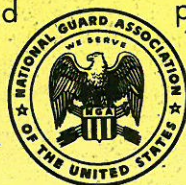


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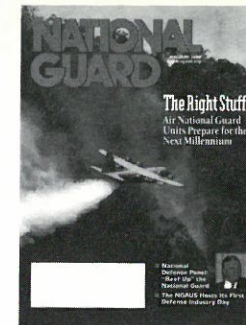
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Faced with an ever increasing operations tempo, the U.S. Air Force is turning to the Air Guard for real-world missions. From Operation SOUTHERN WATCH to fighting fires in Indonesia, Air Guard units are taking on peacetime challenges that were once left almost entirely to the active-duty force. During the recent Air National Guard Senior Air Commanders Conference in Washington, D.C., Air Force and Air Guard leaders from around the country spoke to the issues facing the Air Guard now and in the future.

Changing Tide 18

The National Defense Panel, charged with reviewing the controversial Quadrennial Defense Review, released its report in early December. Among its findings, the panel calls for a greater role for the National Guard in foreign and domestic missions.

Addressing the Guard's Near-Term Equipment Needs 22

More than 100 people attended the NGAUS's first Industry Day at the National Guard Memorial Building in Washington, D.C. Sponsored by the Association at the request of its Corporate Advisory Panel, the one-day seminar was designed to brief representatives of leading defense industries on the Army and Air National Guard's equipment requirements in the near term.

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Cover: Conducting its mobile airborne fire fighting mission, a C-130H, piloted by a Wyoming Air National Guard crew, drops water on blazes in Indonesia's rain forest. See story on page 12. Photo, TSgt "J.J." Johnson (WYANG). Inset photo: Philip Odeen, chairman of the National Defense Panel, releases the panel's report on the QDR. Cover by Dennis and Sackett Design.

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