

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF IN-
TEREST:**

- **NGAUS**
Guard Leaders Outlook for Future
- **VNGA Conference**
- **51st VNGA Annual Conference Registration Form**
- **Future Conferences and Meetings**
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132d NGAUS CONFERENCE



In August 2010, 22 delegates from the Virginia National Guard Association attended the NGAUS Conference in Austin, Texas, where they networked with National Guardsmen representing all states and territories and voted on critical resolutions that will be presented to Congress as National Guard legislative priorities for 2011.



Guardedly Optimistic

NGA officials see challenges looming, but believe the force has the credentials and the economic arguments to prevail

Excerpts from article by Andrew Waldman, October 2010

The National Guard Bureau's senior leaders made it clear during the 132nd General Conference and Exhibition in Austin, Texas, that times will be tough for the Guard in the immediate future of the National Guard. Gen. Craig R. McKinley, the NGB chief, Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III, the Air Guard director, and Maj. Gen. Ray Carpenter, the acting director of the Army Guard, all told attendees at various sessions that the National Guard is a valuable force with combat experience that can be leveraged as the nation's leaders debate the future size and composition of the U.S. military. During his State of the Guard address, McKinley said the Guard would need to challenge critics that want to return the force to a strategic reserve, even after it has become a seasoned operational force with more combat experience than its had since World War II. "People will want to wind back the clock ... to the

days when we were more strategic [and] less able to do the bidding of our states and nation than we are today," he said. "We must challenge that at every venue."

During his speech in the Army Separate Session, General Carpenter said the Army Guard has had unprecedented success over the last nine years. He cited several impressive statistics, including a 106.6 percent retention rate, a personnel end-strength in excess of the authorized level of 358,000 troops and a dual-use equipment fielding rate of 80 percent nationwide. Looking into the near future, Carpenter said he expects the Army Guard to look much the same as it did in the past few years. Combat deployments will stay consistent and funding levels will be roughly the same. "We're going to see some budget issues here that are going to be significant," he said. "We ought to pay attention to what we're doing with our money. We are not only mortgaging our kids' future, we are mortgaging our grandkids' future."

At the separate session set aside for Air Guard officers, General Wyatt echoed his colleagues and said there is nothing to fear in the changes ahead. He said there are "no less than 12 active studies in the Pentagon right now" trying to determine the right mix of active and reserve forces for the Air Force. "The U.S. Air Force depends on us so much that it will be difficult for them to put us back on the shelf as a strategic reserve," he said. He said the efficiencies within the Air Guard make it even more difficult for the Air Force to diminish the role of the citizen-airmen. He said he told Pentagon bean counters that he can administer the entire Air Guard infrastructure for what it costs to run one large Air Force base. The issue of accessibility is another one he knocked down, saying the Air Guard has deployed 156,000 airmen since the Sept. 11 attacks, and 18,000 in 2009. He said there is still a lack of understanding of the Guard in the senior leadership of the military and noted that 20 presidents have served in the National Guard and militia, but not one Air Force chief of staff has had Guard experience."

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Future Meetings / Conferences

VA NATIONAL GUARD Association

51st Annual Conference

2011- Alexandria, VA 29 April-1 May

2012- TBD 27-29 April

2010- 2011 VNGA Executive Council Quarterly Meeting Dates:

31 July 2010

31 October 2010

26 February 2011

29 April 2011

NGAUS

2011-Milwaukee, WI 27-29 August

2012-Reno, NV 10-12 Sept

NEGEDA

2011- Milwaukee, WI 27-29 Jan

2012- Reno, NV

AGAUS

2011-Washington DC Feb 25-3 Mar

2011-Indianapolis, IN 6-12 Jun

2012- Lincoln NE 3-7 Jun

Special Thanks to our 2010

Corporate Members:

Platinum:

DRASH

Dynamic Animation Systems (DAS)

GORE

ARINC

Gold:

Northrop Grumman

Bronze:

Goodrich

L3 Communications

Logistics 2020

Stephen's Office Supplies

Spec OPS

Booz Allen Hamilton

AIM

ESS

VALTIM

ITT

Sikorsky

LINXX



Go to our website:
www.vnga.org



Please contact the President or Executive Director if you want to join a committee and help make a difference in your association!

Committee Reports

TIME AND PLACE:

The 2011 Annual Conference is being hosted by the 329th RSG at the CROWN PLAZA OLD TOWN, Alexandria on 29 April to 1 May 2011. Registration will be available on-line in January.

BYLAWS:

BY-LAWS AND SOP: The updated By-Laws and the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) has been posted to the VNGA web site, www.vnga.org. All request for By-Law changes are to be submitted to the President, COL Tom Wilkinson, with copies sent to the Executive Director, Lt Col (Ret) M. Colleen Chipper, and the By-Laws Chairman, CV4(Ret) John D. Velleca not later than 90 days prior to the conference as noted in Article X of the current By-Laws. The e-mail addresses of the above listed individuals are as follows: COL Wilkinson, tom.wilkinson@us.army.mil, Lt Coll (ret) Colleen Chipper, vnga@verizon.net and CW4 (Ret) Velleca, jval23@att.net.

SCHOLARSHIP:

The Scholarship Committee has selected the winners and amounts to be awarded to the scholarship applicants for this year. Presentations will be made at the Annual Conference. The Committee will accept applications for the 2012 school year for officers and their family members starting in May 2011. Please contact the **VNGA Scholarship Committee Chairman, LTC Tony Schlager, at tony.schlager@gmail.com** or the

Executive Director, Colleen Chipper at vnga@verizon.net

AWARDS:

Please submit any recommendations for individuals or units to be considered for VNGA recognition at the Annual Conference in April. Submit nominees to the awards committee. *chairman, CPT Antoinette Allen at antoinette.allen3@us.army.mil.*

NOMINATIONS:

If you would like to be considered in the future for one of the officer positions on the executive council, please contact the President or Executive Director and send resume to vnga@verizon.net. All applications will be reviewed by the Nominations Committee and the proposed slate of Officers will be presented to the Executive Council. Other nominations can be taken from the floor at the Annual Conference.

LEGISLATIVE

VNGA will host a legislative breakfast in at the General Assembly Building in Richmond Virginia on 19 January 2011. Please contact CPT Cheryl Stacklin, Legislative Committee Chairman, at cheryl.stacklin@us.army.mil if you have any legislative issues to be discussed at the next Executive Council meeting.

FINANCE:

COL (Ret) Mike Coleman has assumed the duties of the Finance Com-

mittee Chairman in the absence of MAJ Mike Anliker who is deployed.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolutions present the issues most important to the Virginia National Guard. The three main objectives articulated by the resolutions are to: (1) obtain adequate manning, (2) obtain more modern equipment and (3) better training for the National Guard to perform its state and federal missions. The resolutions committee will review all NGAUS and State resolutions to be presented at the Annual Conference for vote in April. Contact Committee Chairman LtCol (ret) Colleen Chipper to submit new resolutions to be considered.

RETIREE/ ASSOCIATES:

The next Virginia National Guard Association (VNGA) conference will be held at the Crown Plaza Old Town Alexandria, 901 N. Fairfax St, Alexandria, VA 22314. The dates of the conference are 29 April 11 – 1 May 11. Details of the conference will be furnished at a later date by the host command. In order to have a retiree/associate hospitality room, as we have had in the past we will need some monetary assistance in the way of donations. As the Chairman of the Retiree/Associate Committee I ask for a donation of \$25.00, or whatever you can afford. All donations are to be sent to John D. Velleca, 1812 Bandera Drive, Henrico, VA 23228

President's Message

2010 has flown by! After a memorable 50th Anniversary Conference in Williamsburg, we moved on to the NGAUS Conference in Austin, Texas. We had a great turn out, especially with Company Grade representatives and our Corporate Sponsorship contacts were phenomenal. We are poising ourselves to best support our commands with a legislative tie in. We are working the plan to allow commands to better see and invite

their legislative representatives to their events. We were also very successful in obtaining State support of Commonwealth ChallengeNGe, Tuition Assistance and the Governor is currently looking at the material condition of our readiness centers. Two new initiatives we are working is an increase in the tax exemption to \$5000 from \$3000 and expanding it to a higher rank structure. The other initiative is for Soldiers / Airmen who earn a

Purple Heart in combat would be afforded free tuition at state schools for their children. Our great organization has been serving Commonwealth and Country since 1607 and our Association continues that great legacy. It is my honor to serve as your President and I look forward to great things this year."

COL Tom Wilkinson

NGAUS News/ Website

The National Guard Association of the United States provides states and its members unified representation before Congress.

The National Guard Association of the United States has created a legislative center for all of its members, members of Congress, Congressional Staffers and all others interested in learning about the legislative priorities of NGAUS and how they can contribute to their success. All members can sign up on the NGAUS website to receive the Legislative Alerts at www.ngaus.com.

Big Win: Congress Expands Post-9/11 GI Bill Benefits

Thousands of National Guard members who stood watch over federal property or flew air patrol missions over cities after America was attacked nine years ago soon can take advantage of the Post-9/11 GI Bill now that legislation prompted by NGAUS has passed Congress in Dec 2011.



• Early Retirement Credit for Guardsmen

**Authorize retroactive credit to September 11, 2001*

**Provide an incentive for continued service beyond 20 years, by authorizing one year early retirement credit for every two years served beyond twenty*

• Empowerment Joint Chiefs of Staff Seat for CNGB

• Fully Equip and Modernize the Army National Guard (ARNG)

• Recapitalize the Air National Guard (ANG)

• Modernize National Guard Facilities

• Recognize Title 32 Duty in Post 9/11 GI Bill

VISIT WWW.NGAUS.COM for more details

What Has NGAUS Done For You?

Top 10 All-Time NGAUS Achievements

1. Guard recognized and funded as reserve of the Army 1903
 2. Thwarted attempts to cut or relegate Guard 1915, 1920, 1944, 1948, 1959, 1963, 1974, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1995, 1996, 1997, 2005, 2006, 2008
 3. Guard included in plans for separate air force 1944
 4. Guard empowerment 2007
 5. Drill pay 1916
 6. Federal retirement pay 1948
 7. Federal funds for armory construction 1950
 8. Civil-service status for full-time technicians 1968
 9. Active Guard and Reserve program 1978
 10. (Tie) Federal educational benefits 1984
- Low-cost health care 2006
Honorable mention: Burial rights (1959), Civil Relief Act protections for those mobilized under Title 32 (2002), expanded reemployment rights (1994), TRICARE access for "gray-area" retirees (2009), VA home loans (1992), year-round commissary access (1983)



133d NGAUS Conference - Milwaukee, WI

The 133rd NGAUS Conference will take place on 27-29 Aug 2011 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The NGAUS conference allows members to gather and to vote on the top legislative priorities for NGAUS, share information and celebrate the camaraderie of being National Guard and NGAUS members. The conference is a three-day event packed with keynote speakers, entertainment, special events and access to the largest defense industry trade show. The City of Milwaukee boasts diverse festivals, outdoor recreation, shopping and dining on the Riverwalk, professional sporting events, the world's only Harley-Davidson Museum, and the Potawatomi Bingo Casino.

Conference events include

- Roll Call of States featuring entertainment
- Business sessions with keynote speakers
- Professional development workshops
- Governor's Reception at the HARLEY DAVIDSON Museum
- Spouse Luncheon – Art Museum
- 200+ exhibitors in the trade show
- Hospitality Night with your comrades
- States Dinner
- Golf tournaments, special receptions and much more

