

2010 NGATN/NGAUS Membership Drive

Do you remember when ...

- A guard member was provided \$10,000 of life insurance and it would only pay when you were at drill or annual training.**
- The only time you had PX/Commissary privileges were when you were at annual training? And your unit administrator had to provide your spouse a copy of your orders.**
- ID cards for the spouse were unheard of, unless you were on active duty.**
- You only got paid once a quarter.**
- the equipment you had was old and some of it was even World War II and Korean War vintage.**

Our younger soldiers and airman probably don't remember the above, but there are many of us still around who remember those days. The National Guard has come a long way in a short period of time!

The changes we have seen over the years just didn't happen. They are a result of a combined effort of the individual state associations, NGAUS, EANGUS, AGAUS and others that promote legislative action to enhance both unit readiness and quality-of-life for our personnel and families.

The United States Constitution establishes a basis for the Militia, now referred to as the National Guard, and clearly place responsibility for ensuring National Guard readiness directly in the hands of Congress, not the Department of Defense. Congress exercises this responsibility by legislating "authorizations" and "appropriations" that provide funding and policies specifically for ensuring that the National Guard is "organized and armed."

Many times NGB is faced with budget "caps" that could result in under-funding many National Guard programs. And, since National Guard Bureau personnel are Title 10 orders, they are duty bound to support the President's DOD budget.

The National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) is a private organization that "is" permitted to lobby Congress on behalf of its members. Our NGAUS works tirelessly to ensure Congress is fully informed of the readiness status of the National Guard and what resources and policies are needed to achieve desired readiness levels. They lead the way to ensure that the Guard message is told.

Each of us who wears the uniform (active or retired) has a responsibility to support the associations that provide our voice in Congress. Every officer in the Tennessee National Guard has met that responsibility. We can proudly boast 100% membership for the past eight years.

On behalf of the National Guard Association of Tennessee, THANK YOU, for your continued support.