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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 for troops under the most severe battlefield conditions—clearly demonstrated during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

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NATIONAL GUARD

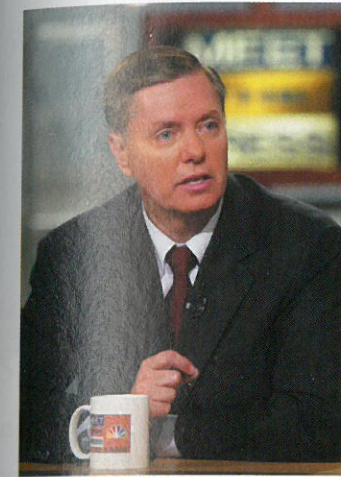
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Features

22 Finding the 'New Normal'

Thousands of National Guardsmen deploy each month, leaving behind their "normal" life to become full-time soldiers and airmen. They and their families often don't realize the impact lengthy deployments may have on their relationships, home life and even finances. And this impact can outlast the deployment. But good communication and family support groups are there to help repair many of the twisted family ties that result from lengthy separations.



26 A Conversation with Senator Lindsey Graham

First-term Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., is an anomaly among his Senate colleagues. An Air Force Reserve colonel, Graham began his military career in the Air Force and also spent five years in the South Carolina Air Guard. Graham has a military perspective unlike that of his Senate colleagues—even those who served, but did so years ago when the military and the world were vastly different. Graham sat down and discussed this perspective with NATIONAL GUARD.



30 There Were Others

During this 60th anniversary of D-Day, much will be written of the Army National Guard's 29th Infantry Division and its assault on Omaha Beach. These exploits are well worth remembering. But other Guardsmen and units also were involved, though with little recognition for their participation in the opening act of the liberation of Europe.

34 Industrial Strength

Nearly 100 companies are NGAUS Corporate Associates. They provide information on the latest technology and equipment, which supports NGAUS' goals and amplifies the association's voice on Capitol Hill. This month, NATIONAL GUARD recognizes these members while providing a brief description of their products and services.

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ON THE COVER: Sgt. Laurence Nimmers, a member of the Iowa Army National Guard's 234th Signal Battalion, hugs his wife and young son last month after returning home from a year in Iraq.

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