



NGAUS 101

WHAT HAS NGAUS DONE FOR YOU?

The question “What has NGAUS done for me?” is commonly heard by association representatives during the annual membership drive. However, the more appropriate question is “What have *our* associations done for me lately?” because it is the combined efforts of the individual state associations, NGAUS, EANGUS, AGAUS, with NGAUS coordinating the efforts of the National Guard Bureau, states, and industry to achieve legislation that enhances National Guard capabilities, unit readiness and quality-of-life for our personnel and their families.

The answer is “Just about everything!”

The National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS), in existence since 1878, is a private organization that “is” permitted to lobby Congress on behalf of its 45,000 members. The National Guard Memorial (NGAUS Headquarters) serves as a perfect location to facilitate lobby efforts by NGAUS and state association delegations.

So, back to the question “What have our associations done for me lately?”

Let’s start with the historical legislation in the **National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 giving the Chief of the National Guard Bureau (CNGB) a seat on the Joint Chiefs of Staff and creating a 3 star position for the Vice Chief of the National Guard Bureau.** Let’s then go back 100 years for some of NGAUS’ top achievements.

- 1903- recognizing and funding the National Guard as the reserve of the Army reserve
- 1915 thru the present -thwarting attempts to cut or relegate the Guard
- 1916 -guaranteeing the states Militia status as the Army’s primary reserve force and mandated the use of the term “National Guard”; and increasing annual drills from 24 to 48 and annual training from 5 to 15 days
- 1944-including the Guard in plans for a separate Air Force
- 1948- establishing the first comprehensive retirement and death and disability benefits for the Guard; and stopping attempts to fold the Army Guard into the Army Reserve
- 1950s- achieving the first armory construction bill with federal funds providing 75 percent of the cost of new armories (states acquire the land and pay 25 percent of construction costs); medical care for retired Guard members and their families; and increased benefits for survivors of deceased Guard members
- In the 1960s- cementing re-employment rights and job protection for Guard members performing an initial period of active duty for training up to six months; neutralizing efforts to reduce Army Guard end-strength and eliminate four combat divisions; maintaining overall Army Guard end-strength at 400,000 troops; and beating back a DoD proposal to cut Guard and Reserve pay tables to 75 percent of the active-component rate
- 1978-establishing the Active Guard and Reserve program

- In the 70s and 80s- expanding exchange privileges, improving group life insurance, establishing initial space-available travel privileges; and equipping the Air National Guard with its first new C-130 transports as a result of congressional “adds.”
- 1983- providing dedicated funding for the procurement of miscellaneous equipment in support of Army Guard support units
- 1985-provided temporary G.I. Bill funding to any Guard member working toward a baccalaureate degree or equivalent
- 1987- making the Montgomery G.I. Bill permanent
- In the 90s-defeating several attempts to reduce National Guard force structure and the military technician force under the Executive’s “reinventing government” initiative.
- In the late 90’s and into the 21st Century- working to obtain congressional “adds” for equipment, full-time manning, military construction and force sustainment; increasing retirement points for inactive duty were from 75 to 90; establishing special pay, bonuses and benefits; and enhancing Montgomery G.I. benefits and commissary privileges
- 2006- establishing TRICARE Reserve Select with its better access to TRICARE at an affordable rate(after a 7 year campaign)
- 2007- Enactment of the National Guard Empowerment Act, giving CNGB a fourth star
- 2007-Yellow Ribbon programs to assist with post deployment reintegration
- 2007 - reinstating Army National Guard end-strength to 350,000 soldiers; and lowering the basic housing allowance threshold from 140 days to 30 days for the Guard
- 2008- lowering the 60 year eligibility age to collect Reserve retirement pay by 3 months for every cumulative period of 90 days served on active duty in a fiscal year
- 2010-VA mental health care for immediate families of OIF/OEF veterans for 3 years post deployment to assist with reintegration
- 2010-making title 32 AGR and section 502(f) active duty service eligible for Post-9/11 G.I. Bill benefits
- 2011-authorizing the embedding of mental health care providers in armories and Reserve centers during drills; and reemployment rights for extended title 32 active duty
- Space Available travel eligibility for members, gray area retirees, their dependents and widows of retirees to be implemented stood up by OSD in 2014
- Authorizing promotion of WO 1 promotion to WO 2 without a federal recognition board
- Authorizing alerted personnel for active duty assignments less than 30 days to sign in electronically or telephonically

The real value of NGAUS’ coordinated effort with the state associations is to ensure that Congress is fully informed of the readiness status of the National Guard and what resources and policies are needed to achieve desired readiness levels.

The National Guard Association of the United States will lead the way to ensure the Guard message is told. However, it is the responsibility of each of us to support the associations that provide our voice in Congress. Be a member, know the issues, visit the NGAUS web site often, read the monthly National Guard magazine and the weekly electronic Washington Report; visit NGAUS on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn; read the NGAUS blog, <http://nationalguardassociation.blogspot.com/> is the direct link to the blog.

**One Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001
www.ngaus.org
202-789-0031**

NGAUS is now on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) !