



ON WATCH

ON CALL

ON GUARD

Today, more than ever, the men and women of the National Guard stand vigilant in the defense of freedom. At Boeing, we're proud to stand with the Guard every day in their vital mission.



# NATIONAL GUARD



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## Features

### 26 Final Exams

A 'fly-off' underway this month at Fort Rucker, Ala., is make-or-break time for the companies hoping to win a \$2.2 billion contract to provide the Army's new light utility helicopter. But the real victor will ultimately be the Army Guard, which will soon receive 204 much-needed aircraft.

### 32 Transformation or Cuts?

Last month's Quadrennial Defense Review reflects the National Guard's worst fears of a tightening defense budget. The potential impacts are many, including a personnel cut. Fortunately for Guard leaders, the governors and many lawmakers are not going along.

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### 42 Communication Breakdown

The Guard's equipment shortages are more acute in some areas than others. One of the most glaring needs is Single-Channel Ground and Airborne Radio Systems, as evidenced after Hurricane Katrina.

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