Features

Final Exams
A “fly-off” underway this month at Fort Rucker, Ala., is make-or-break time for the companies hoping to win a $2.2 billion contract to provide the Army’s new light utility helicopter. But the real victor will ultimately be the Army Guard, which will soon receive 204 much-needed aircraft.

Transformation or Cuts?
Last month’s Quadrennial Defense Review reflects the National Guard’s worst fears of a tightening defense budget. The potential impacts are many, including a personnel cut. Fortunately for Guard leaders, the governors and many lawmakers are not going along.

State Visit
In 2001, a determined retired chief warrant officer began a campaign to pay tribute to his fellow former Texas National Guardsman in the White House. That effort came to fruition last month when President Bush helped NGAUS unveil a bronze bust of the 20th Guard president.

Merchants to Militiamen
In this first installment of “GuardRoots,” Pennsylvania offers a look at its origins and how one of the nation’s key Founding Fathers helped start a militia that has contributed mightily to U.S. military history.

Communication Breakdown
The Guard’s equipment shortages are more acute in some areas than others. One of the most glaring needs is Single-Channel Ground and Airborne Radio Systems, as evidenced after Hurricane Katrina.

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