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Features

The inaugural Ronald R. Fogleman Award was announced recently during the Air National Guard's Senior Commanders Conference by Maj Gen Edward J. Philbin (ret.), executive director of the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS). The NGAUS established the award to encourage and reward outstanding scholarship in civil-military relations, and to recognize General Fogleman's efforts to solidify the vital link between the citizen-soldier and the active duty military.

The New Year does not bring glad tidings from the Pentagon for eight Guard combat divisions, some of which are on the chopping block. As the controversy over eliminating or severely restructuring these vital forces rages on, fallacies about the Guard's role as a combat force are mushrooming under a dark cloud of misinformation. To set the record straight, we begin a series of historical pieces this month on the contributions of each of the divisions, beginning with Pennsylvania's 28th Infantry Division, which led the victory parade through Paris during World War II.

The 104th Fighter Wing, Massachusetts Air National Guard, deployed to Aviano Air Base, Italy, from August through October as part of Operation Deny Flight. By rotating personnel every 15 to 18 days, traditional Guard members managed to attain time from their civilian employers to help bring peace to the war-torn region of the former Yugoslavia. More than 500 Guard members and a dozen A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft deployed for the unit's first combat mission in its 48-year history.

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COVER: Massachusetts Air Guard A-10s, 104th Fighter Wing, lined up on the runway at Aviano Air Base, Italy, during OPERATION DENY FLIGHT. Photo, SSgt Stephen Alderete. Story, page 22. Emblems of Guard combat divisions targeted for elimination by the Pentagon. Cover by Dennis and Sackett Design.

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