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AMU's Freedom Grant[®] gives U.S. servicemembers the freedom to pursue undergraduate and master's education for potentially ZERO out-of-pocket tuition when combined with other forms of financial assistance.

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visit [AMUonline.com/NG](https://www.amuonline.com/NG).

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American Military University is part of American Public University System, which is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (hlcommission.org), an institutional accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. American Military University is not affiliated with the U.S. military. For more about our graduation rates, the median debt of students who complete a program, and other important information, visit www.apus.edu/disclosure.

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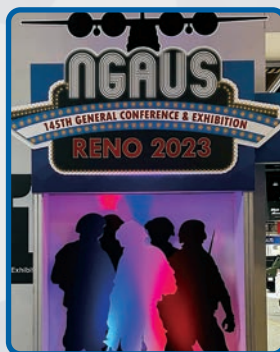
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ON THE COVER:

EANGUS – NGAT members gather together to attend the EANGUS welcome night event at Peace Plaza in Rochester, Minnesota, during the EANGUS Annual Conference.

NGAUS – NGAT members take a moment to visit with the Adjutant General of Texas, **Maj Gen Thomas Suelzer** (center), during the NGAUS States Dinner in Reno, Nevada. This year's States Dinner theme was western wear.

Follow us on  

FROM THE PRESIDENT



To Our Members,

Your Board of Directors and full-time staff have been hard at work. Our overarching theme has been the **REVITALIZATION** of our organization. This revitalization will take place in all areas of the association.

This monumental effort requires all our committees to be fully functioning and I am pleased to say that we are well on our way. I do encourage all our

members to attend our committee meetings. Your incite and participation will allow us to continue to make the impact we are seeking to make. Invitations to these meetings will be posted on our website and social media platforms so be on the lookout.

Most of you that are receiving this magazine are members of our association and we are so immensely thankful for that. With that in mind, I am going to boldly ask for your help. We have two large membership campaigns well underway. We are offering a complimentary annual membership to NGAT and NGAUS for our officers O1-O3/WO1-CW2 and for our enlisted personnel in all ranks who have never been a member of our association are eligible for a complimentary annual membership to NGAT and EANGUS. This initiative to increase our membership will only work if the word gets out. Thats where you, our member, comes in. I challenge all our members to grow NGAT by one member. If each of our current members brought in one new member, imagine the impact we can make within the state but also the impact we can make nationally. Numbers truly matter!

The 65th Annual NGAT Conference will be here before you know it. We will be returning to the beautiful Kalahari Resorts and Conventions in Round Rock. Conference and hotel reservations are now open, and we encourage you to book early on our website at www.ngat.org. Changes are coming to our usual program that I'm certain you will love. You're not going to want to miss it. I'm looking forward to seeing you all March 21-24, 2024.

I am encouraged at the direction our association is heading towards. Your board of directors are impressive and committed more than ever to making an impact by advocating for our soldiers, airmen, and retirees. I am looking forward to seeing our Association Members take the challenge and grow our organization. I know that our collective effort will ensure that NGAT is strong and a legislative powerhouse.

Mireya Cruz
NGAT President



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY COMMISSIONED GROUP OF WARRANT OFFICERS IN THE GREAT STATE OF TEXAS. Pictured L-R: **WO1 Douglas McBroom** (TC, USAR); **WO1 Seth Magee** (AG), Honor Graduate; **WO1 Nichlaus Reynolds** (QM); **WO1 Brent Murray** (AG), Honor Graduate; **WO1 Jesus Ortega** (OD); **WO1 Edward Antoine** (TC); **COL Andrew Wenzel**, Commander 71st Troops Command and member of the NGAT Board of Directors; **WO1 James Futrell** (OD); **WO1 Jaime Flores** (AV); **WO1 Richard Gary** (QM); **WO1 Austin Lentz** (OD); **WO1 Talik Owens** (SC); **WO1 Adam Green** (SC).

December 14, 2023
10:30 am to 1:00 pm
at the
NGAT Office
3706 Crawford Ave
Austin, TX

Bring a canned or nonperishable food item to donate to the Central Texas Food Bank.

512-454-7300 **www.ngat.org**



NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS
3706 Crawford Ave, Austin, TX 78731
512-454-7300 | www.ngat.org

October 29, 2023

CONFERENCE CALL

65th Annual National Guard Association of Texas Conference
March 21-24, 2024

Please join us again at the Kalahari Resorts & Conventions in Round Rock, TX as we come together for the 65th Annual National Guard Association of Texas (NGAT) Conference from March 21-24, 2024. All conference meetings, breakout sessions, and most optional events will be held on the property of Kalahari Resorts & Conventions. This Kalahari property in Round Rock is one of only four Kalahari Resorts and is also America's largest indoor waterpark.

Conference Registration – Registration will open on November 1, 2023, at www.ngat.org. Check out the meal packages and you'll see that membership has its privileges. So, become a NGAT member now to take advantage of those membership privileges immediately. A \$20 late fee will be added after March 10, 2024, and online registrations & meal packages will no longer be available after March 15, 2024.

Room Reservations – Kalahari Resorts & Conventions is located 30 minutes from downtown Austin, known as the "Live Music Capital of the World." The room rate is just \$189 and approximately \$200 less than the normal rate and includes four tickets to the water park and resort fee waived. For those of you bringing your family, hospitality suites are available for \$389 and that is less than \$350 plus of the normal rate and includes four tickets to the water park and resort fee waived. The waived resort fee is \$39.99 per day. We cannot guarantee these room rates for reservations made after February 19, 2024. So please make your room reservations now on the NGAT website to take advantage of the discounted rate.

Agenda Highlights:

- **Thursday, March 21 (5:30-7:30pm) Corporate Partner Reception** – An invite-only networking event with Texas Military Department leadership and our Corporate Partners.
- **Friday, March 22 (1pm) Exhibit Hall Ribbon Cutting Ceremony** – Join us as we open the Exhibit Hall with our great Corporate Partners and enjoy what they have to offer Friday afternoon and all day on Saturday.
- **Friday, March 22 (5-6pm) Junior Enlisted/Company Grade Officers Mix & Mingle** – This is a new event for junior enlisted and company grade officers to network with TMD senior leadership.
- **Friday, March 22 (6:30-10pm) Welcome Party** – Wear your "lucky shirt" to win big at the NGAT Casino & Karaoke Welcome Party. There will be plenty of food and home-grown entertainment.
- **Saturday, March 23 (8-11:30am) NGAT Annual Meeting and General Session** – All conference attendees are invited to the NGAT annual meeting and general session. Find out what is going on in your Association.
- **Saturday, March 23 (7:15-10pm) Awards Banquet** – Join us as we recognize our members for their outstanding achievement. The awards banquet proceedings will remain the same but the attire will be a "Safari Theme." So wear your favorite jungle safari attire or animal prints.

The theme for the 65th Annual NGAT Conference is **REVITALIZE NGAT!!** Help us rebuild and grow our membership and become a strong legislative powerhouse!!

We hope to see you in Round Rock!

FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Marvin E. Harris
Executive Director



NOW ACCEPTING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

THE NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION (NGATEF)

announces its annual scholarship competition. Educational grants for attendance at colleges, universities or trade schools will be awarded to annual and life members of the National Guard Association of Texas and/or their spouses, sons, or daughters. The foundation will award multiple educational grants of various amounts ranging from \$500 to \$5,000. High school seniors, college undergraduates and graduate students will be considered for these educational grants.

All applicants must be an annual or life member of NGAT or the spouse, son, or daughter of an Annual or Life Member of NGAT.

Currently serving service members are encouraged to apply.

Deadline for submission of scholarship applications is February 23, 2024. Visit www.ngat.org/ngatef/ to download the scholarship application.



NGAT AWARD NOMINATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

THE NGAT AWARDS PROGRAM is designed to recognize NGAT members who provided exceptional service and outstanding contributions to NGAT. The program also recognizes NGAT members who have been involved in acts of heroism that involved risk of life or personal safety or extreme acts of humanitarianism involving the saving of a life or the attempt to save a life. Deadline for nominations is March 4, 2024.

SERVICE AWARDS: NGAT Minuteman Award | Davy Crockett Award | Jose Navarro Award | Spirit of Texas Award
HEROISM AWARDS: General K.L. Berry Award | LTC James A. Spring Humanitarianism Award

Visit the NGAT website for submission requirements and criteria: www.ngat.org/awards-program.





Join us for the 65th Annual NGAT Conference March 21-24, 2024



Kalahari Resorts & Conventions, Round Rock, Texas

Registration (ONLINE REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN)

All attendees must pay the registration fee.

Registration fee is \$15.00 per person for NGAT members/guests and \$30 for non-NGAT members/guests.

Meal Packages

- NGAT Members/Guest Full Meal Package & Registration fee is \$175.
- Non-NGAT Member/Guest Full Meal Package & Registration fee is \$200.
- The deadline for online meal packages is March 15, 2024.**
- A \$20 late fee will be added to all registrations received after March 10, 2024.
- All cancellation requests must be received prior to March 10, 2024.
- No refunds after that date.**



Conference Optional Events

Golf Tournament at Forest Creek Golf Club – Enjoy rolling fairways, pristine greens and an abundance of native foliage. The tournament is open to both registered and non-registered attendees of the conference. Registration includes green fee, cart, breakfast tacos, lunch and award. Tournament benefits the NGAT Educational Foundation.

The annual 5K Fun Run/Walk – Come enjoy a leisure run/walk at Old Settlers Park on Friday morning. Registration fee includes a T-shirt, award medals and refreshments.

Hotel

- Kalahari Resorts & Conventions, 3001 Kalahari Blvd., Round Rock, TX 78665.
- Make your reservations directly with the hotel at: 1-888-253-5466. Be sure to identify yourself as a member of the National Guard Association of Texas.
- Attendee hotel rate: \$189 single/double plus tax per night, family hospitality suite: \$389 single/double plus tax per night.
- Hotel reservations can be made online at the NGAT website: www.ngat.org/ngat-conference.
- **NGAT cannot guarantee rooms after February 19, 2024.**

Attire

- **NGAT Welcome Party:** We all have a lucky shirt, right? You know that one shirt that we always seem to be wearing when things go well. It's unexplainable the way things just seem to work out your way when you're wearing it. Wear it to the **NGAT Casino & Karaoke Welcome Party**.
- **NGAT Business Session:** Business Casual.
- **NGAT Awards Banquet:** It's a jungle out there so wear your Jungle Safari attire or Animal Prints – the wilder the better. It's a relaxed attire for the Awards Banquet this year.

Wine Tasting – Sip, savor, snack and relax with some great wines and charcuterie at the Sortino's Vinoteca Wine Lounge in the Kalahari Resort.

Bowling Tournament – Come bowl a strike at the B-Lux Bowling Lanes at the Kalahari Resort with your friends.

License to Carry Certification – We are proud to offer the License to Carry Certification class free of charge to all registered NGAT Conference attendees.

Welcome Party – Wear your lucky shirt to win big at the NGAT Casino & Karaoke Welcome Party. There will be plenty of food and home-grown entertainment so start practicing. It will be a great opportunity to have fun, networking and socializing with friends.

Spouse & Retiree Luncheon – Enjoy a leisurely lunch and a Guest Speaker TBD on Saturday.

Saturday Awards Banquet – Take a walk on the wild side at the NGAT Awards Banquet where we will recognize our award winners and present our NGAT Minuteman Award. The attire for the banquet is "Safari Theme" so wear your favorite animal print and come prepared to have a good time. After dinner dance the night away to some great music.

NGAT Prayer Breakfast – Close out the conference with a delicious breakfast, fellowship, and prayer during the NGAT Prayer Breakfast on Sunday morning.

For more information visit the NGAT website at www.ngat.org/ngat-conference.

Conference Registration Form

Please Check:
 Army Retired Army Air Retired Air State Guard NGAT Life Member
 Spouse Guest NGAT Annual Member

Rank: _____ Name: _____
 Unit: _____ **Civilian Email Address:** _____
 Home Address: _____ Daytime Phone: (____) _____
 City/State: _____ Zip: _____ Cell: (____) _____
 Badge Name: _____ Spouse/Guest Name: _____ Rank: _____
 The unit you wish to sit with at the Dinner: _____
 Please indicate any special needs (i.e. disability, dietary, etc.) _____

Membership Dues	Renew Your NGAT Membership Dues		SUBTOTAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> Renew my NGAT Membership - NGAT Dues Renewal also available online E1-E6: \$15 E7-E9/O1-O3/WO1-CW3: \$20 O4-O5/CW4-CW5: \$25 O6-O8: \$30 Associate/Retired: \$20		\$ _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> NGAT Life Membership - Become a life member today for \$100.00	\$100 ea	\$ _____

Conference Registration	Choose Your Meal Package - Meal Packages include Registration Fee			
Conference Registration	NGAT Member/Guest Full Meal Package <i>(Includes Registration Fee, General Sessions, Exhibits, Breakouts, Welcome Party, Sat Lunch, Sat Banquet and Sun Prayer Breakfast)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Attendee <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest <input type="checkbox"/> Will you attend the NGAT Prayer Breakfast YES or NO (Select one)	\$175 ea x _____	\$ _____	
	Non-NGAT Member/Guest Full Meal Package <i>(Includes Registration Fee, General Sessions, Exhibits, Breakouts, Welcome Party, Sat Lunch and Sat Banquet)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Attendee <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest	\$200 ea x _____	\$ _____	
	Friday Welcome Party <i>(Includes Registration Fee, General Sessions, Exhibits, Breakouts, Welcome Party)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Attendee <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest	\$65 ea x _____	\$ _____	
	Friday Welcome Party & Sat Banquet <i>(Includes Registration Fee, General Sessions, Exhibits, Breakouts, Welcome Party and Sat Banquet)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Attendee <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest	\$150 ea x _____	\$ _____	
	Saturday Lunch Only Package <i>(Includes Registration Fee, General Sessions, Exhibits, Breakouts, Saturday Lunch)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Attendee <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest	\$45 ea x _____	\$ _____	
	Saturday Banquet Only Package <i>(Includes Registration Fee, General Sessions, Exhibits, Breakouts, Saturday Banquet)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Attendee <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest	\$95 ea x _____	\$ _____	
	Jr Enlisted Package (E1-E6 only) <i>(One full Conference Registration that includes, Registration Fee, General Sessions, Exhibits, Breakouts, Welcome Party, Sat Lunch, Sat Banquet, and two night stay at the Kalahari Resort) (NGAT will book the hotel room)</i> Hotel Room <input type="checkbox"/> King <input type="checkbox"/> Double Add a Guest to your Jr Enlisted Package <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest	\$500 ea \$150 ea	\$ _____ \$ _____	
	You must pay basic registration to attend the Conference or Optional Events			
	<i>(Basic Registrations includes: Registration Fee, General Sessions, Exhibits and Breakouts)</i>		x _____	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Basic NGAT Member/Guest Registration Fee	\$15 ea	\$ _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Basic NGAT Non-Member/Guest Registration Fee	\$30 ea	\$ _____	

Optional Events	You must pay basic registration to attend Optional Events		
Optional Events	NGAT Educational Foundation Golf Tournament (Fri) Names of Golf Team: _____ <i>(Tournament Includes: Green Fees, Cart, Breakfast, Lunch and Awards)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Attendee Handicap _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest Handicap _____	\$100 ea	\$ _____
	Fun Run/Walk (Fri) 0730 - 0900 Please select T-Shirt Size: S M L XL XXL <input type="checkbox"/> Attendee <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest	\$20 ea	\$ _____
	License to Carry Certification (Fri) 0800 - 1200 <input type="checkbox"/> Attendee <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest	Free	\$ _____
	Bowling Tournament (Fri) 1230 - 1400 <input type="checkbox"/> Attendee <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest	\$25 ea	\$ _____
	Wine Tasting (Fri) 1230 - 1400 <input type="checkbox"/> Attendee <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest	\$35 ea	\$ _____
	Sunday Prayer Breakfast (Sun) 0800 - 0900 <input type="checkbox"/> Attendee <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest	\$35 ea	\$ _____

I would like to donate to: (Circle One)

Check Enclosed (Please make check payable to NGAT) NGAT Educational Foundation Texas National Guard Foundation

Charge my: MasterCard Visa Expiration Date: _____ **SubTotal:** \$ _____

Card #: _____ **Add \$20.00 late fee after Mar 10** \$ _____

CC Security Code: _____ CC Billing Address Zip Code: _____ **Total (Check):** \$ _____

Name of Cardholder: _____ **Credit Card Handling Fee (Add 5%):** \$ _____

Signature of Cardholder: _____ **Total (Credit Card):** \$ _____

ONLINE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.NGAT.ORG For Assistance Call 512-454-7300

ONSITE REGISTRATIONS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED AFTER MARCH 15, 2024 www.ngat.org/ngat-conference/

Mail to: NGAT, 3706 Crawford Ave, Austin, TX 78731 Fax: (512) 467-6803 Email: membership@ngat.org

Bring Your Friends, Family and Fellow Service Members to the 65th Annual NGAT Conference



Join us as we celebrate 65 years of making a meaningful difference in the lives of those who choose to serve in the Texas National Guard. We come together to enjoy the memories of the past and to make plans to REVITALIZE the future of NGAT. Turning 65 means that we have seen the world and the National Guard change, the good and the bad, but we know the best is yet to come.

We hope to see you at the 65th Annual NGAT Conference at the Kalahari Resorts. The Kalahari Resorts Round Rock is America's Largest Indoor Waterpark Resort, a unique all-under-one-roof experience that offers wet-and-wild fun with world-class dining, a luxurious spa, live entertainment, diverse shopping experiences, a thrilling theme park and a state-of-the-art convention center. Kalahari Resorts are authentically African-themed, and the Round Rock resort shows a one-of-a-kind modern design evolution for the brand – an African resort with a Texas spirit.

WE MUST EMPHASIS THAT NGAT CANNOT GUARANTEE ROOM RATES AFTER FEBRUARY 19, 2024.

- Attendee hotel rate: \$189 single/double plus tax per night, family hospitality suite: \$389 single/double plus tax per night.
- All rooms include 4 wristbands to the waterpark. Access the waterpark as early as 12:00 p.m. day of check-in and stay until close day of check-out.
- Hotel reservations can be made online at the NGAT website: www.ngat.org/ngat-conference.

WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL COME AND CELEBRATE WITH US. INVITE YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND FELLOW SOLDIERS – MAKE A REUNION OF IT.

Events You Don't Want to Miss!



MAR 21, 2024

Corporate Partner Reception
Come early & enjoy the water park

MAR 22, 2024

NGATEF Golf Tournament – Forest Creek Golf Club
NGAT Fun Run – Old Settlers Park
Wine Tasting – Sortino's Vinoteca Wine Lounge
License to Carry Certification
Exhibitors & Attendees Reception in Exhibit Hall
Silent Auction

Company Grade & Junior Enlisted Mix & Mingle – Redd's Piano Bar
NGAT Casino & Karaoke Welcome Party

MAR 23, 2024

NGAT Annual Meeting
General Session
Breakout Sessions – Coming Soon
Lunch with Exhibitors/Spouses Luncheon/Retirees Luncheon
Safari Theme Awards Banquet with Entertainment

MAR 24, 2024

NGAT Prayer Breakfast
Stay and enjoy the Waterpark



20th Annual Silent Auction THAT'S RIGHT 20 YEARS!

Please donate to the Silent Auction or come bid on over 200 auction items and take advantage of some great bargains on gift baskets, jewelry, weekend getaways, and tickets to music, sports and other entertainment venues. Donations for the auction are always accepted at the NGAT office and onsite. Proceeds benefit the Texas National Guard Foundation.



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FOREST CREEK

NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

Forest Creek Golf Club | 99 Twin Ridge Club | Round Rock, TX 78664

Friday, March 22, 2024

\$100 Per Person | \$400 Per Team

Includes: Green fee, cart, breakfast tacos, lunch and awards
Shotgun start, Florida scramble with low net/low gross competition
Open to the Public

<https://ngat.org/golf-tournaments>

Tournament benefits the NGAT Educational Foundation Scholarship Program



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136TH AIRLIFT WING HONORARY COMMANDERS PROGRAM

Photos and story by Julie Briden-Garcia

THE 136TH AIRLIFT WING, TEXAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD, welcomed their first group of honorary commanders, seven in total, during an induction ceremony August 9, 2023, on Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas.

The honorary commanders will serve as military advocates within their spheres of influence, helping to bridge gaps in the employer-guardsman relationship. This relationship builds insight into Air Force customs and traditions for the honorary commanders, while wing commanders can, in turn, receive their advice and support regarding regional and state issues affecting civilians and military members.

The 136th AW Honorary Commander “Guardians” Program invites civic leaders to join a hands-on community partnership focused on building relationships and their knowledge of military education. Objectives include increasing public awareness and understanding of the Air National Guard, its mission, and most importantly, its Citizen Airmen, who must balance the Guard triad – family, employer, and military service. Each honorary commander is paired with a

group or squadron commander and given a behind-the-scenes look at the mission and our Airmen. **Col Groves**, 136th Airlift Wing commander, advocates building these relationships with our local communities. “When we dedicate time to providing [our] knowledge to civic groups, local leaders, and private organizations, we immediately find common goals, symbiotic opportunities, and goodness ensues, usually with exponential return on investment,” he said.

“It is not uncommon to encounter members with 30-plus years of service in this wing!”

Col Groves selected these inductees from local civic leader nominations produced earlier this year. During their two-year term, they will be invited to various events to support our Citizen Airmen and see how the Guard, Reserve, Active Duty, and civilian components operate to accomplish total force integration.

Building a strong relationship with these honorary commanders will be instrumental toward fostering continued understanding,

public support, and positive employer relationships for our unit and the Texas Air National Guard mission.

“In the coming weeks and months, we will teach you about our organizations, our structure, our missions, and our challenges,” Groves said. “We will show you our facilities and aspire to put you in an airplane (if you want). We will ask you to attend our drill weekends; to feel the energy of 1,000 Airmen working towards common goals, and we’ll ask you to address those Airmen and provide them with your perspective and wisdom.”

Serving in the military means those wearing the cloth of this great nation serve together, work and live as one big family. Col Groves invited the honorary commanders to become part of that big family.

“This wing is truly a family,” said Groves. “It is not uncommon to encounter members with 30-plus years of service in this wing! When one of us suffers, we all hurt, but when one of us succeeds, we all feel the pride. You are all part of our family now.”★



AS PART OF THE COMMANDER'S PROGRAM each participant conducted a ceremony to show their united effort in fostering the success of the unit. Pictured above **Col Scott Wedel**, Commander of the 136th Maintenance Group shares his units colors with Don Weatherby a local business owner and current President of the Fort Worth Air Power Council.



THE HONORARY COMMANDERS PROGRAM reaches out to local community and industry leaders to build strong relationships, increases public awareness and an understanding of the Texas Air National Guard, its mission, and the Texas Military Department triad sustainment.

DUTY ★ HONOR ★ TEXAS



ITALY

IN EARLY SEPTEMBER, Soldiers from the 36th Infantry Division Band spent three days in the southern half of Italy. Soldiers took part in several ceremonies commemorating the Division's landing on the beaches of Paestum and the liberation of the city of Cassino. Soldiers also toured historical sites including the Rapido River crossing and the town of San Pietro Infine.



HOUSTON

THE 11TH ATTACK SQUADRON has soared to new heights, logging an impressive 20,000 MQ-9 Reaper flying hours! The unit is incredibly proud of their dedicated pilots and crew for their exceptional skill, commitment and hard work. Here's to the countless missions accomplished and the countless more yet to come! Congratulations! *(Photo courtesy of the 147th Attack Wing)*



CONROE

MEMBERS OF THE 147TH FIGHTER WING "ACE-IN-THE-HOLE" retirees gather at a quarterly meeting in Conroe, Texas. Are you a former member interested in joining the group? Visit their website at aceintheholeretirees.com for more information. They would love to have you join their group.



KOSOVO

TEXAS AND RHODE ISLAND NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS assigned to the 143rd Infantry Battalion (Airborne) participate in a resiliency day hosted by the battalion Unit Ministry Team (UMT), September 23, 2023, near Pec, Kosovo. The group explored a practical application of the Army's holistic health and fitness model and discussed its role in strengthening mental readiness and suicide prevention. *(Photo by MAJ Martha Nigrelle)*

IN A MOMENTOUS EVENT AT THE TEXAS GOVERNOR'S MANSION, the 100th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment conducted a Change of Command Ceremony. Texas Governor Greg Abbott attended the ceremony, which was presided by **MG Carlton Smith**. During the ceremony, **CPT Nadine Wiley-Demoura** relinquished command of the unit and **CPT Clarissa Phalen** assumed her new role as commander. CPT Phalen is the niece of Governor Abbott.

(Photo courtesy of the Texas Military Department)



AUSTIN



EGYPT

MEMBERS OF 2-142ND INF REGT supported a Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) mission involving sling loading solar batteries up to a remote communications site in the mountains. With 2-142nd Inf Rgmt leading the mission, the cameras on this site will run for another five or so years. These cameras are critical to accomplishing the MFOs mission of observe, verify, and report to maintain the treaty agreements between Egypt and Israel. The team also removed over 12,000 lbs. of rubbish from the site via sling load.



POWDERLY

(LEFT) TEXAS STATE GUARD SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR) guardsmen tested their knowledge of first aid skills in Wilderness First Aid to certify as a National Association for Search and Rescue (NASAR) SARTECH II operator at Camp Maxey in Powderly, Texas, September 22-23, 2023. With over 200 hours of classroom and field training over a five-month period in major topic areas in survival, support, search, and rescue, guardsmen graduated from the program. *(Photos by CPT Esperanza Meza)*

(BELOW) FORMER TXARNG COMMAND CHIEF CWS (RET) EARNEST METCALF (center) was inducted into the Field Artillery Hall of Fame at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, on August 18, 2023. Pictured left to right are some of his fellow Soldiers who attended the event: **CWS John Cox**; **CWS Jose Luna**; **CWS James Bashore**, ARNG Senior Warrant Officer Advisor, Fort Sill, Oklahoma; and **TXARNG Command Chief CWS Katherine Brown**. Congratulations "REDLEG"!



OKLAHOMA



KOSOVO

(ABOVE) DEPLOYED SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN assigned to the 56th IBCT from the Texas Military Department, Rhode Island National Guard, Alabama National Guard, South Carolina National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve participate in a German marksmanship event at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, September 26, 2023. The German partners hosted the event that awarded the German Armed Forces Badge for Weapons Proficiency, Schützenschur in German, is a decoration of the Bundeswehr, the armed forces of Germany. There are three levels of awards that service members are able to earn in this event, bronze, silver or gold. *(Photos by SGT Noah Moroskiand)*



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Luis Esteves
Profession: US Border Patrol Processing Coordinator
Texas State Guard: Service Member



Legal Update with Andrew Rountree Protecting Your Right To Bear Arms



THE SECOND AMENDMENT OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION has long protected Texas's right to "keep and bear Arms," whether for self-defense or otherwise. Texas boasts a storied history of gun ownership, underpinned by the full exercise of our Second Amendment rights. Whether you own a single firearm or are a fervent gun enthusiast, it is the duty of every Texan who carries a firearm to do so in a safe and responsible manner. While Texas is known for having some of the least restrictive gun laws in the U.S., there are a few of important things to remember if you choose to regularly carry a firearm. Two of the most common issues firearm owners face are carrying in prohibited locations and negligently allowing children to gain access to a firearm.

First, as of 2021, Texans aged 21 and older who do not have a disqualifying criminal history may carry a concealed firearm without having to obtain a license to carry. The full details of the law can be found in Texas House Bill (HB) 1927. While HB 1927 notably broadened gun owners' rights in Texas, there are still specific locations where carrying a firearm is prohibited by law. These restricted areas include secure airport areas, courthouses, polling places on election days, educational institutions, businesses displaying visible signs that ban handguns, and bars that make at least 51% of their income from alcohol sales. If you carry a firearm in any of those locations, you may be arrested and prosecuted criminally. If you are unsure

of whether it is legal to carry a firearm into a specific location, please research before you do so.

Second, you must safely store/handle firearms in a manner that does not expose children to unnecessary safety risks. In 2022, there were at least 26 instances where a child gained access to a firearm and unintentionally shot and injured or killed themselves or another in Texas. If you own a gun and fail to safely store/handle it and a child gets ahold of the gun and injures or kills themselves or another, you can be prosecuted with several different criminal charges. These range in potential punishment from only a fine all the way up to years in prison.

Responsible gun ownership is a sacred right in Texas that should be protected at all costs. If you find yourself on the wrong end of the law because of a gun-related incident, don't hesitate to call O'Connell West for a free consultation. We are proud to represent the rights of Texans all over the state. ★

Andrew Rountree is an Attorney in the Austin office of O'Connell West, PLLC. Andrew is Board Certified in Criminal Law and serves as a Judge Advocate in the Army Reserve. If you need a free legal consultation regarding a legal issue, call 512-547-7265.

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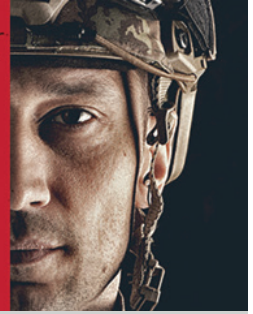
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NATIONAL GUARD LEADERS EMPOWER ENLISTED PERSONNEL AT CONFERENCE

Original story by SFC Elizabeth Pena

Top leaders of the National Guard Bureau emphasized the importance of empowering enlisted personnel during the 52nd Annual Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States conference in Rochester, Minnesota, August 13-17, 2023.

The National Guard currently has about 440,000 Guard members in total, serving across the fifty states; Washington, DC; and three U.S. territories: Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.



Senior Enlisted Advisor **Tony Whitehead**, SEA, to the chief of the National Guard Bureau, underscored that the National Guard constitutes 20% percent of the Joint Force, emphasizing its indispensable role in deterring threats and achieving wartime victories.

“We’re aware of the looming challenges,” said Whitehead. “We discuss them frequently, and now they’re evident in the news, highlighted in briefings, and accentuated by the escalating threats from Russia and China. However, we’re confident in our uniformed personnel, who uphold their duties with unwavering commitment. They are mission-focused and prepared. They will execute their assigned tasks, leveraging their training, and stand firm in their responsibilities.”

Whitehead serves as the Chief’s primary military counsel on all matters pertaining to training, force health, utilization, and enlisted professional growth. Holding the pinnacle position in enlisted leadership, he offers guidance to the members of the enlisted community and champions their concerns.

During the conference, Whitehead relayed a pivotal message to the enlisted force: “Advocate for the needs and concerns of our enlisted members before reaching E-9. Every voice counts, and every perspective is invaluable. Collectively, we can instigate change and amplify your voices.”

Beyond legislative concerns, the national conference serves as a vital forum where senior National Guard leaders can engage in open, meaningful dialogues with enlisted members, fostering a deeper understanding and stronger bond between the ranks.

The 2023 conference agenda featured speed mentoring sessions, breakout discussions, and panels led by senior enlisted leaders. These sessions tackled a broad spectrum of compelling questions, delving into areas from professional advancement and skill enhancement to methods for tapping into one’s innate potential.

During the conference the NGAT website www.ngat.org tied for 1st Place as the Best Website of an association with the California Enlisted Association of the National Guard. Thank you to **MSG (Ret) Theresa Billeck-Zuniga** and **SMSG (Ret) Michael Wolff** who maintain our website and strive to make NGAT the best.

During the conference the EANGUS membership voted to increase the EANGUS Annual and Life Membership dues effective January 1, 2024. Below are the old and new membership dues structure.

	Mbsh Fee	Mbsh Fee Effective Jan 1, 2024
EANGUS Annual Membership	\$11.00	\$13.00
EANGUS Life Membership	\$110.00	\$130.00



NGAT members gather together following the EANGUS Conference Awards banquet in Rochester, Minnesota.



NGAT PRESIDENT SFC MIREYA CRUZ (center) talks with some of the EANGUS attendees prior to the start of the EANGUS Conference in Rochester, Minnesota.



SSG GRIFFIN REEDER attending the EANGUS Conference on Professional Development orders brings in the Texas flag during the EANGUS Awards Banquet.



AT THE EANGUS CONFERENCE we ran into our current Texas National Guard Command Senior Enlisted Leader **CSM Frederick Heard** (left) and three former Texas National Guard Command Senior Enlisted Leaders, **CCMSgt Michael Cornitius** (center left), **CSM (Ret) John Sampa** (center right), who was also the 12th Command Sergeant Major of the Army National Guard, and **CSM (Ret) Mark Weedon** (right), who also serves as the President of the NGAT Educational Foundation.



For more information, please email:
Ricky Myers, Executive Director
executivedirector@eangms.org

2024 EANGUS Area IV Mid-Winter Meeting Natchez, Mississippi February 16-18, 2024

Hosted by The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Mississippi

Meeting Hotel: Natchez Grand Hotel, 111 Broadway Street, Natchez, MS 39120.

Visit their website at www.natchezgrandhotel.com with Group Code: EANGUS or call the hotel direct at (601) 446-9994. Room rate is \$129.00 plus taxes and fees. Reservations must be guaranteed with a valid credit card or with an advance deposit for the first night's stay. Should you need to change or cancel your reservation, contact the hotel directly.

Attendee Registration: Registration fee for all members, spouse and additional guest is \$65 per person. Register at <https://eangms.org/meetings/>.



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TEXAS STATE GUARD

Officers in the rank of O1, O2, WO1, and CW2 receive a Free one-year membership in NGAT. All enlisted personnel in all ranks receive a Free one-year membership in NGAT. (3)



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(1) Must have never been a member of NGAT/EANGUS to qualify for the free membership.

(2) Officers must be in the rank of O1, O2, WO1 and CW2 and never have been a member of NGAT/NGAUS to qualify for the free membership.

(3) Members of the Texas State Guard who qualify must have never been a member of NGAT in order to qualify for the free membership.

NGAT: National Guard Association of Texas www.ngat.org EANGUS: Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States www.eangus.org NGAUS: National Guard Association of the United States www.ngaus.org

NGAUS CONFERENCE REPORT RENO, NEVADA

NGAUS

145TH GENERAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION
RENO 2023

PASSING LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS AND ELECTING CANDIDATES TO SEVERAL POSITIONS ON THE NGAUS BOARD OF DIRECTORS were among the business items conducted at the 145th General Conference & Exhibition in Reno, Nevada, August 18-21.

On the conference's final day, delegates passed 188 Army, Air and Joint resolutions that will form the basis of the association's legislative agenda on Capitol Hill next year.

Representatives from all 50 states, Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia developed the final package of resolutions during meetings earlier in the conference, after hundreds of resolutions were submitted by all 54 Guard organizations nationwide.

The officer professional development breakouts and business sessions were topnotch, with Q&As provided by conference key speakers. The Chief of the National Guard Bureau, General Hokanson, opened the OPD discussing National Guard priorities. The Director of the Army National Guard, Lieutenant General Jensen, spoke about the importance of readiness and guard value.

Of course there was plenty to see at the conference exhibition hall and plenty to do during the conference. We had one member enjoy the hike up Mount Rose and another participated in the NGAUS Vibrations Motorcycle Ride. Attendees attended the States Dinner in western wear and enjoyed some great food and music. The spouses luncheon was a roaring 20s theme with a murder mystery during the event. Finally, at the Governor's Farewell, attendees were treated to a private concert by country music star Josh Turner. ★



NGAT MEMBERS get ready to head out to the NGAUS mixer at the 2023 NGAUS Conference in Reno, Nevada.



MAJ RAGNAR "ACE" JAMIESON gets his photo taken with a 54 by 24 Medical Service Dog. These service dogs are part of a program from the National Guard Association of Michigan to provide every state with at least one medical service dog by NGAUS 2024. To donate and learn more go to www.ngam.org/54-by-24/.



LTC (RET) BILL RICHARDS (right) and his wife Tena pose for a photo prior to the NGAUS Spouses luncheon that featured a roaring 20s theme with a murder mystery.



Mark your calendars and SAVE THE DATE for next year's conference that will be held August 23-27, 2024, in the "Motor City," Detroit, Michigan. Get your passports ready because Detroit is right next to Windsor, Canada. Did someone say "ROAD TRIP, Eh"?!

THANK YOU TO OUR NGAUS HOSPITALITY SPONSORS





KEY LEADERSHIP Update



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TEXAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OFFICERS who graduated from the Army War College on July 28, 2023, at Carlisle Barracks, Carlisle, PA. Pictured L-R: **LTC Charlie Heath**, 36ID G5; **BG Brad Bowlin**, 36ID ADC-O; **LTC Mark Gunn**, 36ID G3; **COL Zeb Miller**, TMD CFMO; **LTC Gary Dettloff**, Commander, ARNG Warrior Training Center, Fort Moore, GA; **LTC Chris Hannah**, Deputy State Aviation Officer; **LTC Jeremy Magruder**, 36ID G8.



COL MATTHEW GROVES (left), 136th Airlift Wing Commander, passes the colors of the 136th Operations Group on August 26, 2023 to **Col Kurt Anderson** (right) as he assumed command from **Col Dave DeMarque**, who retired after 34 distinguished years of military service.



Col Josh Lewis
Vice Commander
136th Airlift Wing



LTC Matthew Bragg
Commander
111th Medical Battalion



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IF YOU ARE AWARE OF THE PASSING OF A CURRENT OR FORMER TEXAS NATIONAL GUARD MEMBER, PLEASE NOTIFY US BY PHONE, MAIL OR EMAIL NGATNEWS@NGAT.ORG.



As of October 31, 2023

SGT (Ret) John Brown, Life Member #13025, San Saba

SSG Billy L. Bruce, Life Member #460, Melbourne, AR

CMSgt (Ret) David A. Cornelius, Life Member #20234, Thrall

BG (Bvt) (Ret) W. "David" Counts Jr., Life Member #2267, Knox City - Former Texas State Representative, Recipient of the General K.L Berry Heroism Award and NGAT Minuteman Award

Gayle N. Cypert, Life Member #10381, Lubbock

** SrA Michael W. Daniels, 136th Airlift Wing, Fort Worth

CW4 (Ret) Carl J. Deichmann, Life Member #2053, Buda

SSG (Ret) Frank A. Garcia, Rockdale

Alonzo R. Gonzalez, Life Member #14998, San Antonio

COL (Ret) Raul Gonzalez, Life Member #7079, San Antonio

Lt Col (Ret) James C. Hairrell, Life Member #8256, Magnolia

SSgt James E. Hall Jr., Life Member #12672, Grand Prairie

CPL Jimmy L. Harrell, Life Member #22325, Weatherford

* 1SG James McGill, Co E 949 Spt Bn, Red Oak

Jane A. McGoodwin, Texas State Guard, Life Member #32256, Fort Worth

LTC James Edward Meyers, Life Member #3705, Mauriceville

SSgt James E. Miles, Jr., Life Member #7995, Georgetown

SSG (Ret) Jerry Patterson, Life Member #17055, Mineral Wells

** PFC Malachi Ross, Co E 1-149 Avn Bn, Missouri

SGT (Ret) Tim Russell, Breckenridge

SGT (Ret) Tarlton Sam Jr., Life Member #2240, Houston

** 1st Lt Felipe Sanchez, 147th Security Forces Sq, Pearland

SSgt (Ret) John Charter Schoonover, Laquey, MO

** SPC Craig Smith, Co B 172nd BEB, Chicago Heights, IL

1LT (Ret) Juan R. Tristan, Life Member #11039, Harlingen

* SSG Calvin Wallet, Life Member #31892, Fred

** SGT Derek Williams, Co C 2-142 INF BN, Pecos

CW2 Warwick O. "Rick" Wyatt, Life Member #12490, Tyler

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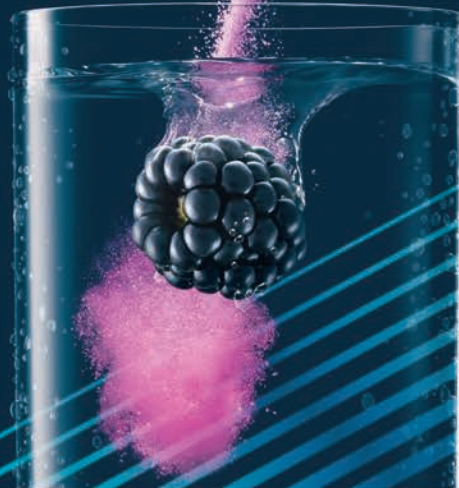
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MG WILLIAM J. EDWARDS (right), Deputy Director for Strategic Initiatives, Washington D.C., attended ROTC with **COL Michelle Bryant** (left) when they both started their military careers. MG Edwards was honored to conduct the retirement ceremony for COL Bryant and present her with a certificate of retirement in August at Camp Mabry after 36 years of military service. Congratulations!



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NGAT PLANNING CALENDAR

(As of October 31, 2023)

2023

10	Nov	Veteran's Day Observed (NGAT Office Closed)
11-12	Nov	Close Assault 1944, Camp Mabry, Austin, TX
15-16	Nov	EANGUS Legislative Quarterly Summit, Washington, D.C.
23-24	Nov	Thanksgiving Break (NGAT Office Closed)
3-4	Dec	NGAT Board of Directors Meeting, Austin, TX
11-12	Dec	NGAUS Annual Industry Day, Washington, D.C.
13	Dec	National Guard's Birthday
14	Dec	NGAT Holiday Open House & Chili Cook-Off, Austin, TX
25-31	Dec	Christmas Break (NGAT Office Closed)

2024

1	Jan	New Year's Day (NGAT Office Closed)
15	Jan	Martin Luther King Day (NGAT Office Closed)
16-19	Jan	NGEDA Annual Meeting, Reno, NV
14	Feb	Valentine's Day
16-18	Feb	EANGUS Area IV Mid-Winter Conf, Natchez, MS
19	Feb	President's Day (NGAT Office Closed)
24-25	Feb	EANGUS Presidents Workshop, Washington, D.C.
26-28	Feb	EANGUS Legislative Workshop, Washington, D.C.
21	Mar	NGAT Corporate Partners Reception, Round Rock, TX
22-24	Mar	65th Annual NGAT Conference, Round Rock, TX



MEMBERS OF THE 147TH ATTACK WING attended the 2023 Air, Space & Cyber Conference in National Harbor, Maryland, in mid-September and had a chance to meet with **Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force JoAnne Bass** (center). Pictured L-R: **A1C Edward Olsen**, **Lt Col Brian Jackson**, **SMSgt April Miller**, **SSgt Unique Grate**, and **TSgt Blake Jones**.