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30 Next Threat?

While National Guard troops remain engaged in the war on terror, a new homeland concern could be on the horizon for the nation's citizen-soldiers: bird flu. As health officials just wait, National Guardsmen prepare to play a role in the event of a pandemic—from guarding vaccine stockpiles to helping with quarantine duties.

34 Equipment vs. Personnel

Although equipment shortages plagued the National Guard well before 9/11, the Pentagon floated a possible new approach to the problem late last year: cut troops. The purported cuts leave the Guard wondering what will happen as plans such as Future Total Force and the Quadrennial Defense Review take shape in 2006.

38 Tricare Increments

After more than five years of NGAUS fighting for an all-inclusive Tricare plan for Guardsmen and their families, Congress took a big step forward last month with the passage of a plan that offers Tricare to everyone in the National Guard. It is a more complex plan than NGAUS envisioned, but officials see some positives.

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