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As a vital part of America's armed forces, the National Guard prides itself on adaptability and state-of-the-art readiness. The same is true of the F-16. Because of its unique ability to incorporate new technology, the F-16 continually maintains its top-of-the-line status. It operates with reliability and precision in all climates and conditions. And due to Lockheed's lean enterprise, it actually costs less to buy than before—while remaining highly cost-effective to maintain, support and deploy. But most important, the F-16 has a proven record of excellence in action. And that's a quality the National Guard can relate to.

LOCKHEED MARTIN

Cover:

Rodney Lewis of the Louisiana Army National Guard talks to Defense Secretary William Perry during training at Fort Hood, Texas, this summer. Secretary Perry visited with troops while observing the 256th Infantry Brigade (Mechanized), one of 15 enhanced readiness brigades. Before the secretary returned to Washington, he was praising the enhanced readiness brigades. Story on page 22. Photo by Kevin McAndrews. Cover by Dennis and Sackett Design.

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Features

Garnering Some Pretty High Praise 22
Training the National Guard's newly designated enhanced readiness brigades is in full swing, and two Guard brigades, one from Florida and one from Louisiana, were in the forefront this summer. Keenly interested in the training, Defense Secretary William Perry watched the 256th Infantry Brigade from Louisiana go through the training grist mill with the 2d Armored Division at Fort Hood, Texas.

Arming the National Guard 54
As the National Guard finds itself increasingly deployed in a variety of "real world" missions both home and abroad, America's minutemen are using an increasingly wide variety of high-tech equipment. More than ever before, it is important for the Association's members to know what the Guard is using. The Army Guard's review begins on page 54 and the Air Guard's list begins on page 64.

Air Guard Holds the Shield 42
For years now the Air National Guard has been responsible for keeping the skies over America free. Until recently, this shield of Guard aircraft was handled by active duty controllers. Now, due to the downsizing of the military, the Air National Guard provides not only the aircraft, but also the control of the North East Defense System (NEADS), this is so vital to national security.

The Continuing Cost of the Gulf War 74
The American military decisively defeated Iraq during the lightning victory of the Gulf War. The victors believed that there was no longer an enemy to worry about, but they were wrong. DESERT STORM veterans are finding they are fighting a new enemy, the elusive and debilitating Gulf War Syndrome. Through a Gordian knot of bureaucratic tape, NGMagazine takes a whack at understanding this enemy.

Next Stop—the World 78
A veteran of the much maligned National Guard of the past would hardly recognize today's force. No longer is the Guard an under utilized, poorly equipped force, but a vital and active component of the Total Force. The Guard now finds itself deployed on a variety of "real world" missions. Recently, LTG Edward Baca, chief of the National Guard Bureau, made a whistle-stop tour of today's global Guard.

