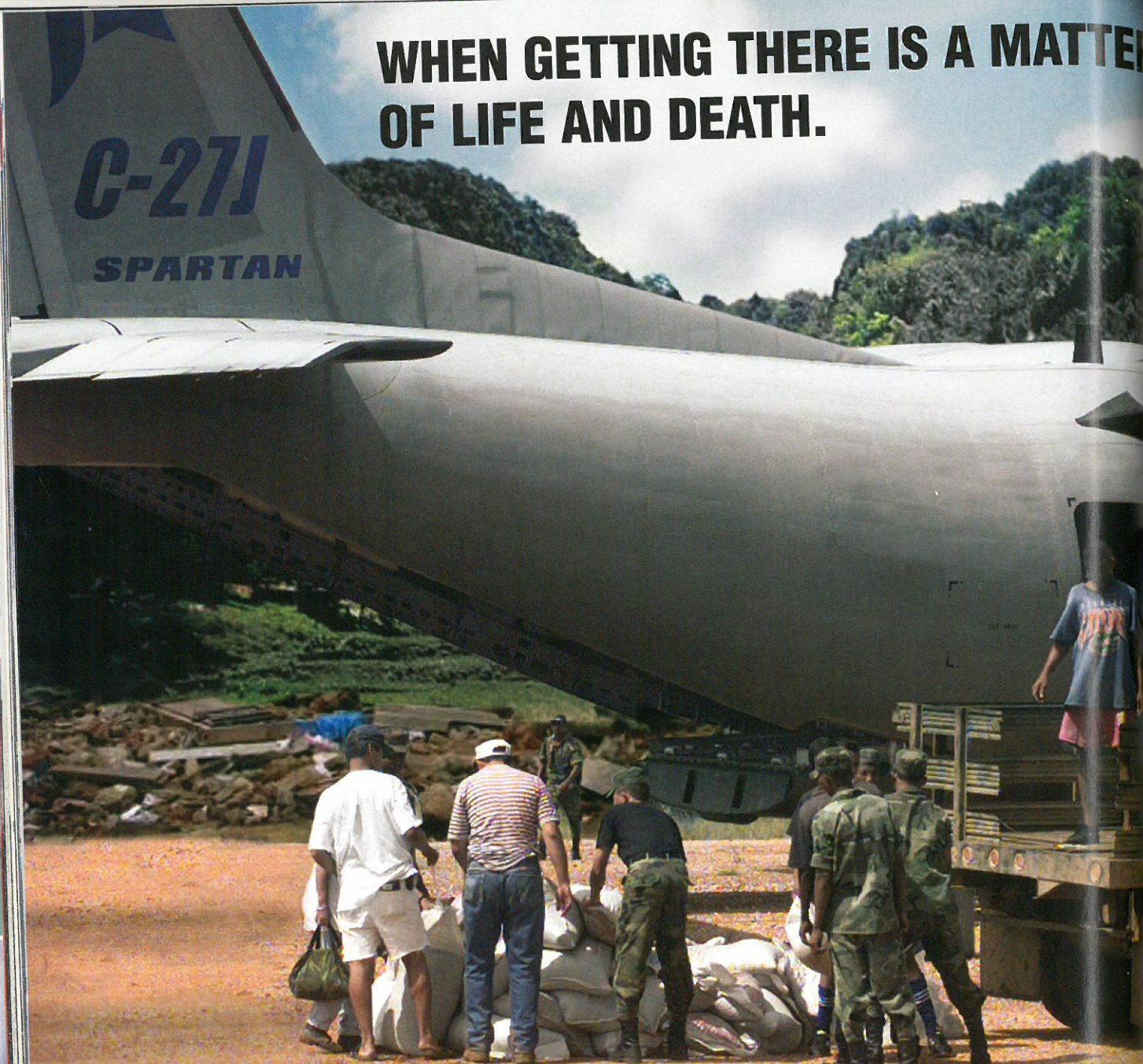


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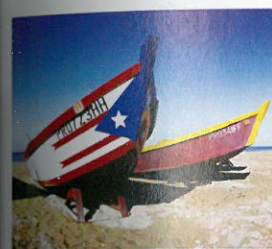
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24 Border Spotters

Since last summer, Operation Jump Start has put the National Guard in places the undermanned Border Patrol couldn't effectively police. As a result, illegal crossings from Mexico into the United States have dropped 60 percent. While fulfilling this support role, however, Guardsmen get a close-up look at the confusion, challenge and outright danger along the country's vast southern boundary.



28 Sizzling San Juan

While Guardsmen watch the country's southern border, conference goers will head farther south this year for the 129th NGAUS General Conference and Exhibition Aug. 24 to 27 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. From assembling prominent defense leaders and elected officials to ensuring visitors get a heavy dose of the island's culture, conference organizers are working to bring out the best of both in August.



32 Mountain Men

Anchoring the edge of the Wild West, Oregon's terrain defines the Oregon National Guard as much as its fighting spirit has since 1843. With its many demands, the Oregon Guard proves it can successfully manage the treachery of Mount Hood at home to the floodwaters after Hurricane Katrina and the enemy in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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Volume 61, Number 3
www.ngaus.org