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# NATIONAL GUARD

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During his 30 years service in the United States House of Representatives, General Montgomery has served the United States Armed Forces, and the nation, with great distinction. His service as a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee and now as ranking member of the National Security Committee has earned him the appellation "Mr. National Guard." His long service as member and Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs has made him the all time "Champion of Veterans' Rights and Benefits."

### Protecting the Skies of Kuwait ..... 60

The 11th Fighter Wing flying the OA-10 Thunderbolt II established an impressive number of "firsts" for the Total Force policy and for the Air National Guard. This marked the first time an active duty fighter squadron's aircraft and personnel were placed under the command and control of a Guard unit. Deployed during OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH, the 11th was the first National Guard fighter unit to be based in Kuwait since DESERT STORM.

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Five years have passed since the unit's last rotation through the National Training Center prior to the Gulf War. Despite facts to the contrary, Army leaders at that time said the 48th wasn't ready to go to war. They still harped on it years later, despite the National Guard's stellar performance during the war by units that did deploy. Now it was time to silence the dissenters. Yes, the 48th had something to prove. They hit the ground running, showing the NTC and the nation they are combat ready.

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COVER: An OA-10 Thunderbolt II flown by Pennsylvania's 11th Fighter Wing, patrols the skies of Kuwait in conjunction with OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH. The story of the 11thFW begins on page 60. Photo, courtesy the 11th Fighter Wing. Cover by Dennis and Sackett Design.

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