**Features**

**16 Citizen Soldiers Developing Better Citizens**

The Guard's Youth Challenge program has been successfully rescuing America's 'at risk' kids for years. Now, the program is gaining momentum as it battles one of the country's domestic enemies: rising crime rates among young Americans.

**20 Old Mission, New Threats**

A $10 million study found the Guard a perfect augmentation to emergency responders in case of an attack on U.S. soil. Though this has been a mission of the Guard for more than 360 years, the threat of weapons of mass destruction is breeding more fears now than ever before. Congress may even go digging for dollars to fund the effort.

NATIONAL GUARD takes a sneak peek at the report.

**21 Politics Unusual**

The President's surprise announcement in January that he would supplement the defense budget sent members of Congress scrambling. In unprecedented hearings - some of which held even before members were sworn in - committees tried to decide just where the money should go.

Just a month into the 106th Congress, the battle lines have been drawn.

**22 New York Broadens 'Homeland Defense'**

The New York National Guard has teamed up with the state's Department of Environmental Conservation and the City of Albany to clean up the environment. The effort was part of New York's 'guardHELP' program, which was launched by Gov. Pataki in May.

**Departments**

- President's Message ........................................ 4
- Views from the Field ........................................ 6
- Capital Views .................................................. 9
- Tellines .......................................................... 11
- Newsbreaks .................................................... 12
- State Roundup .................................................. 23
- Association News ............................................. 25
- Return Fire ..................................................... 26