

# Modernized systems



essential to the nation's strategic forces.

The M109A6 Paladin self-propelled howitzer delivers responsive close fire support and the Bradley A2 Operation Desert Storm infantry fighting vehicle provides lethal, survivable support to the Army National Guard maneuver forces. The M88A2 HERCULES Improved Recovery Vehicle brings essential, safe tank recovery capability under severe battlefield conditions. United Defense—the National Guard's modernization partner.

**United Defense**

...changing the future of defense™

# NATIONAL GUARD

# Inside

Volume 56, Number 6  
www.ngaus.org

## Features

### 22 Smooth Landing

After a year of uncertainty, the conversions of the Air National Guard's B-1B bomber wings resulted in several opportunities for Guardsmen. The 116th Bomb Wing at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., is not only assuming command of the Joint STARS air surveillance mission, the command will include the Air Force's active-duty Air Control Wing. Although providing some cultural challenges for active-duty and National Guard personnel, officials believe this represents the future of the Total Force concept.

### 28 ROPMA

At the end of a five-year "transition period," National Guard personnel are quickly learning the Reserve Officer Personnel Management Act, or ROPMA, establishes guidelines to promote "best qualified," not "fully qualified" officers. Career-minded officers like it, but some were left behind.

### 30 Wanted: The Humvee

Although the Army National Guard is short more than 8,000 Humvees, the multi-purpose vehicle is far down the priority list for the Guard. But considering combat support and service needs compiled by the NGAUS, the Humvee should be priority No. 1.

## Departments

Starting Point .....	2
Mail Call .....	4
Washington Update .....	10
Newsbreaks .....	14
State Roundup .....	32
Educational Foundation News .....	40

- Maj. Gen. Richard C. Alexander (Ret.)  
PUBLISHER
- Jane Matthias  
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
- John Goheen  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
- Kristin Patterson Jones  
NEWS EDITOR
- Christopher Prawdzik  
STAFF WRITER/PHOTOGRAPHER
- Maureen Hearn  
PRODUCTION MANAGER
- Nick Lashinsky  
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
- 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