As proud members of the National Guard, it’s our duty to serve. From natural disasters to the battlefields of war, we are trained and equipped to protect. We strive to bring a safe and secure feeling to our neighbors and communities... But often don’t think about our own protection, or protecting our families...

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An Interview With the Retiring Air Guard Director

Maj Gen Donald W. Shephard shares his views on the future of the Air National Guard. General Shephard, director of the Air Guard, retires at the end of January 1998. He leaves a precedent of shaping the Air National Guard into a "world-class organization." He sees cutting-edge technology at every level of the organization as the key to the Air Guard’s continued success.

Guard Women Take Part in Memorial Dedication

Guard women from all over the country converged on Washington D.C. this fall to take part in the dedication of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial. Women from both the Air and Army Guard took an active role in planning for the four-day celebration and the months of preparation and fundraising beforehand. The commercial weekend brought women together from all walks of life to participate in a shared moment for all military women, past and present.

Training for War the Virtual Reality Way

As war technology continues to advance in the modern era, the Defense Department is relying more on virtual training, or simulation training, to reproduce the warfare conditions for troops, and at the same time, save money. Computers are reviving the animation industry and driving markets in video games, films, virtual reality attractions and theme parks. They are also being used to train troops and assess weapon effectiveness. Many of these new forms of virtual warfare have entered the National Guard as well.

DEPARTMENTS

President’s Message

Views from the Field

Cover: Maj Gen Donald W. Shephard stands outside the Air National Guard Readiness Center at Andrews Air Force Base. In his hand, Colleen Wolfe, staff writer/photographer, interviews General Shephard about his views on the future of the Air National Guard. See page 12 for more. Photo: Capt Kevin McAndrews. Cover by Dennis and Sackett Design.

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FEATURES

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