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FEATURES

An Interview With Gen Michael E. Ryan 16

Gen Michael R. Ryan begins his tour as Air Force chief of staff against a backdrop of dwindling defense budgets. He shares his plan for affording the modernization the Air Force needs to capture in the midst of these critical funding shortages. He also speaks at length about the Air Guard and the essential job Guardmembers provide—and will continue to provide—to the Total Air Force.

The Adjutants General Carry on the Cause 20

The Adjutants General Association of the United States (AGAUS) held its mid-winter meeting January 31-February 3, 1998, on the heels of the president's proposed fiscal year 1999 Defense budget that shortfalls the Army National Guard \$693 million. The budget was just one issue the adjutants general addressed. They passed 31 resolutions pertaining to personnel, procurement, force structure, bonuses, operations and maintenance, modernization, training and military construction issues in both the Army and Air Guards.

The "Fighting 69th" 22

Since March is the month when everyone is "Irish," at least for a day, NATIONAL GUARD magazine profiles an Irish-American Army Guard regiment whose history is rich in the customs its original members brought with them to the battlefields beginning with the Civil War. From its insignia that bears a shamrock, to the Irish wolfhound that stands as its mascot, to the regimental colors of green and gold, the "fighting 69th" continues to weave its traditions with its present role as a member of the New York National Guard.

DEPARTMENTS

President's Message 4	Tielines 11
Views from the Field 6	Newsbreaks 12
Capitol Focus 8	

Cover: Gen Michael E. Ryan follows in the footsteps of his father, Gen John D. Ryan, who was also chief of staff of the Air Force. In this issue, Colleen Wolfe, staff writer/photographer, interviews General Ryan about his goals and priorities as he leads the Total Air Force into the next century. See interview with General Ryan on page 16. Photo, Capt Kevin McAndrews. Cover by Dennis and Sackett Design.

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