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NATIONAL GUARD



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Inside

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Features

20 Aircraft Modernization

Two units. Both fly old aircraft in need of modernization. But that's where the similarities end. Tennessee's Cobra pilots and Pennsylvania's air refuelers illustrate the people behind the National Guard's aging aircraft.

End of an Era

Army officials are trying to retire the Cobra attack helicopter. This has pilots with Tennessee's R company unsure about their future. How many will want to stay around, or will want to go back to school to learn to new aircraft is anybody's guess.

Seeking New Life

Members of Pennsylvania's 171st Air Refueling Wing don't mind their operations tempo or their 1958-vintage KC-135 Stratotankers. But there is one thing that would help: new engines. This would extend the life of the tankers until 2040.

32 Purple Perspective

As the National Guard Bureau vice chief, Maj. Gen. Raymond Rees takes a joint, or "purple," approach to business. In a question and answer session, Rees discusses the National Guard's joint issues.

37 On Target

Lt. Col. Ernie Audino, the first Army National Guard officer to command an active-duty battalion, has used gunnery to win his tankers' respect.

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ON THE COVER Chief Warrant Officer 4s Bill Seifert and Tom Luiperseck, Cobra pilots with R Company, 4th Squadron, 278th Cavalry Regiment, walk off the flight line after a mission. (Photograph by Jeanne Reisel)