



Modernized vehicle systems such as the M2A2 ODS Bradley Fighting Vehicle, the M109A6 Paladin self-propelled howitzer and the M88A2 HERCULES improved recovery vehicle provide decisive tools for victory to our troops under the most severe battlefield conditions—clearly demonstrated during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

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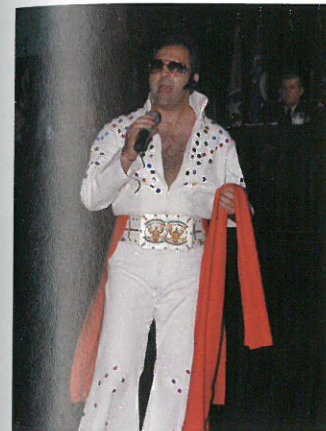
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Features

20 Transformation Takes Center Stage

At the 125th NGAUS General Conference in Biloxi, Miss., Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, along with a host of distinguished guests reviewed some of the successes and challenges that the Air and Army Guard endured in the past year, but also indicated a year of change to come. Adjutants general not only received marching orders from Blum, they also were given increased flexibility to operate in a wartime environment.



26 Army and Air Separate Sessions

As Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum presented an overall picture of the Guard's future at the 125th NGAUS General Conference, leaders of the Air and Army Guard from the National Guard Bureau (NGB) hashed out their plans for the future of each branch of the Guard. The Army and Air both continue to deal with challenges exacerbated by the war against global terrorism. Equipment shortages and lack of cascaded equipment topped the list of concerns for Lt. Gen. Roger Schultz and Lt. Gen. Daniel James, the Army and Air Guard directors at NGB.



28 Storm Force

With more than 100,000 Guard personnel deployed worldwide, Hurricane Isabel reminded thousands of state-activated Guardsmen along the East Coast of their multiple roles as homeland defenders. More than 2,500 Army and Air National Guardsmen from five states turned out with chainsaws, trucks and water trailers to help with the cleanup. In addition, Isabel was the first incident where the National Guard Bureau—now a provisional joint command—oversaw the states' efforts to deal with threats to people and property.

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