

NATIONAL GUARD

Inside

Volume 59, Number 5
www.ngaus.org



ON WATCH.

ON CALL.

ON GUARD.

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



Features

24 Somber Duty

Grim situations often create strong bonds between strangers. This is particularly true for casualty assistance officers and the families they help when a soldier dies. Thrown together during a tumultuous time, families learn to trust and confide in a person whose sole purpose is to get them through what can be a confusing military process. Although brought together under dire circumstances, both parties often come out on the other end with a lasting friendship.

28 Double-Edged Sword

After nearly four years of fighting the war on terror, the desert has pounded Army Guard aviation assets more than was anticipated before 9/11. While precarious, this situation has accelerated Army Guard aircraft modernization and positioned it for future improvements.

32 A Conversation with Rep. John McHugh

Through two different administrations, 9/11 and operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, Rep. John McHugh, R-N.Y., has served as chairman of the House Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee. Mr. McHugh says party leanings don't sway his committee members, but the military realities of today's world do.

36 Forgotten Presence

The terrorist attacks on 9/11 revived and alerted an historic Air Guard mission. But the air sovereignty mission actually was the result of a 1953 experiment that helped shape today's Total Force.

Departments

Starting Point	.2
Mail Call	.8
Chairman's Message	.10
Capital View	.12
Washington Update	.14
Newsbreaks	.18
State Roundup	.40
Association News	.47
Industry Notes	.50
Last Word	.52

Brig. Gen. Stephen M. Koper (Ret.)
PUBLISHER
LTC Wayne Hunt
NGAUS CHIEF OF STAFF
John Goheen
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
Christopher Prawdzik
SENIOR EDITOR
Maureen Hearn
PRODUCTION MANAGER
Erika N. Cotton
STAFF WRITER
Richard Arnold
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST
Ron Sutton
DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP/SERVICES
Col. Paula Kougeas (Ret.)
ACTING LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR
Pam Buckler
DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL OPERATIONS
Hazell Booker
DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY AND ASSOCIATION LIAISON
Pixels & Ink
ARTWORK