

NATIONAL GUARD

Inside
Volume 57, Number 6
www.ngaus.org



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.



Features

20 A Conversation with Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum

As someone who began his military career in the Special Forces, Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum likes to hit the ground running. And that's exactly what he did when took over as National Guard Bureau chief in April. After only a month on the job, he announced the most comprehensive changes the National Guard has seen in decades. Blum sat down with NATIONAL GUARD magazine last month to discuss his plans and vision.

25 Recalling the Forgotten

This month we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the end of fighting in the Korean War. The conflict is one of the most ignored in history; however, it serves as one of the great dividing lines in modern Guard history. Force structure, missions, training and racial composition were dramatically altered by this first hot conflict of the Cold War. The result is a Guard that bears little resemblance to its pre-1950s predecessor.

30 Still on Track?

Less than year after Army Secretary Thomas E. White unveiled plans to lighten some Army National Guard armor brigades, neither he nor his uniformed counterpart, former Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, is still in the place. Although his restructuring plans remain, they have evolved into uncertainty. They are one more challenge to Army Guard officials trying to maintain combat readiness and relevancy.



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