



GRAND OLE TIME IN MUSIC CITY

From 10-14 September, NGACT had eleven delegates and guests, including MG Thaddeus Martin, attend the 131st NGAUS conference at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center in Nashville Tennessee. This year's event drew over 4000 attendees to America's Music City, as well as over 400 vendors who displayed their wares in a sprawling tradeshow adjacent to the conference.

Among the highlights of this year's conference were a conference kick-off with live music by country legend Charlie Daniels and the conference closure with a trip to the Grand Ole Opry for a live performance by entertainers Ricky Scaggs, Kellie Pickler, Craig Morgan, Wynonna Judd, and Trace Adkins broadcasted on the radio and web.

Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, Air Force chief of staff; Air Force Secretary Michael B. Donley; GEN Peter W. Chiarelli, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army; Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano; and others were the featured presenters at

the three days of business sessions.

The NGACT Delegates agree that the most rousing speaker of the conference was the Harry S. Truman Award winner, House Representative Neil Abercrombie, D-Hawaii. Rather than expound upon his own thirty-years of selfless service to the government and our Guard, Congressman Abercrombie waxed poetic regarding the "ordinary man," Harry Truman. No less than four times Rep. Abercrombie brought the delegates to their feet with resounding applause as he drew a parallel between the great actions of Harry Truman and the "ordinary citizen soldiers" who serve this county day after day simply because of duty and honor.

This year's conference proved to be an educational and developmental experience for each of the attendees. We heard from the leadership of the services and the National Guard on the strategic direction of the military and how the NGAUS can assist. We were exposed the latest



Legendary Country Performer Charlie Daniels at the NGAUS Annual Conference in Nashville, TN

technology being fielded to the Army and the Air Force that is slated to come to the CT National Guard. As an added bonus, we were exposed the great Midwestern debate regarding who may claim SPAM, Nebraska or Minnesota. And without question, we had fun and expanded our friendships with members of the National Guard from all the 54 States and Territories. The 132nd Annual Conference in Austin, TX will be happen sooner than you think, mark your calendars 21-23 Aug 10 for some Texas sized fun and professional development.

What has NGACT/ EANGUS/ NGAUS done for you lately?

This is the question that most people ask, especially at membership drive times. Here are a few issues that we worked on your behalf:

Pay

The President requested a 3.4% pay raise. Your associations, along with the Military Coalition, lobbied for and got a 3.9% increase. That .5% difference represents the following:

- E-4 with 4 years of service-gains an additional \$11.00 per MUTA 4, and a \$41.00 increase in AT pay.

- E-6 with 12 years of service - gains an additional \$16.00 per MUTA 4, and a \$60.00 increase in AT pay.
- E-9 with 25 years of service - gains an additional \$27.00 per MUTA 4, and a \$101.00 increase in AT pay.

Lower TRICARE Reserve Select Fees

- Member only - \$47.51 a month - a reduction of \$33.49 per month
- Family - \$180.17 a month - a

reduction of \$72.83 a month

Where can you get Health Care cost for your entire family for just \$180.17 a month?

Tuition Waiver on Advanced Degrees for Connecticut National Guardsmen

One Vehicle exempt from property tax for Connecticut National Guardsmen

50% of Military Retirement Pay exempt from State Income Tax.

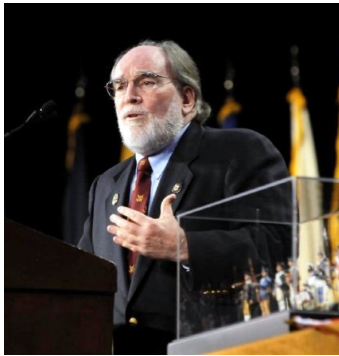
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Key Events:

- 1 Oct 09 - Senior NCO/ CPO Dining In
- 14 Oct 09 - Executive Council Meeting
- 5 Nov 09 - CT National Guard Officer's Dining In
- 18 Nov 09 - Executive Council Meeting
- 9 Dec 09—Executive Council Meeting
- 13 Jan 10 - Executive Council Meeting
- 10 Feb 10 - Executive Council Meeting
- 10 Mar 10 - Executive Council Meeting
- 27 Mar 10 - Annual Conference



The Honorable Neil Abercrombie
U.S. House of Representatives
Harry S. Truman Recipient

“The authors of the legislation are aware and agree that this exclusion was a mistake, but they have yet to correct it. No one who served in the war on terrorism should be left out.”



Dennis Oparowski and Neil McKiernan chat at the 2009 EANGUS Legislative Workshop and Awards Breakfast

NGACT - Working for You.

11th Annual NGACT Open scores another Ace

There is no better way to begin the Labor Day weekend than a round of golf supporting your Association's Scholarship Fund and the Connecticut Children's Medical Center. At least that was this year's field of 84 golfers' thought as the 11th Annual NGACT Open was held at Suffield Country Club on September 4, 2009.

Mother Nature delivered a beautiful Indian summer day and the course was in magnificent shape. The challenging course with long par 3's, tight fairways, and slick greens tested all the foursomes. After overcoming all the adversities that the course had to offer, the banquet staff delivered a wonderful buffet meal and cold beverages that allowed everyone

to discuss the triumphs and sorrows of their round.

The success of the tournament would not have been reached without the generosity of our sponsors. Over 32 companies and individuals were golf tournament sponsors this year. Our thanks and appreciation is extended to all the sponsors for supporting the tournament. At the end of the day, over \$9,000 was raised for the Scholarship Fund and the Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

The new venue at Suffield Country Club did not deter participants as multiple foursomes had to be turned away. Jim Howard, Golf Tournament Chairman, stated "We are ecstatic with the turn out, having watched other

local tournaments have to be cancelled this year due to lack of participation, we were not sure if we would have enough golfers." This year's tournament moved from Keney Golf Course in Hartford for numerous reasons; however, with the move from Keney to Suffield brought the unique challenge of moving to a smaller course, which limited the number of golfers that could play. Jim and his committee are already planning next year's tournament. They are evaluating different courses of action to attempt to increase the amount of golfers that can play.

Thanks to Jim, John Godburn, the other members of the committee, and all the volunteers who made the day so successful.

Some Deserving Guardsmen Left Out of New GI Bill

Amid great celebration and expectations, the bill providing Educational Assistance for Members of the Armed Forces Who Serve After September 11, 2001, more commonly known as the Post 9/11 GI Bill, was hurriedly enacted as part of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 Public Law 110-252 but with one glaring omission; Congress excluded all National Guard Title 32 active duty service after 9/11 from qualifying for benefits under this program.

The impact of this legislation is that Congress has effectively denied benefits to our dedicated men and women who have served our country on Title 32 active duty post 9/11 as AGRs and in mobilized operations such as Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Jump Start, and in the critically needed airport security operations in the desperate days immediately following the 9/11 attacks on the homeland. What is particularly upsetting is the fact that the bill provides benefits for domestic active duty service of Reserve AGRs and

other active forces on Title 10 orders who are performing virtually the identical service as our National Guard AGRs and other members on Title 32 orders who are denied the same benefits.

H.R. 3554, introduced by Representative David Loebsack (D-IA), and S. 1668 introduced by Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO), now before the 111th Congress would include Title 32 active duty in the calculation of benefits under the Post 9/11 GI Bill. These bills will need wide co sponsorship and support in Congress to succeed.

It is important to note that when it passed the Post 9/11 GI Bill, Congress rightfully disregarded its normal budgeting concerns which annually block legislation needed to correct longstanding benefit inequities faced by the National Guard. Money was not an object when the post 9/11 GI Bill was enacted and it should not now be a bar to taking this corrective action.

Congress needs your immediate

input to initiate action to correct the unintentional discriminating language in the Post 9/11 GI Bill. In addition to using the "Write to Congress" feature set forth below, you can call the local district office of your Senators and Representative as well as your local legislators and community leaders at the grass roots level to express your views. Your communities will also feel the effects from the denial of your benefits. Your email, letter or call could make the difference.

By using the "Write to Congress" feature on the NGAUS Web site at www.ngaus.org/writetocongress, you can immediately e-mail your Senators or Representative. A sample letter is included in our "Write to Congress" feature. You can e-mail the pre-written message or edit the sample letter as you desire. This is the quickest and most effective method of expressing your views to Congress. The time to act is now.



Rah Rah Rochester, Minnesota

From 09-13 August 2009, NGACT had 21 delegates, board members and guests, including CSM Joseph Sevigny & CCMSgt. Daniel Coppinger, attend the 38th EANGUS Conference at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester, Minnesota. This year's event drew over 2000 attendees to the Spam Capitol of the world, as well as over 200 vendors who set up displays and contributed significantly to the conference.

Some of the highlights and ground breaking events of this year's conference included a blood drive at the Mayo Clinic and the first-ever Salute to Hometown Heroes Parade which sparked off the conference plus was featured on the news, front page of the paper, and was considered a major milestone for the National Guard. The conference concluded with an All States Banquet and Awards Ceremony that recognized all of the national outstanding soldiers & airman of the National Guard.

Gen. Craig R. McKinley, the 26th Chief of the National Guard Bureau & the first officer from the National Guard to ever achieve the grade of a four-star general, Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III, director of the Air National Guard, Maj. Gen. Raymond W. Carpenter, acting deputy direc-

tor of the Army National Guard and The Honorable Dennis M. McCarthy, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs were the featured presenters at the four days of business sessions along with Major General Gregory L. Wayt, the President of the Adjutant's General Association of the United States, Major General Todd M. Bunting, the Adjutant General of Kansas & Chairman of the Board for the National Guard Association of the United States, and Lt. Col. Joseph "Stoney" Stone (Ret), the President of the National Guard Executive Directors Association.

One of the most anticipated & sought after sessions of the entire EANGUS Conference was the Junior Enlisted Committee's Senior Enlisted Leaders Panel. This is where the top enlisted leaders of the Army & Air National Guard field questions from the junior enlisted who are seated up front in the massive auditorium. The keynote speakers and Senior Enlisted Leaders Panel consisted of SMA Kenneth O. Preston, the 13th Sergeant Major of the Army, CMSgt. James A. Roy, the 16th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, CSM David Ray Hudson, the 2nd Senior Enlisted Leader assigned to the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, SGM

Joseph A. Staudt, the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, CCMSgt. Christopher E. Muncy, Command Chief Master Sergeant of the Air National Guard, CSM Victor S. Angry, Acting Command Sergeant Major of the Army National Guard, and CCMSgt. W. Allen Usry, the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command and also the first-ever Air National Guard command chief master sergeant to be a command senior enlisted advisor for a combatant command.

The NGACT received an EANGUS award for the Most-Improved Membership in Area I for 2009. Area I consists of 8 states beginning with Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New Jersey. We are proud to announce that Connecticut is now represented by two newly appointed EANGUS Executive Council Members. Debbi Newton was elected Area I Chairman at the conference and Daniel Reilly was elected Area I Director. For more information about EANGUS and EANGUS related events please go to: <http://www.eangus.org/>



Dedication of the American Elm sapling from the Survivor Tree of the April 19.1995 Oklahoma City bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in front of the State Office Building. The tree was dedicated to the citizens of Connecticut from NGACT.

Our thoughts and prayers go out with our deployed soldiers, airmen, and their families:
All detachments 2-104 Aviation
192nd Military Police Battalion
103rd Airlift Wing
1-169th Aviation Battalion
118th Multifunctional Medical Battalion

2009 Retirees Picnic



2009 Retiree Picnic at "The Point" at Camp Rell



On August 20th, NGACT had the privilege of hosting the time honored Retiree Picnic. The annual event designed to gather with existing friends and colleagues, meet new friends and comrades, and reconnect with old friends and buddies. Additionally, the event pays final honor to fallen comrades who have passed since the last event. This year's event was again held at The Point at Camp Rell. BG (ret) Dan McHale was able to coordinate to have information tables by the State of Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs, Association of the United States Army; and Tricare set up for the entire day.

The event this year also coincided with the 192nd Air Defense

-Nike Missile Reunion and the 242nd Engineer Association Meeting. Additionally, a large contingent from the Retirees of Florida (ROF) was able to make the event this year.

Our thanks and gratitude goes out to MG (ret) James Throwe for his exceptional support and dedication with the "Roll Call"; to the Connecticut Army National Guard Honor Guard for their support; MAJ (ret) Frank Perry for his research support, notification support, and everything he does thru his Retiree Bulletin to get information out to retirees; and Jerry Lukowski Sr. and his crew of volunteers who assisted with the registration and raffle.

This year's picnic attendance was 285. The income collected for the event was \$7,199. Our expenses for the event are currently (not all bills have been submitted and paid) \$6,681 (\$836 postage for mailing; \$3,885 caterer; \$1,560 beer, trailer rental, and liability insurance; \$400 non-alcoholic beverages).

The planning for next year's event has already begun. The suggestions and comments submitted will all be attempted to be resolved or acted upon for next year. If you have not submitted a comment or suggestion, but would like to provide input, please email to ctabrgr@sbcglobal.net.



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NGACT - Working for You



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NGACT Awards Four Scholarships in 2009

The National Guard Association of Connecticut is pleased to announce the 2009 NGACT Scholarship Recipients. Each year NGACT offers scholarships in an amount based on available funds for the upcoming school year. Applicants must be enrolled as a full-time or part-time student at an accredited college, university, trade school or business school. Awards are made on the basis of scholarship, character, leadership and need. This year NGACT was able to award four \$500 scholarships. The first recipient is Mary Hogan of Farmington, daughter of LTC Robert Hogan of Joint Force Headquarters. Mary is a freshman enrolled in Springfield College majoring in Physical Therapy. The second recipient is Margaret Hogan of Farmington, daughter of LTC

Robert Hogan of Joint Force Headquarter. Margaret is a senior enroll at the Arcadia University majoring in Elementary Education and Special Education. The third recipient is Juliette Palazzolo of New Britain, daughter of SGT Hedwig Palazzolo of Joint Force Headquarters. Juliette is a freshman at the Sacred Heart University majoring in Biology. The fourth recipient is Kimberly Wawruck of Windsor Locks, daughter of MSGT (ret) Steven Wawruck, Jr formerly of the 103rd FW at Bradley. Juliette is a junior at Central Connecticut State University majoring in Social Work. We congratulate each of the recipients and wish them the very best during the upcoming academic year. Application procedures and eligibility are available at www.ngact.com.

The National Guard Association of Connecticut (NGACT) was founded in 1994 as a combined officer and enlisted organization for the purpose of representing active and retired members of the Connecticut National Guard. The NGACT was originally organized as a non-profit organization designed to serve as the collective voice of all Guard officer and enlisted personnel. Together members share in the pride, patriotism, and vigilance that keep America strong. To accomplish together what no person could accomplish alone. A united voice helping to keep the Connecticut National Guard ready and equipped to defend our freedom.



NGAUS
The National Guard Association of the United States



EANGUS

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States



Artists rendering of the Regional Training Institute at Camp Rell.

All applications must include the following: A transcript of high school credits and a transcript of college credits for applicants already in institutions of higher learning; A letter from the applicant with personal, specific facts as to his/her desire to continue his/her education and why financial assistance is required; Two (2) letters of recommendation verifying the application and giving general information & personal traits that would make the applicant a desirable recipient. These letters should ideally be from a community leader, ministers, elected officials, etc.; and One (1) letter of academic reference (should be from a principle, counselor, dean or professor). Applications for the upcoming year will be due on 30 Jun 10.



NGACT - Working for You.