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Cover: Members of the North Dakota Guard stand tall with their congressional delegation during a recent visit to Capitol Hill. In the front row (from left): Lt. Col. William Ziegler, president, National Guard Association of North Dakota, and Maj. Gen. Keith Byrne, the adjutant general of North Dakota. Many other state associations have paid visits to their congressional delegations during this legislative season. Such visits are a crucial means of communicating Guard concerns to the people who make a difference in Washington. Cover by Dennis & Sackett Designs.

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FEATURES

The $743 Million Dollar Question
The year’s challenge to the National Guard on Capitol Hill is the Defense Department’s fiscal year 1998 budget proposal. As it stands, President Clinton’s proposal would leave the Guard $743 million short in funding for force structure, training and military construction. The NGCAUS has addressed this problem head-on, vigorously pressing congressional members for their help to correct this debilitating shortfall.

General Stroud Explains His Decision
MG Asm. M. Stroud, the adjutant general of Louisiana, is the first adjutant general to request that an active officer contact a congressional National Guard unit. Some members of the National Guard Association have expressed their concern about this decision and how it will affect the National Guard. In this article, General Stroud explains how he arrived at this decision and how it is working out and what it will mean for the Guard.

Guard and Reserve Caucus Opens For Business
The newly formed House National Guard and Reserve Caucus recently announced its plans to formalize the federal funding process of equipment in the budget cycle. Representatives Paul Mitchell (R-Tex) and Steve Buyer (R-Ind.), co-chairs of the Caucus, discuss how their plans to support the Guard and Reserve are the driving factor in the Caucus’s success.