



NGACT News

National Guard Association of Connecticut

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NGACT Announces Annual Conference

NGACT has announced that this year's Annual Conference and Award Luncheon are scheduled for March 27, 2010 at the Hartford Marriott Rocky Hill. NGACT returns to the Hartford Marriott Rocky Hill after holding the past two years' event at the Crowne Plaza Cromwell.

The goal of the Annual Conference is to assemble CTNG officers and NCOs, industry representatives and lawmakers to present and discuss critical issues facing the CTNG. The NGACT Annual Conference is the perfect forum for the association and its members to determine crucial CT National Guard issues and plot the association's course for the next year. Additionally, the NGACT Annual Conference has offered professional development opportunities for officers and NCOs of the CTNG. Over the past two years, NGACT has attempted to and continues to incorporate a professional devel-

opment portion of the conference. Presentations have been conducted on major trends, issues, and new programs that are being implemented in the CT National Guard in a rank free environment that encourages candid discussion of the programs and their impact.

The Award Luncheon is an opportunity to recognize individuals making a significant impact to the success of NGACT and the CT National Guard. Soldier, Airman, and NCOs of the year are recognized by NGACT, as well as other contributing organizations, for their hard work and dedication in achieving these honors for the CT Army National Guard and Air National Guard. Annual NGACT awards are presented to recognize outstanding achievement or service in keeping with the purpose, goals, objectives and policies of the Association to individuals, companies, and units.



John Lankford and Dan McHale address VA Benefits and Trends during the 2009 NGACT Annual Conference

Anyone interested in attending may complete a registration form found at most armories and facilities, at www.ngact.com, or by emailing ngact2005@yahoo.com. We look forward to seeing you at the event. If you have questions regarding this year's conference or suggestions for the agenda, please email them to Annual Conference Chairman at ngact2005@yahoo.com and she will present them to the board.

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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.

TRICARE Mandated to be accepted at the University of Connecticut Health Center and affiliated doctors.

Can you afford not to be a member ?

Key Events:

- 10 Mar 10 - Executive Council Meeting
- 27 Mar 10 - Annual Conference
- 14 Apr 10 - Executive Council Meeting
- 12 May 10 - Executive Council Meeting
- 9 Jun 10 - Executive Council Meeting
- 14 Jul 10 - Executive Council Meeting
- 8-11 Aug 10 - EANGUS Annual Conference
- 11 Aug 10 - Executive Council Meeting
- 12 Aug 10 - Retiree Picnic

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Executive Council Elections in March 2010



MG Martin posed with members of the Select Committee on Veterans Affairs during a recent Civil Leaders Orientation Program

“Legal notices are currently being mailed to about 4,300 veterans informing them that they can “opt-in” to the lawsuit until July 24 to participate in the expedited review.”



Congressman Courtney addresses members during the 2009 NGACT Annual Conference

NGACT - Working for You.

During this year’s Annual Conference, elections will be held for eight positions on the Executive Council. Up for election are the positions of President, Vice President – Enlisted, Secretary, Treasurer, Army at Large (2) and Air at Large (2).

The President may be enlisted or officer member of the association. The duties of the President include presiding at the annual meeting/conference and special meetings of the Association and are the chairman ex-officio of the Executive Council. He shall be a member ex-officio of all committees, be responsible for the location and operations of the Executive Council.

The Vice President – Enlisted must be an enlisted member of the association. The duties of the Vice President – Enlisted include per-

form the duties of the President during the absence or disability of the President and such duties as the President may assign.

The Secretary may be enlisted or officer member of the association. The duties of secretary include having charge of all the records pertaining to the Association. The Secretary shall notify members of the Association of all meetings.

The Treasurer may be enlisted or officer member of the association. The Treasurer shall receive and receipt for and be custodian of all funds of any nature whatsoever due the Association and such contributions as may be made to it and be bonded in the amount not less than the balance of the treasury at the last open meeting. The Treasurer shall draw warrants in payment of all bills and claims against the Association. There shall be an

annual audit of the books and finances of the Association and a report thereof submitted to the Executive Council prior to the annual meeting and to the Association at the annual meeting. The treasurer shall make an annual report of the finances of the Association to the annual business meeting.

The Army at Large and Air at Large positions may be filled by association members of the Army and Air National Guard. They may be either officer or enlisted.

Any member of the association that is interested in running for any of the positions may contact Ralph Hedenberg at ctabnrgr@sbcglobal.net for more information or to have their name added to the ballot.

Thousands of Vets Could get Benefits Upgrade

By Kimberly Hefling, Associated Press

WASHINGTON -- The military has agreed to expedite a review the records of thousands of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans discharged with post-traumatic stress disorder to determine whether they were improperly denied benefits. The agreement stems from a judge's order in a class action lawsuit originally filed by seven combat veterans who alleged the military illegally denied health care and other benefits to those discharged because of the disorder during a six-year period that ended Oct. 14, 2008.

Legal notices are currently being mailed to about 4,300 veterans informing them that they can "opt-in" to the lawsuit until July 24 to participate in the expedited review. Attorneys for the veterans estimate that millions could be paid to veterans under the agreement, with some veterans receiving hundreds or more dollars in increased monthly benefits.

The National Veterans Legal Services Program was to discuss

the suit at a press conference Monday. Former Army Sgt. Juan Perez, 36, of Owosso, Mich., said the resolution of the suit filed in 2008 in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims was a relief. Perez, a father of five who did two tours in Iraq, said he struggles with migraine headaches and an eye injury related to a head injury sustained in Baghdad. He also has nightmares and takes medication for his mood related to PTSD.

Since he left the military, he said he and his wife were laid off from their jobs and declared bankrupt, in part because of medical bills from the birth of his two youngest kids. "I'm glad that they are finally moving forward and reevaluating the soldiers that need to be reevaluated and doing the right thing," Perez said. "It's been kind of a struggle not only for myself but a lot of individuals that didn't get what they were supposed to get in the first place." PTSD is an anxiety disorder that can develop after a terrifying event where the person was physically harmed or felt threatened. Symp-

oms range from flashbacks to problem drinking.

The lawsuit addresses the issue of the disability rating given by the military to veterans discharged with PTSD. Each of the seven plaintiffs was given a rating of 10 percent or less.

The law requires the military to assign a disability rating of at least 50 percent to those discharged for PTSD, said Bart Stichman, co-executive director of the National Veterans Legal Services Program, a nonprofit organization that represents the veterans. Since October 2008, the military has given the 50 percent rating to those discharged with PTSD, Stichman said.

The higher rating ensures that the veteran receives lifelong monthly disability payments, free health care for the veteran and the veteran's spouse, as well as health-care for the veteran's minor children. If a veteran qualifies for a higher disability rating, they may receive back pay as well as reimbursement for health care expenses.



NGACT looking for Executive Director

NGACT has announced that it is in the process of hiring an Executive Director. The Executive Director position has been vacant for over five years and the Executive Council determined that one of the best measures it can take to ensure the success of the association is to fill this crucial position. This purpose of this position is to provide technical, administrative and operational assistance to the elected officers, board of directors and to the membership of the National Guard Association of Connecticut (NGACT). The primary duties and responsibilities are to perform a broad range of administrative, public relations and legislative work for NGACT. Typical are the following, or other similar duties: Be responsive to tasks from the elected officers and board members relative to the goals and objectives of NGACT; Exercises overall management responsibility of the organization within the criteria contained in the by-laws and guidance received from the board of directors; Exercises

fiscal responsibility and appropriate stewardship over the association assets; Exercises overall custodial and physical security responsibility for the association; Establishes and maintains close coordination with state governmental officials and agencies within the state, community leaders, the leadership of the CT National Guard and individual units within the state; Assists the President of NGACT in the Scheduling, planning and organization of meetings in coordination with the board of directors and the by-laws; Maintains an active membership in NGACT; Personally attends and participates in scheduled meetings of the NGACT Board of Directors, NGACT annual general conference and other meetings/conferences as directed by the Board of Directors; Responsible for establishing and maintaining acceptable operating policies and procedures with the approval of the Board of Directors and/or directed by the by-laws. The position requires approximately five hours a week at the

NGACT Office and attendance at monthly NGACT Executive Council Meetings with a compensation of \$250/ month. As the association grows and programs, such as the State Sponsored Life Insurance and Corporate Membership Program, become more successful, the hours and compensation may increase. Individuals, who wish to apply, submit resumes to NGACT, 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105. All resumes must arrive at NGACT office NO LATER THAN 1630 hrs on April 5, 2010.

**Your
company's logo
could be here.
Become an
NGACT
Corporate
Member.**



**Mark your Calendar Retiree
Picnic August 12th, The Point at
Camp Rell**

**Our thoughts and
prayers go out with our
deployed soldiers,
airmen, and their
families:**

- 192nd Military Police
Battalion**
- 1-169th Aviation
Battalion**
- 118th Multifunctional
Medical Battalion**
- 1-102nd Infantry
Battalion**
- 250th Engineer
Company**
- Det 1 and 2**
- HHC 143rd ASG**
- Det 6 OSACOM**

NGACT Holds Legislative Breakfast in Washington, D.C.



**Legislative Breakfast at NGAUS
Building for CT Legislative
Delegation**



On February 3, 2010 NGACT held its annual Legislative Breakfast at the NGAUS Memorial Building in Washington, D.C. Representatives from each member of Connecticut's Legislative delegation attended the event to receive an update on the progress of the Connecticut National Guard initiatives and programs. In addition to the Legislative delegation, representatives from Governor Rell's Washington Office, NGAUS Legislative staff members, and EANGUS Legislative staff members were in attendance. Senior Officers from the Connecticut Army National

Guard, Connecticut Air National Guard, and NGACT addressed the delegation staff to identify successes over the past year, areas of concern, and opportunities for assistance to the organization. Items of specific discussion included, Air National Guard Transformation, Army National Guard Transformation, MILCON progress, and the Future Years Defense Program. Hopefully, the ground work has been established by NGACT for another successful year in the legislative process for the Connecticut National Guard soldiers and airmen.

On February 2, the NGACT and CTNG attendees had the privilege of attending The Connecticut Society's 21st annual Con-

gressional Reception. At the event Society President Brian Mahar announced that the event will now be known as the Senator Christopher J. Dodd Congressional Reception in honor of Connecticut's longest-serving U.S. Senator. Nearly 200 people joined the Connecticut Society as Senator Dodd reflected on his three decades of serving Connecticut in the U.S. Congress and Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, Congressman Joe Courtney, Congressman Chris Murphy, and Congressman Jim Himes shared their stories about the impact Senator Dodd had on their lives in public service. Attending this event allowed NGACT to meet with the Legislator's in a social setting during the visit.



NGACT

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NGACT - Working for You



Coming this month
the new and improved
www.ngact.org

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.

**Would you like to see your
company's logo here?
Think about becoming a
NGACT corporate member**

NGACT Establishes Corporate Membership Program

The National Guard Association of Connecticut announced the introduction of a new Corporate Membership Program. The program was kicked off on January 13, 2010 at the Executive Council Meeting. President Ralph Hedenberg stated "We are very excited to have this program back. In the 1990's, NGACT had a very active corporate membership program with many of the defense and other corporations within the state; however, the program was basically allowed to disappear." The Corporate Membership Program has four levels: Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze. Each level receives different benefits from membership including display space at the Annual Conference and complimentary attendance at the Annual Conference and Awards

Luncheon, recognition in the Hospitality Rooms at EANGUS and NGAUS Annual Conferences, advertising space in the newsletter, advertising space on the NGACT new website. The plan is to use some of the Corporate Membership revenue to offset or pay for the membership costs for junior officers and NCO's in both NGAUS and EANGUS starting with the deployed soldiers and airmen of the CTARNG and CTANG. Anyone interested in further information regarding the NGACT Corporate Membership can contact the Corporate Membership Chairman at ngact2005@yahoo.com or download a corporate membership flyer on the website www.ngact.com.



132nd NGAUS General Conference August 21-23, 2010 Austin, Texas

Anyone interested in attending please contact
Col Dan Wawruck at dan.wawruck@us.army.mil



39th Annual Conference EANGUS St. Louis, Missouri August 8-11, 2010

Anyone interested in attending please contact SSG
Kenya Braden at kenya.carnegie@us.army.mil

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