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FEATURES

In this month's issue, LTG Edward D. Baca, chief, National Guard Bureau, answers questions from Maj Gen Edward J. Philbin, the NGAUS executive director, regarding current issues affecting the National Guard. As the new year begins, General Baca discusses the challenging times ahead for the Guard. Some of the questions include how cuts in defense spending will impact the National Guard? How will an integration program be implemented with the division redesign plan endorsed by the adjutants general? How many active Army officers will command Guard units? Will the assignment of active officers inhibit career progression and promotion of Guard officers? And what opportunities will there be for Guard officers to serve on active duty?

The Army National Guard must have fully modernized divisions in order to go "head-tohead" in any major war, according to MG Francis S. Greenlief (ret.), former chief, National Guard Bureau and former NGAUS executive vice president. The Army National Guard must have the most modern of equipment and the most current force structure and assignments. This modernization should include intelligence resources to identify and track enemy forces; fighting vehicles that can move with speed and agility, with position-navigation systems and stabilized firing platforms for day and night operations; indirect fire systems that can engage moving armored targets; all-weather day/night aircraft for reconnaissance, low-level air-to-air combat, and engagement of armored vehicles and digital command and control capability. The cost will be high, but that is the cost of maintaining world leadership.

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Cover: LTG Edward D. Baca, chief, National Guard Bureau, discusses the impact that rotating active-duty officers through the National Guard will have on the nation's military structure. Cover by Dennis and Sackett Design, Photo by 1st Lt Kevin McAndrews.

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