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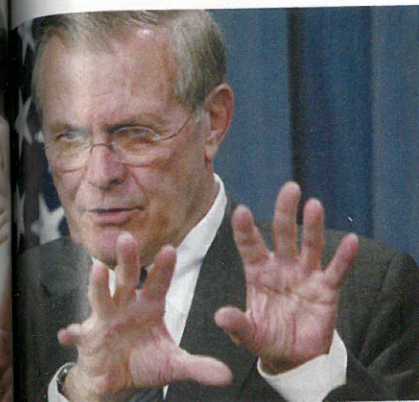
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# NATIONAL GUARD



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# Inside

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## Features

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Nearly 1,000 Guardsmen joined the grim and painstaking search for shuttle debris soon after Columbia broke apart upon re-entering the Earth's atmosphere over East Texas. The Guardsmen, who included Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams from five states, helped recover thousands of shuttle pieces, enabling NASA to begin reconstructing the craft as part of efforts to find the disaster's cause.

### 25 Guard Employers

As Guard and Reserve deployments reach the 170,000 mark, businesses around the country must deal with empty desks, lost hours and reduced production. But instead of dwelling on such negative impacts, many companies have developed innovative programs to assist Guardsmen and Reservists abroad as well as their families at home.

### 28 Lessons Lost?

Statements from Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld signal a quick departure from the Total Force Policy developed 30 years ago. But officials in the Defense Department might not appreciate the foundation established by the policy and the historical implications sweeping changes could have.

### 32 Vital Link

Whether providing support for homeland defense or the global war on terror, National Guard communication specialists and the latest technology are busier than ever. These citizen-soldiers and their equipment provide the vital link between field combatants and their commanders.

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