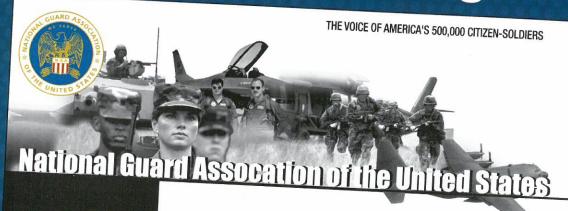


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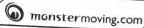
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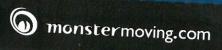
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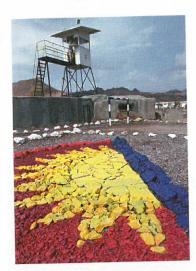














Maj. Gen. Richard C. Alexander (Ret.)

Jane Matthias CHIEF OF STAFF

John Goheen DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

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Christopher Prawdzik

Maureen Hearn PRODUCTION MANAGER

Rich Arnold PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASSISTANT

Ron Sutton DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP/SERVICES

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### **Features**

#### 22 Sinai Watch

Land mines and Army National Guardsmen are among of the few inhabitants of the Sinai Peninsula, the arid landmass that separates the western Israeli border from Egypt. In late October, reporters and photographers from Oregon traveled to the region to cover 529 members of their state's 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry, who keep peace where once there were a series of bloody battles. The Oregon Guard battalion is the second of three Guard battalions scheduled to take the mission in order to free active-duty units for other contingencies.

#### 28 A Conversation with Thomas F. Hall

As one of the final pieces of President Bush's senior defense team to be put in place, Thomas F. Hall is playing catch-up on some Pentagon concerns—just not reserve-component issues. The brand new assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs arrived in October with a pretty good handle on those. He has worked reserve-component affairs for the last decade, albeit exclusively on the federal side. Hall sat down with NATIONAL GUARD magazine to share his vision for the Guard and other matters related to the nation's seven reserve components.

## **Departments**

rting Point2
il Call
II Call
airman's Message
shington Update
shington Update
wsbreaks14
32
te Roundup
et Word

Another Double Issue? We have combined the December and January issues to better position National Guard magazine for transition to a new printer starting in February. This is the second and final phase of a process designed to improve the magazine's quality and bottom line. Look for the February issue in your mailbox the first week of the month.