Your organization has tirelessly assisted the National Guard in a variety of ways, from shaping defense policy to positively improving the professional and personal well-being of **National Guard members.** employees and their families.



—Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum, National Guard Bureau Chief

# NGAUS: Your Membership Speak Volumes

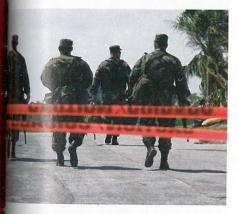
National Guard Association of the United States One Massachusetts Ave., NW Washington, D.C. 20001











Brig. Gen. Stephen M. Koper (Ret.)
PUBLISHER

John Goheen
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Christopher Prawdzik SENIOR EDITOR

Maureen Hearn PRODUCTION MANAGER

Richard Arnold

STAFF WRITER

non Sutton Director of Membership/Services

III Goss

EGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

IRECTOR OF FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

Pixels & Ink

PRO-Media Sales and Consulting Inc.

### **Features**

#### 22 New Vets

The National Guard will soon have more combat veterans in its ranks than at any time since the years immediately following World War II. This development, however, translates into more than just a spike in the Guard's combat expertise. It will also mean a dramatic increase in the number of current and recently former Guardsmen eligible and in need of veteran's health care and other earned benefits. This has implications for Guard leaders at every echelon and the agencies and organizations that deliver veteran services.

#### 27 Red Hot Expo

Hundreds of vendors—from one-product companies to the nation's top defense industries—showed off their latest offerings at the exhibition in Las Vegas that accompanied the 126th NGAUS General Conference. The wares on display demonstrated that the National Guard is not only a functioning full partner in the nation's defense, but also a significant consumer of a wide and unique array of products and services.

#### 30 Storm Surge

Since its inception, the National Guard has been the force local authorities call when natural disasters overwhelm first responders. Despite nearly 100,000 Guardsmen deployed overseas, this year was no different. When a series of hurricanes slammed the Southeast, hundreds of Guardsmen got the call. Most of those responding were from the states affected, but some came from regions miles away.

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