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**FEATURES**

**Taking the Fight to Congress . . . . . 12**

MG Richard C. Alexander, the NGAUS president and the adjutant general of Ohio, was joined by three other adjutants general in testimony on Capitol Hill. In addition to sharing their concerns over the \$743 million shortfall facing the National Guard in the fiscal year 1998 defense budget request, the adjutants general answered questions from the concerned leaders who sit on the Senate Appropriations Committee.

**Las Vegas Hosts Air Force Fifty . . . . . 14**

The NGAUS participated in the U.S. Air Force's 50th anniversary celebration by conducting its Spring Executive Council meeting in conjunction with *Air Force Fifty* in Las Vegas. More than 10,000 members of the Air Force family gathered for the celebration April 22-26. The NGAUS also set up a special display that boasted the Air National Guard's contributions to the rich heritage of our nation's flying force. *Air Force Fifty* was the largest event in the year-long celebration. It included one of the most spectacular air shows in the service's history, and was a time for old friends to reunite.

**Strong Resolve Against Guard Cuts . . . . . 18**

The Department of the Army brought disheartening news to National Guard leaders during the Adjutants General Association of the United States Spring Conference in Oklahoma City. It's common knowledge that force structure cuts are on the horizon, but it came as a shock to learn that the Army wants to cut 38,000 more Army Guard troops.

**DEPARTMENTS**

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**Cover:** Adjutants general, from left, Brig Gen Daniel James III, Texas; MG Raymond F. Rees, Oregon; MG Jacob Lestenkof, Alaska; and MG Richard C. Alexander, Ohio, stand with Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) following a hearing on Capitol Hill. Inset, Wilbur Richardson was one of several veterans on hand for *Air Force Fifty* in Las Vegas. Photos by Christopher J. Anderson. Inset photo courtesy of *Planes of Fame Flying Museum*. Cover by Dennis and Sackett Design.

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