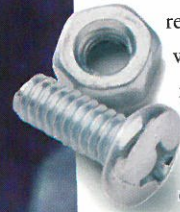




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# NATIONAL GUARD



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## Features

### 24 Aircraft Modernization

Many Guard aircraft are now older than their pilots. Modernization is overdue. But funds are scarce, which requires some tough choices.

#### A Fleet Nearing Twilight

From 40-year-old KC-135 tankers to 22-year-old F-15 fighters to C-130E airlifters whose average age is 37, an increasing number of Air Guard planes are hobbled by worn engines, outdated avionics and the absence of essential new capabilities.

#### Is Less Better?

Stung by the lackluster performance of its helicopters during the Kosovo air war and by repeated safety groundings, the Army staff has developed an aggressive helicopter modernization plan that starts with retiring hundreds of Army National Guard helicopters.

### 32 Kent State

May marks the 30th anniversary of a dark day in Guard history — the killings of four students at Kent State University. The shootings, however, were not without provocation. And the incident has had a profound effect on how the Guard handles civil disturbances. NATIONAL GUARD magazine takes a look at two aspects of the story that may not get much attention elsewhere in commemoration coverage.

#### Kent's Other Casualties

National Guardsmen have been the villains of the Kent State tragedy. But violent demonstrators injured 60 Guardsmen and burned buildings in four days of mayhem prior to the shootings.

#### Lessons Applied

Kent State changed forever the way the Guard responds to civil disturbances. Today, Guardsmen get more crowd-control training and have better equipment when they hit the streets.

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