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As a recent gathering of the Reserve Forces Policy Board, former Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird, the author of the Total Force concept, spoke of the unprecedented 50 years since its inception. He discussed the importance that has led to the Total Force, some of its notable accomplishments and its greater adherents. Finally, on the policy's 55th anniversary, he discussed its future—a future that is necessarily tied to the National Guard.

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For the first time in history, the Guard's Green Berets are faced with a real-world peacekeeping mission overseas. When the nation called, special forces troops from several Guard units across the country took on the challenge of Operation United Assistance, a United Nations peacekeeping mission in Haiti. Their stories include emotional personal decisions and establishing a safe haven in which to live.

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NATIONAL GUARD Magazine readers will recall with some trepidation the article, "Foreign Influences on the U.S. Army" by Vincent Demer, Department of the Army historian, that appeared in the September 1951 issue. Some think the article is nothing more than another thinly veiled attempt to assign the role of the National Guard to the American defense. In response, Duke University Professor of History, Professor J.B. Holley Jr., goes fishing and helps catch Demer's red herring.

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Cover Story

Capt. Jerrold E. McDaniel, Reserve Judge Advocate General, and Staff Sgt. John J. Hajeski, a 22-year-old reservist, are the focus of this month's feature story. They are two of the many reservists who are hitting the ground running for Operation Desert Shield.

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