



Modernized vehicle systems such as the M2A2 ODS Bradley Fighting Vehicle, the M109A6 Paladin self-propelled howitzer and the M88A2 HERCULES improved recovery vehicle provide decisive tools for victory to troops under the most severe battlefield conditions—clearly demonstrated during Operation Iraqi Freedom. **United Defense—the National Guard's modernization partner.**

**United Defense**

# NATIONAL GUARD



MG Richard C. Alexander (Ret.)  
PUBLISHER

John Goheen  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Christopher Prawdzik  
SENIOR EDITOR

Maureen Hearn  
PRODUCTION MANAGER

Richard Arnold  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

Ron Sutton  
DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP/SERVICES

Bill Goss  
LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

Pam Johnson  
DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

Pixels & Ink  
ARTWORK

PRO-Media Sales and Consulting Inc.  
ADVERTISING (540) 854-0910

# Inside

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## Features

### 18 Soul Soothers

*National Guard chaplains have evolved since their storied days of providing battlefield comfort and as the moral and spiritual anchors at military outposts around the globe. Again in a time of war, chaplains not only face the trials that have plagued soldiers throughout the ages, but they do so while generational and societal influences tend to stray from traditional religious perspectives. At the same time, chaplains continue to discover young soldiers searching for spiritual answers as they face life and death situations.*

### 22 The AGAUS Niche

*Maj. Gen. David Rataczak, Arizona's adjutant general and president of the Adjutants General Association since May, has seen the military—particularly the National Guard—undergo massive changes. With the ear of Congress as well as that of individual governors, the AGAUS offers a bridge between the two and has carved its own niche in addressing issues important to Guard soldiers. Rataczak offered his perspectives on the association in a recent interview with NATIONAL GUARD.*

### 26 Simulation Adapts to World Conflicts

*Equipment designed to mimic close-quarter and urban ground conflict continues to emerge. With the war on terror requiring some house-to-house and small operations, industry is adapting to these new military needs, and the military is opening itself to new ideas from industry to better prepare for unforeseen challenges in the war on terror and beyond.*

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