



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 troops under the most severe battlefield conditions—clearly demonstrated during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

United Defense—the National Guard's modernization partner.



MG Richard C. Alexander (Ret.)
PUBLISHER

John Goheen
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Christopher Prawdzik
SENIOR EDITOR

Maureen Hearn
PRODUCTION MANAGER

Richard Arnold
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

Scarlet Wootton
STAFF WRITER

Ron Sutton
DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP/SERVICES

Bill Goss
LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

Pam Johnson
DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

Pixels & Ink
ARTWORK

PRO-Media Sales and Consulting Inc.
ADVERTISING (540) 854-0910

Features

32 A Conversation with General Richard B. Myers

Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers became chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Since then he has been dubbed the most influential chairman in history, contributing significantly to current operations and transformation across the U.S. armed forces, including the National Guard. He sat down with NATIONAL GUARD magazine last month to discuss the Guard today and within the transformed military of the 21st century.

38 Lethal Envoys

National Guard Special Forces continue to play a key role in the war on terror. This different breed of soldier fights beyond the front lines, blending in with cultures in Afghanistan and Iraq to weed out the enemy before they expect it. Troops are becoming part of individual communities, gaining allies and working toward mission success through methods the Green Berets have perfected over the decades.

45 Raining Steel on Iraq

Of the six A-10 Thunderbolt II fighter units in the Guard, five participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom. While providing only eight percent of coalition aircraft, the A-10, some days, flew 40 percent of the sorties, eliminating thousands of targets in close-air support of ground forces.

51 Equipping the Air and Army Guard

The Army and Air Guard continue to struggle to meet equipment shortages—from Black Hawks and Humvees in the Army Guard to targeting pods in the Air Guard. Although cascading equipment from the active side slowed to a trickle after Sept. 11, Guard officials have gotten creative and have made strides in updating Guard hardware.

Departments

Starting Point	5
Mail Call	14
Washington Update	20
Newsbreaks	22
State Round-Up	84
Association News	108
Educational Foundation	111