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BATTLE PROVE



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California Air Guard P-51s fly over the Grand Canyon in Arizona in 1947. The cover design is a throwback to the same year, which saw both the birth of the Air Guard as a separate reserve component and National Guard magazine.



22 Difficult Ascent

The Air National Guard faces some turbulent times in the coming years. But the skies ahead are relatively tranquil compared to the early years of the organization, which was formally established as a separate reserve component 60 years ago this month.

28 A Conversation with Maj. Gen. Frank Vavala

NATIONAL GUARD spoke with the new Adjutant Generals Association president last month. Guard empowerment in the Pentagon and continuing the evolution to a more joint force top his agenda.

Simply Complex

Guard soldiers and airmen play an increasing role in unmanned aerial vehicles as the U.S. military prepares to welcome a faster, stronger and more lethal generation of the pilotless aircraft to the force.



36 Gallery of Guardsman

Missouri National Guard history features dozens of previously ordinary individuals who accomplished extraordinary

things, including a popular wartime president and a recognized pioneer in aviation history.

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