



NGAT
NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS
NEWS

*You Don't Want
to Miss This!*

Revitalize

65th
Annual

NGAT
CONFERENCE

INSIDE

- 5** NGATEF Scholarships
- 7** NGAT Conference Speakers
- 19** Free NGAT/NGAUS/EANGUS Membership

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BAE Systems upgrades the lethality of the latest generation M109 Self-Propelled Howitzer (SPH) by integrating the proven Rheinmetall L52 155mm, 52-caliber cannon system. Merging these two highly capable artillery systems, the M109-52 SPH provides the optimal balance between lethality, system maturity, weight, and reliability.

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10-23 M109-52-SPH Approved for public release 10-2023

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Editor.....	Theresa Billeck-Zuniga
Graphic Designer	Terri Sheets
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NGAT NEWS
3706 Crawford Ave
Austin, TX 78731
512-454-7300
1-800-252-NGAT (6428)



Submit articles and photos for the NGAT News Magazine to:
ngatnews@ngat.org

NGAT Home Page: www.ngat.org
Executive Director: Marvin Harris, CAE – mharris@ngat.org

Deputy Executive Director/Membership Director:
Theresa Billeck-Zuniga – tbz@ngat.org

Insurance Administrator/Corporate Programs:
Terri Marshall – tmarshall@ngat.org

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CONTENTS

p6



CONFERENCE UPDATE

p12



DUTY | HONOR | TEXAS

p18



RETIRES CORNER

4	From the President
5	NGATEF Scholarships/NGAT Awards
6	NGAT Conference Update
7	NGAT Conference Speakers
8	NGAT Conference Registration Form
9	NGATEF Golf Tournament/NGAT Conference Hotel
11	Key Leadership Update
12-13	Duty Honor Texas
14	Legal Update/ID Card Renewals
15	Resolutions Update / Free Membership
16	EANGUS Mid-Winter/Conference/Scholarships
17	NGAUS Conference/Membership
18	Retirees Corner
19	Christmas in the Guard
21	Thank You to our Corporate Partners
22	TAPS
23	New NGAT Insurance Program Fed Protect
24	NGAT Planning Calendar

ON THE COVER:

ON NOVEMBER 27, 2023, GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT of Texas went skydiving for the first time. He was accompanied by Al Blaschke, a 106-year-old World War II veteran who holds the Guinness World Record for the world's oldest tandem parachute jump. The skydive took place at Skydive Spaceland San Marcos. Members of the Texas National Guard Parachute Team joined the Governor and Mr. Blaschke for the jump. Pictured L-R: **MSG Gilbert Guerra, CW3 Michael Kanzler, CW4 Paul Yarnell** and Governor Greg Abbott (center). *(Photo courtesy of the Governor's Office)*

Follow us on

FROM THE PRESIDENT



To Our Members,

Conference time is upon us and if you haven't already secured your ticket to the 65th Annual NGAT Conference run, don't walk, to www.ngat.org and ensure that you are there. This year's conference is at the beautiful Kalahari Resorts and Convention Center in Round Rock, Texas, March 21-24, 2024.

The conference theme is **Revitalize NGAT** and we have taken steps to ensure that the conference retains the elements that we know and love whilst adding touches that are fresh and new to attract the demographic that we are lacking. **The goal here is to ensure that NGAT is here for years to come.**

We will have representatives from the **National Guard Bureau, State Legislators, City Leadership, and Leadership from the Texas Military Department** present and speaking at our conference. We will have a **Junior Enlisted and Company Grade Mixer, a Casino Party with Karaoke, and Exhibition Hall full of vendors** looking to talk to you. At our **Business Session** we will highlight all the amazing things that your organization has been up to over the past year and culminate the Conference with the **NGAT Awards Banquet and Dance** where our attire will be Animal/Safari Chic to evoke a more relaxed fellowship filled setting.

Bring your families and friends...Kalahari has so much to offer everyone at any age.

I'd also like to highlight that this year will be our **first hosted Professional Development event**. This will be a **certificate producing event** and hopefully bring in a population that otherwise wouldn't come to NGAT but get a taste of what we are all about while here for their course.

A lot of effort has gone into making your experience this year the best yet. So once again I encourage you to come back and join us if it's been a while or come see us for the first time if you've wondered what it's all about. You cannot be in the know or be part of the change if you are not in the room. To our members that come every year, thank you, and we look forward to seeing you once more. I'd love to hear feedback as to how these changes resonate with you too.

This year has been one of **BIG growth and BIG changes. ALL THAT TO SAY NGAT IS MAKING BIG MOVES.** I'd love for you to be a part of that.

My Board of Directors remains committed and is focused on the vision of making an impact by advocating for our soldiers, airmen, and retirees. I cannot wait to see all our members soon. **See you in Round Rock.**

Mireya Cruz
NGAT President

PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE EXCEPTIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE 147TH ATTACK WING 2023 OUTSTANDING AIRMEN OF THE YEAR!



PICTURED L-R: 147th ATKW First Sergeant – **SMSgt Vanessa Renaker**; 147th ATKW Commander – **Col Travis Walters**; Civilian of the Year – **Mr. Sean Cowher**; 147th Public Affairs, Airman of the Year – **SrA Clayton Walters**; 147th Air Support Operations Squadron, First Sergeant of the Year – **MSgt Patricia Pacheco**; 147th Civil Engineer Squadron, Junior Officer of the Year – **1st Lt Mark Wilson**; 147th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Noncommissioned Officer of the Year – **TSgt Sia Bononjo**; 147th Recruiting, 147th ATKW Command Chief – **CMSgt Rose Maxie**; 147th ATKW Deputy Commander – **Col Bif French**.

BOB SWEENEY (RIGHT) (WASHINGTON) AND CURRENT NGEDA PRESIDENT swears **NGAT Executive Director, Marvin Harris** (Texas) in as the 58th President of the National Guard Executive Directors Association (NGEDA) in Detroit, Michigan. Marvin becomes the 3rd NGAT Executive Director to have served as NGEDA President. Previously **Len Tallas** and **Lewis King** served as NGEDA President and as NGAT Executive Director. **CONGRATULATIONS!**



NOT AVAILABLE FOR THE GROUP PHOTO on left was the Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year – **MSgt Angela Matthews**, 147th Command Post. MSgt Matthews also serves on the NGAT Board of Directors representing the 147th Attack Wing.





LAST CALL FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS – **Deadline is February 23**

THE NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION (NGATEF) is now accepting applications for its annual scholarship program. These educational grants are available for attendance at colleges, universities, or trade schools and 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 are all eligible to apply.

HERE ARE THE KEY DETAILS:

- Applicants must be an annual or life member of NGAT or the spouse, son, or daughter of an Annual or Life Member of NGAT.
- Service members who are currently serving are also encouraged to apply.
- The deadline for submission of scholarship applications is **February 23, 2024**.

To apply, please visit the NGAT website at www.ngat.org/ngatef/ to download the scholarship application. Good luck with your application!

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2024 NGAT AWARDS

THE NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS (NGAT) is currently accepting nominations for its Awards Program. This program is designed to honor NGAT members who have made exceptional contributions to NGAT or have been involved in acts of heroism that risked their life or personal safety or performed extreme acts of humanitarianism involving the saving of a life or an attempt to do so. **The deadline for nominations is March 4, 2024.**

THE AWARDS INCLUDE:

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

For more information on submission requirements and criteria, please visit the NGAT website at: www.ngat.org/awards-program/

Good luck with your nominations!





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



Kalahari Resorts & Conventions, Round Rock, Texas

ONLINE REGISTRATION CLOSES ON MARCH 16, 2024

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.

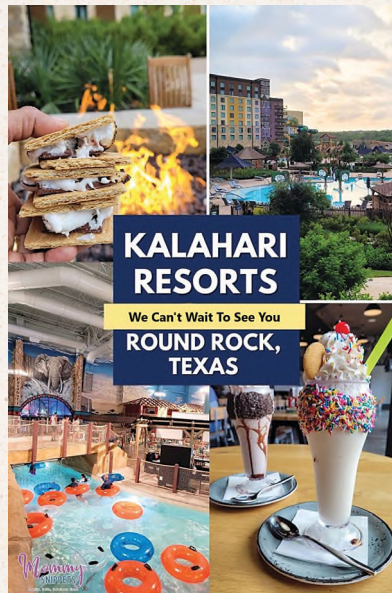
NGAT cannot guarantee rooms after February 19, 2024.

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.

NGAT Conference Speakers & Breakout Sessions

GENERAL SESSION GUEST SPEAKER SEA Tony L. Whitehead

Senior Enlisted Advisor Tony L. Whitehead is the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, Pentagon, Washington D.C. He serves as the Chief's principal military advisor on all enlisted matters affecting training, utilization, health of the force, and enlisted professional development. As the highest enlisted level of leadership, he provides direction for the enlisted force and represents their interests. He will be a guest speaker at the NGAT General Session.



LICENSE TO CARRY CERTIFICATION Friday, March 22, 2024 (8:00 am to 12:00 pm)

Attendees of the NGAT Conference are invited to participate in a 4-hour License to Carry



CROSSHAIRS
Bastrop's Premier Firearms Center

Certification class, as required by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS). This class is offered free of charge to registered conference attendees and will be conducted by Crosshairs Texas, a Bastrop family-owned business with expertise in gun sales, gunsmithing, repair, and weapon training.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Why is a Good Resume Important for Job Search Saturday, March 23, 2024 (3:00 to 4:00 pm)

LTC (Ret) John R. Lewis

This breakout will provide participants with information on how to make an introduction to employers, present their qualifications, and secure an interview. Educate participants on the importance of writing a resume to present their experience, education, and skills in a standard format that is easily understood by employers/recruiters. Provide participants with an understanding of the common and not-so-common resume mistakes on resumes.



Protecting Your Rights and the Rights of Others During Investigations and Adverse Personnel Actions Saturday, March 23, 2024 (3:00 to 4:00 pm)

Doug O'Connell (right),
Wesley West (left)
O'Connell West, PLLC Law Firm



What Soldiers and Airmen need to know when confronted with allegations of misconduct, and how leaders can support/protect the Soldier's/Airman's rights in investigating or conducting adverse actions against a Soldier/Airman. In today's operating environment, a raw allegation can derail your career and destroy your reputation. Learn how to protect your rights and possibly save your career. This presentation will also be invaluable for leaders responsible for supervising investigations and administering military justice to ensure you preserve the rights of the Soldiers/Airmen under investigation/undergoing administrative action. Participants will gain critical insight into all the common mistakes appointed investigators make and how Soldiers/Airmen Constitutional Rights are often disregarded to the detriment of everyone.



NGAT Members join us for a Junior Enlisted (E1 – E6) and Company Grade Mixer (O1 – O3 & WO1 – CW2)

Friday, March 22, 2024 | 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm
Redd's Piano Bar and Lounge
Kalahari Resort & Convention

Come enjoy FREE drinks on us, mingle with your peers and chat with the Texas National Guard leadership

Conference registration not required to attend. Free parking is available at the Kalahari.

Register to attend the event at <https://ngat.org/ngat-conference/>

Conference Registration Form

Please Army Retired Army Air Retired Air State Guard NGAT Life Member
Check: 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	\$ _____

	Choose Your Meal Package - Meal Packages include Registration Fee			
Conference Registration	LUNCH: LE = Lunch with Exhibitors, SL = Spouses Lunch, RL= Retiree Lunch, DINNER: CK = Chicken, PK = Pork, SM = Salmon, VG = Vegetarian NGAT Member/Guest Full Meal Package (Includes Registration Fee, General Sessions, Exhibits, Breakouts, Welcome Party, Sat Lunch, Sat Banquet and Sun Prayer Breakfast) <input type="checkbox"/> Attendee Lunch: LE SL RL Dinner: CK PK SM VG <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest Lunch: LE SL RL Dinner: CK PK SM VG <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 (Includes Registration Fee, General Sessions, Exhibits, Breakouts, Welcome Party, Sat Lunch and Sat Banquet) <input type="checkbox"/> Attendee Lunch: LE SL RL Dinner: CK PK SM VG <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest Lunch: LE SL RL Dinner: CK PK SM VG	\$200 ea x _____	\$ _____	
	Friday Welcome Party (Includes Registration Fee, General Sessions, Exhibits, Breakout.) <input type="checkbox"/> Attendee <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest	\$65 ea x _____	\$ _____	
	Friday Welcome Party & Sat Banquet (Includes Registration Fee, General Sessions, Exhibits, Breakouts, Welcome Party and Sat Banquet) <input type="checkbox"/> Attendee Dinner: CK PK SM VG <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest Dinner: CK PK SM VG	\$150 ea x _____	\$ _____	
	Saturday Lunch Only Package (Includes Registration Fee, General Sessions, Exhibits, Breakouts, Saturday Lunch) <input type="checkbox"/> Attendee <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest	\$45 ea x _____	\$ _____	
	Saturday Banquet Only Package (Includes Registration Fee, General Sessions, Exhibits, Breakouts, Saturday Banquet) <input type="checkbox"/> Attendee Dinner: CK PK SM VG <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest Dinner: CK PK SM VG	\$95 ea x _____	\$ _____	
	Jr Enlisted Package (E1-E6 only) (One full Conference Registration that includes, Registration Fee, General Sessions, Exhibits, Breakouts, Welcome Party, Sat Lunch with Exhibitors, Sat Banquet, and two night stay at the Kalahari Resort) Hotel Room <input type="checkbox"/> King <input type="checkbox"/> Double (NGAT will book the hotel room) Dinner: CK PK SM VG	\$500 ea	\$ _____	
	Add a Guest to your Jr Enlisted Package <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest Dinner: CK PK SM VG	\$150 ea	\$ _____	
	You must pay basic registration to attend the Conference or Optional Events			
	<small>(Basic Registrations includes: Registration Fee, General Sessions, Exhibits and Breakouts)</small>			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Basic NGAT Member/Guest Registration Fee	x _____ \$15 ea	\$ _____	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Basic NGAT Non-Member/Guest Registration Fee	\$30 ea	\$ _____	

	You must pay basic registration to attend Optional Events		
Optional Events	NGAT Educational Foundation Golf Tournament (Fri) Names of Golf Team: _____ (Tournament Includes: Green Fees, Cart, Breakfast, Lunch and Awards) <input type="checkbox"/> Attendee <i>Handicap</i> ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest <i>Handicap</i> ____	\$95 ea	\$ _____
	Fun Run/Walk (Fri) 0730 - 0900 <input type="checkbox"/> Attendee <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest Please select T-Shirt Size: S M L XL XXL S M L XL XXL	\$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)

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Charge my: MasterCard Visa Expiration Date: _____ **SubTotal:** \$ _____
 Card #: _____ **Add \$20.00 late fee after Mar 10** **Total (Check):** \$ _____
 CC Security Code: _____ CC Billing Address Zip Code: _____ **Credit Card Handling Fee (Add 5%):** \$ _____
 Name of Cardholder: _____ **Total (Credit Card):** \$ _____
 Signature of Cardholder: _____

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

FOREST CREEK

Tournament benefits the
NGAT Educational Foundation
Scholarship Program

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 & Awards

Stars & Stripes Winner

The lowest scoring team consisting of all current or former members of the National Guard will win \$400!

Join us for a day of fun, camaraderie, and friendly competition! Open to the public, this event is a great opportunity to show your support for the National Guard while enjoying a round of golf.

REGISTER NOW! DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS EXCITING EVENT!

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



JOIN US FOR THE 65th ANNUAL NGAT CONFERENCE: BOOK YOUR ROOMS BY FEBRUARY 19, 2024

WE'RE EXCITED TO INVITE YOU, YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND FELLOW SERVICE MEMBERS TO THE 65th ANNUAL NGAT CONFERENCE. This event is a celebration of 65 years of impactful service by the National Guard Association of Texas. We've witnessed the world and the National Guard evolve over these years, and we're confident that the best is yet to come.

IMPORTANT: Room bookings deadline is February 19, 2024. NGAT cannot guarantee room rates after this date. So, make sure to secure your spot before the deadline. The attendee hotel rate is \$189 single/double plus tax per night, and the family hospitality suite is \$389 single/double plus tax per night. All rooms include 4 wristbands to the waterpark, with access starting as early as 12:00 p.m. on the day of check-in and lasting until close on the day of check-out.

The conference will be held at the Kalahari Resorts, Round Rock, America's Largest Indoor Waterpark Resort. This unique all-under-one-roof experience offers wet-and-wild fun, world-class dining, a luxurious spa, live



entertainment, diverse shopping experiences, a thrilling theme park, and a state-of-the-art convention center. The resort is authentically African themed, showcasing a unique modern design evolution — an African resort with a Texas spirit.

Hotel reservations can be made online at the NGAT website: www.ngat.org/ngat-conference/



WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE AS WE REMINISCE ABOUT THE PAST WHILE REVITALIZING OUR FUTURE.



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Division:
Outdoor Equipment Group

Contact Us:
625 Conklin Road
Binghamton, NY 13903 USA
P: (800) 235-2607
F: (607) 779-2291
E: military@johnsonoutdoors.com

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KEY LEADERSHIP Update



BG Michael J. Liesmann
Mobilization Assistant to the Director
of Intelligence
United States Strategic Command
Offutt AFB, NE



BG Tanya Trout
Texas Military Department
Director of Joint Staff



COL Randal D. Wright
Commander
36th Combat Aviation Brigade



CW5 Rick Dillenbeck
Command Chief Warrant Officer
36th Combat Aviation Brigade



CSM Carlos Diaz
Command Sergeant Major
36th Combat Aviation Brigade



LTC Thomas Sheperd
Commander
1-133rd Field Artillery



CSM Daniel Griffith
Command Sergeant Major
1-133rd Field Artillery



LTC Nathan Collier
Commander
HHB 36th Infantry Division



CSM Jesse Kennis
Command Sergeant Major
HHB 36th Infantry Division



Lt Col Travis K. Williams
Commander
147th Operations Group



MAJ Elizabeth Ramirez
Commander
Weapons of Mass Destruction -
Civil Support Team



MAXIE NAMED TEXAS STATE COMMAND CHIEF

Brig Gen Andrew J. Camacho, Deputy Adjutant General – Air for the State of Texas, announced his decision to appoint **CMSgt Trang S. Maxie** to Senior Enlisted Leader of the Texas Air National Guard effective April 1, 2024.

Maxie will take the reins from **CMSgt Matthew Crawford**, after serving as Wing Command Chief for the 147th Attack Wing where she was responsible for advising the commander on mission effectiveness, professional development, military readiness, training, utilization, health, morale and welfare of the Wing's enlisted personnel.

This transition marks a significant milestone for the Texas Air National Guard, bringing with it the wealth of experience and leadership that Chief Maxie is known for.

Maxie's responsibilities as the Texas Air National Guard Senior Enlisted Leader will include overseeing the readiness and well-being of the enlisted Air Guardsmen in the state. This distinguished role requires a leader with a strategic mindset and a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by the Texas Air National Guard.

As Senior Enlisted Leader, Maxie takes on this new responsibility and the Texas Air National Guard can anticipate continued excellence in leadership, operational readiness, and a steadfast commitment to serving the citizens of Texas and the nation at large. ★

DUTY ★ HONOR ★ TEXAS



BORDER

36TH INFANTRY DIVISION COMMANDER MG WIN BURKETT (back left) and **Command Sergeant Major Jose Escobedo** (back right) visit with Arrowhead Soldiers assigned to the Operation Lone Star mission during the holiday season, in Task Force East and South at the Texas-Mexico border. *(Photo courtesy of the 36th Infantry Division)*



KILLEEN

1SG ROB CESTERNINO, **SGT Sandra Gongora** and **SGT Joshua Veler** of the 49th Finance Battalion, teach counter threat finance to members of the Tennessee Army National Guard's 1130th FMSD, as they prepare to mobilize at Fort Cavazos in Killeen, Texas.



HOUSTON

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT OF THE AIR FORCE JOANNE BASS (center) poses with 147th Attack Wing Airmen after a luncheon at Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base in Houston, Texas, December 2, 2023. Throughout her visit, CMSAF Bass engaged with enlisted airmen from diverse backgrounds and experiences to speak with them about their goals and aspirations and to provide feedback and support from her own professional experience. *(Photo by AIC Asiah Phillips)*

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TRAINING CADRE AND RECENT GRADUATES OF THE BASIC INSTRUCTORS COURSE (BIC)

conducted at the Cobb Park Readiness Center in Fort Worth, January 10-14, 2024. BIC is designed to address the Texas State Guard's continuous training needs and assure a steady cadre of trained, mission-ready professionals. Pictured L-R (front): **WO1 Jennifer Legnon-McCauley**, **SSG Kevin Bailey**, **SGT Jon Majors**, **CPL Justin Willis**, **SGT David Hart**, (back): **CW3 Eddy Lynton**, **BG John Diggs**, **Commander, Texas State Guard – 1st Bde**, **SFC Christopher Parrish**, **CPL Justin Brown**, **MSG Gregory Winn**, **SGT Frederick Tiede**.



FT. WORTH



"I joined the Texas State Guard because I wanted to wear the uniform and help others, my state, and my country. I always wanted to join the Army, but I had kids at an early age and was not able to. I have always been patriotic and the Texas State Guard has given me the opportunity to wear the uniform and to serve my state and others."



I am the Texas State Guard • For the Love of Texas

#IamTXSG
Sheri Smith
 Profession: Licensed Vocational Nursa at the VA
 Texas State Guard: Personnel Support



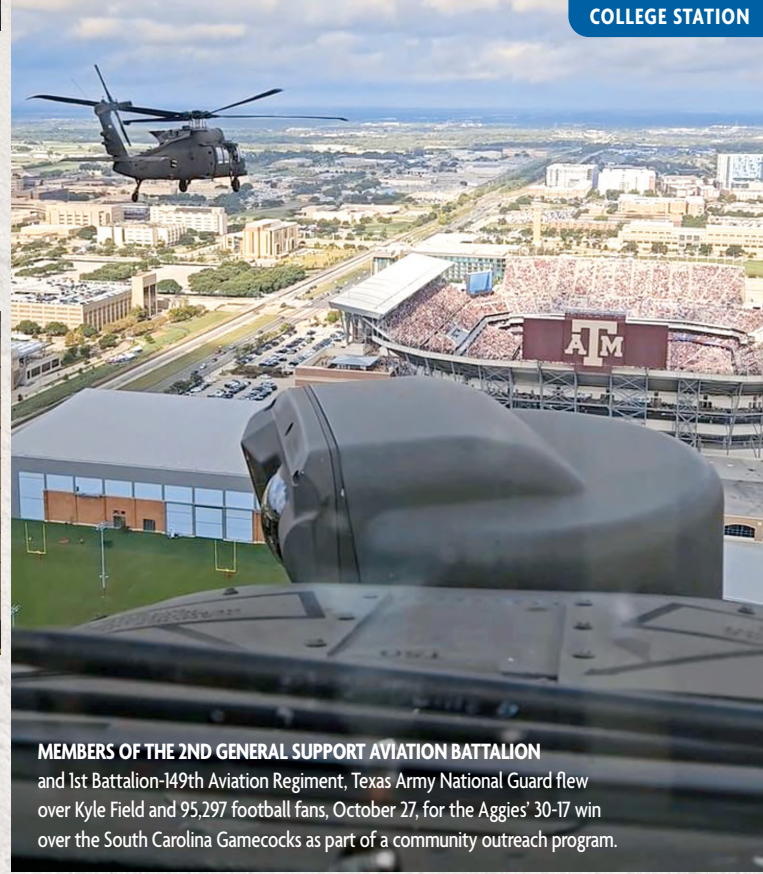
SAN ANTONIO
THE FRENCH CONSULATE from Houston, Texas, awarded 36th Infantry Division WWII veteran, **Edward Reed** (center), 101, with the French Legion of Honor for his heroic acts and participation in campaigns and battles throughout France on November 15, 2023, in San Antonio, Texas. **MG Win Burkett**, 36th Infantry Division Commander (far left), and **Command Sergeant Major Jose Escobedo** (far right) attended the intimate award ceremony in Reed's home alongside Division Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion-141st Infantry Regiment. Reed served in an artillery unit's command post as Message Center Chief during a series of WWII campaigns and battles, including the last major battle in France where his unit was at Wissembourg, March 23, 1945, before their crossing of the Rhine River. The service and sacrifice of his valiant acts contributed to the foundation and storied legacy of the 36th Infantry Division.



ABILENE
THE DE FLEURY MEDAL is the highest award for professional excellence in the Engineer Regiment. It is awarded to Soldiers and civilians within the Regiment based on recommendations from senior Commanders and their Sergeants Major. This award recognizes superior service to the United States Army Engineer Regiment and reflects great credit upon the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The following individuals, pictured from left to right, recently received this prestigious award, presented by the 111th Engineer Battalion Commander, **LTC D. Austin Bird** (center left), and **CSM Clinton Staha** (center right), **SSG George Belcheff** of the 236th Engineer Company (EVCC), **SSG Jerry Harkins** of the 822nd Engineer Company (ECC), **SSG Joshua Penrod** of the HHC 111th Engineer Battalion, and **SSG Aaron Turruarte** of the 840th Engineer Company (MAC). (Photo courtesy of the 111th Engr Bn)



CONROE
MEMBERS OF THE 1ST BATTALION 133RD FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT prepare the grog bowl during their Annual St Barbara's Day Ball held January 6, 2024 in Conroe, Texas. (Photo courtesy of 1-133rd FA)

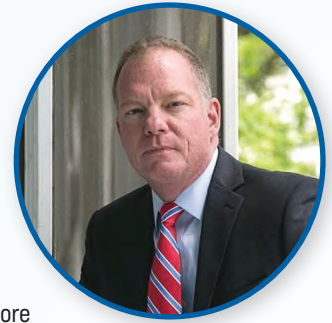


COLLEGE STATION
MEMBERS OF THE 2ND GENERAL SUPPORT AVIATION BATTALION and 1st Battalion-149th Aviation Regiment, Texas Army National Guard flew over Kyle Field and 95,297 football fans, October 27, for the Aggies' 30-17 win over the South Carolina Gamecocks as part of a community outreach program.



Legal Update with Doug O'Connell

New Laws in effect as of January 1, 2024



HERE ARE SOME OF THE NEW LAWS THAT YOU MAY WANT TO KNOW ABOUT:

- **Homeowners Associations** must now list potential violations and corresponding fines on their website and adopt standardized enforcement policies. HOAs must also provide a copy of the policies to each homeowner annually.
- **Criminal prosecutors** will now be able to offer more diversion options for Minors charges with Class C Misdemeanors. The law outlines several options for programs, ranging from community service to mandatory mental health treatment, and requires justices and municipal courts to adopt their own plan outlines. A child will only be able to take advantage of this program one time per year.
- **Inheritance simplified.** New laws ease requirements for property appraisals for spouses and children when they inherit real estate. In addition, some new tax exemptions on homes to carry over to the surviving spouse if the decedent is 65 years or older. Seniors no longer must apply for a homestead exemption. Finally, when a landowner leaves real estate to a spouse, the land is no longer considered as transferred for tax purposes.
- **New criminal law related to Marketing E-Cigarettes to minors.** It's now a Class B Misdemeanor to advertise or sell e-cigarettes with cartoons, celebrity, or candy images.
- **Charitable organizations** can now benefit from new tax breaks for investing in low-income housing and exempts organizations from taxes on certain mineral rights they own.

- **Health Insurance Providers** must now create internet portals so that Doctors and medical providers can easily and more efficiently determine insurance coverage. The portal must be secure and advise physicians what the insurance plan covers and the patient's copay, deductible etc.
- **Texas Public Colleges and Universities** may no longer maintain diversity, equity and inclusion offices. In addition, public higher education institutions may not engage in any DEI activities or DEI hiring practices.
- **Texas Data Privacy and Security Act,** regulates the collection, use, processing, and treatment of consumers' personal data by certain businesses. The law establishes provisions regarding consumers' personal data rights, a required privacy notice to customers, and the disclosure of a sale of personal data to a third party by an applicable business. Civil penalties are available for violations and the Attorney General is authorized to enforce the law.
- **Last but not least, you will now be able to purchase a Special License Plate** for your vehicle honoring the 100th anniversary of our state song – "Texas, Our Texas," with the dates "1924-2024."

Attorney Doug O'Connell is a lifetime member of NGAT and a retired TXARNG Colonel. If you need legal help O'Connell West, PLLC law firm can help. Call 512-547-7265. Serving military service members and Veterans statewide.

Defense Department Expands ID Card Renewals by Mail to US-Based Retirees, Dependents

MILITARY RETIREES AND THEIR DEPENDENTS based in the U.S. may now renew their military ID cards online and receive them by mail, relieving them of a trip to the on-base ID card office.

The Defense Department announced Jan 16, 2024, that it's expanding a pilot program that began in 2023 and initially allowed certain dependents' Uniformed Services Identification cards, or USID, to be renewed by mail.

After first offering the renewals by mail to dependents whose sponsors held a Common Access Card – generally active-duty dependents – the DoD will now allow the renewals for additional USID holders, who include U.S.-based retirees, their dependents and reservists.

The opportunity is only for people who already have a USID and need to renew it. Those applying for the first time will still need to go to an on-base office of the Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification System, or RAPIDS.

Sponsors and cardholders may request renewals at the ID Card Office Online website. At the site, the sponsor must verify the dependent's identifying information and digitally sign a new Form DD 1172-2 to receive the renewed ID by mail.



Eligibility requirements:

- The USID card being renewed is active (not expired).
- The card recipient has a photo in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) taken in the last 12 years.
- The card recipient has an email address saved in DEERS for communication.
- The card recipient has a physical address (not a post office box) saved in DEERS in the continental U.S., Alaska or Hawaii.

The Defense Manpower Data Center will create and mail the new card, emailing both the sponsor and cardholder when it has done so. An email will also be sent if the online renewal wasn't successful.

Once the card arrives, the sponsor must log back into the ID Card Office Online website to acknowledge receiving it. Since military ID cards are considered government property, users are asked to return their old, replaced ID cards by dropping them off at a local ID card office or mailing them to: DMDC- DSC, Attn: USID Card Returns, 2102 E. 21st Street N., Wichita, KS 67214. ★

by Amanda Miller

RESOLUTIONS UPDATE

Dear Texas Guardsmen,

I want to take a moment and tell you where we are with Resolutions.

Resolutions are improvements the NGAT membership want implemented to improve the lives of our Guardsmen — actively serving or retired — and our families. We received several ideas from NGAT membership. **GREAT JOB and MUCH APPRECIATED!**



The task of the NGAT Resolution Committee is to determine if those ideas submitted by membership should be voted on as a resolution by the Association for adoption as a resolution.

The reason an idea would not become an NGAT proposed resolution is if the improvement idea:

- Is already a law.
- Is already a passed resolution at the state or national level (adopted by NGAUS or EANGUS).
- Is not really an improvement because we can already do what the idea proposes.

If the idea is too ambiguous or not clearly defined, the members of the Resolution Committee take time to examine the issue, to see where there is potential for an improvement. If the idea can be clarified, it may make it to the resolution proposal stage.

We started off the fiscal year with thirteen ideas for resolutions. At this point, I am pleased to say we may have up to three resolutions to vote on at our state conference in March at the Kalahari Resort in Round Rock. As for the rest, four fell aside (ref. #1-3 above), and six are in the research stage. For a more detailed listing of the improvement ideas, please visit this URL and see the status of each idea: https://ngat.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/NGAT-Resolution-Status_12-3-2023.pdf

If you are a unit delegate, we will ask you to participate in the resolution process on behalf of the Soldiers/Airmen in your unit by voting for or against the draft resolution during the conference Business session. I'll discuss what happens when a resolution is adopted next update after the Conference (stay tuned!).

If your idea doesn't make it to this conference, we will continue to work on that idea to see if it can be moved to the Resolution stage for voting next year at NGAT's 2025 conference in Waco.

I appreciate your improvement ideas. Keep them coming by submitting your ideas to resolutions@ngat.org. Please keep these things in mind when you submit ideas:

The more detail to your idea the better. Include websites of your idea, news articles, reference other states or active duty that may already have that improvement/benefit — all of it is good information for the NGAT Resolution Committee to work with.

This is definitely a marathon not a sprint. Most (if not all) good improvements will need to make it through the State or U.S. legislature and get passed into law, therefore, it will not be fast. But if it's worth doing let's fearlessly pursue those improvements.

If you have questions on the process or about the status, you can ask those questions at the same address (resolutions@ngat.org) and we will get you a response. **Thank you for what you do and how you serve our communities, State, and Nation!**

Regards,

COL (Ret) Paul Cerniauskas

NGAT President Elect

NGAT Treasurer

NGAT Resolution Committee Chairman



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Officers in the rank of O1, O2, WO1, and CW2 receive a **Free one-year membership** in NGAT & NGAUS.



**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.



**TEXAS
MILITARY
DEPARTMENT**

Military members of the Texas Military Forces are invited to become a **Life Member of NGAT** for only \$100. Your membership helps our voice grow at the State & National level.

Join at WWW.NGAT.ORG

EANGUS CONFERENCE FREE FOR MEMBERS & THEIR GUESTS



Registration for the upcoming EANGUS Conference to be held August 17-22, 2024, in Detroit, Michigan will be **FREE** to all EANGUS members and their guest.

EANGUS conference attendees normally pay a \$175 registration fee. These dollars help defray the host-state's costs to provide ground transportation and conduct social events, including the Welcome Party, All Area Hospitality Night and the All States Banquet.

Detroit is where the deep-dish square pizza reigns supreme and the Corney dog was first assembled. Don't forget your passport. You can see Canada from our hotels. Texas will be staying at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center.

Planning is still underway for the upcoming conference. As additional information is provided it will be posted on our EANGUS conference page on the NGAT website. We expect conference registration & hotel registration to open near the end of April. We hope this great discount will encourage many of you to make plans to join us at the conference. Not a member of EANGUS or NGAT join now for free at www.ngat.org. ★

2024 EANGUS Area IV Mid-Winter Meeting 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

We will be staying at the Natchez Grand Hotel. Call the hotel directly at (601) 446-9994 to book your room. Use Group Code: EANGUS. The room rate is \$129.00 plus taxes and fees per night. Reservations must be guaranteed with a valid credit card. 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/>.**

For more information, please email Ricky Myers, Executive Director, at executivedirector@eangms.org or visit hotel website at www.natchezgrandhotel.com. ★



ATTENTION ENLISTED PERSONNEL EANGUS is now accepting Scholarship Applications

The EANGUS scholarship program offers many full-time scholarships provided by our partner institutions, as well as our \$2,000 CSM Virgil Williams Scholarship and \$1,000 Patriot Scholarship funded by corporate and individual donations. Our scholarship program is one of the primary benefits we offer to our members.

This is a great educational opportunity for EANGUS Members and their dependents.

NOT A EANGUS MEMBER?

Join today for free at www.ngat.org



For Scholarships offered and how to apply, please visit www.eangus.org/scholarship-information

Deadline to apply is April 1, 2024



NGAUS CONFERENCE FREE OR REDUCED FOR MANY



Registration will be free or just \$50 for most current National Guard officers and their spouses to attend the 146th NGAUS General Conference & Exhibition, August 23-26, 2024, in Detroit, Michigan.

NGAUS conference attendees normally pay a \$180 registration fee. These dollars help defray the host-state's costs to provide ground transportation and conduct social events, including the first-night mixers, the Governor's Reception, the Spouses Luncheon and the States Dinner.

The National Guard Association of Michigan (NGAM) officials are so confident of their ability to win sponsorships from local businesses they are offering free registration for this year's conference to all company grade officers, warrant officer 1s and chief warrant officer 2s and their spouses.

Additionally, NGAM officials will charge a registration fee of only \$50 to field grade officers and their spouses and chief warrant officers 3s, chief warrant officers 4s and chief warrant officers 5s, along with their spouses. Registration for other attendees will be the standard \$180.

Among the event planned are Golf Tournament, Company Grade Mixer/Field Grade/Warrant Officer Mixer will be at Belle Isle, a 982-acre island park in the Detroit River that will host a Caribbean Carnival with the assistance of the Virgin Islands National Guard Association. There will be a 5K/Urban-athlon at Dequinsdre Cut and our Governor's Reception is scheduled to be at the world-famous Henry Ford Museum. Don't forget your passport. You can see Canada from many of the NGAUS hotels. As additional information is provided it will be posted on our NGAUS conference page on

Do you know a newly commissioned National Guard officer or warrant officer? Let them know that they are eligible for a complimentary annual membership in NGAT & NGAUS for the rest of this year and through 2025!



Join now at
www.ngat.org/join-ngaus/



NGAUS

the NGAT website. We expect conference registration to open up near the end of April. We hope that you will make plans to join us and enjoy the discount rate for many of our attendees. ★

Group Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance for NGAUS & EANGUS Members

Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D) Insurance



Dues-paying members and life members of the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) have an accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) benefit at no extra cost to the member.

This \$2,500 benefit will automatically cover all members under age 80 whose national dues have been received or accounted for by their respective national association headquarters. There are no other enrollment requirements for the member to be covered.

For the claim to be paid, the NGAUS or EANGUS headquarters must receive the completed claim form and verify that the dues of "deceased/claimant" are current. Once the appropriate national headquarters is notified of a pending claim, they will verify membership and document it appropriately on the claim form. The claim form will then be forwarded to the claimant for completion. The completed form and any other required documents should then be returned to the NGAUSIT address on the form for processing by the insurance company.

The AD&D benefit is viewed as a significant addition to the membership package for the two associations. The membership at large can be of great service by notifying the NGAUS and EANGUS headquarters whenever there is a death of a member. This will assist us in making sure that a benefit due to a Guard member's beneficiary is not overlooked. Additional information and forms can be found at <https://www.ngaus.org/insurance/enrollment-and-claims-forms>. ★

STO RETIREES

CALENDAR

Let NGAT Help Your Retiree Group

If you are part of a retiree group, we kindly request you to inform us at NGAT. We are eager to assist in spreading the word about your gatherings and activities to our members to help you get in touch with those service members you have lost connection with. Your cooperation will help us build a stronger and more connected community. Send your meeting information to membership@ngat.org and we will post it on our website and get the word out.



Next Generation Uniformed Services ID Card

The Department of Defense transitioned from its legacy paper-based Uniformed Services Identification (USID) card to a more secure, next generation USID card. The Next Generation USID card incorporates an updated design and security features to deter counterfeiting and fraud, and is printed on a plastic cardstock. Initial issuance of the Next Generation USID card began on July 31, 2020, at select DoD ID card facilities, with phased implementation at all DoD ID card facilities, and completed in December 2020. USID cards are issued to retired and reserve members, dependent family members of uniformed Service members, and other eligible individuals in accordance with DoD policy to facilitate access to benefits, privileges, and DoD bases. The Next Generation USID card does not change the populations who are eligible to receive the current card. Legacy USID cards remain valid through their expiration date, however, individuals with an indefinite (INDEF) expiration date on their legacy USID card may replace those ID cards with a Next Generation USID card.

EVENTS — NGAT.ORG/RETIREE-REUNION/

149th Fighter Wing Retirees

Join them every Tuesday at Lupita's Mexican Restaurant, 5923 Culebra Road, San Antonio, Texas. Come and be part of the brotherhood. The gathering normally runs from 7:45 am to 10:00 am. Hope to see you there.

147th Fighter Wing Retirees

The Ace-in-the-Hole Retirees will meet on April 11, 2024, at the Golden Corral, 125 Gulf Fwy, Houston, Texas, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Hamilton Recognized

In early December at Camp Mabry, the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) presented the Lieutenant General Raymond S. McLain Medal to former 36th Infantry Division Commander, **MG (Ret) Patrick Hamilton** (left).



The presenter was none other than **MG (Ret) Robert "Bob" Halverson** (right), former commander of the 49th Armored Division.

The McLain Medal, established in 1999, is awarded annually by AUSA to a serving or former member of the United States National Guard. The recipient is recognized for their significant contributions to the advancement of the Association's goal of a seamless and component-integrated Army.

The choice of Halverson as the presenter for Hamilton was particularly fitting. Approximately twenty-three years ago, Halverson himself was the second recipient of this prestigious award. Their shared commitment to service truly embodies the spirit of "Soldier for Life" and "In Spite of Hell!"

Free License Plates and Lifetime Registration for Select Texas Veterans



Texas State legislators recently passed legislation that expanded the list of acceptable military medals which allows select vehicle registration fees to be waived. Military service members and retirees who have received one of the listed medals will be provided a FREE set of license plates and some vehicle registration fees will be waived as long as the military member/retiree registers that vehicle in the State of Texas. Retirees can submit proof of medal awards via their DD214. The form to be used is the VTR-421 available at www.txdmv.gov/forms. One and only one waiver is granted per individual despite multiple eligible awards.

Christmas IN THE GUARD



Soldiers assigned to Task Force Texans participated in a Hannukkah celebration at Camp Bondsteel in Kosovo. Soldiers were able to celebrate the 8-day holiday each night. The Unit Ministry Teams work hard to support Spiritual Resiliency and ensure religious support to all Soldiers assigned to the Task Force. *(Photo courtesy of the 56th IBCT)*



Some Task Force Texan Soldiers with the 56th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) in Kosovo were guest speakers on a local radio show during the holidays! They talked about team building and the benefits of learning how to come together as a team and work together for a common goal.



Santa was able to bring some holiday cheer to deployed soldiers in Kosovo with the 56th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT).



The Texas National Guard Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site (MATES) facility in Gatesville, Texas held its second annual Christmas decorating contest. Congratulations FMT4 for being this year's winner.



Family members and Airmen in the 136th Airlift Wing were treated to a memorable day filled with Christmas cheer. A visit from Star Wars characters added an extra touch to the excitement and joy.



Texas National Guard Warrant Officers participated in the Texas Military Department Holiday Party Fun Run at Camp Mabry. Pictured left to right (Front row): CW3 Tavarious Drake, CW2 Shannon Hunt, CW4 Andreas Turner, CW4 Frank Hinnant, CW3 (Ret) Christy Buckley, CW4 Lee Buckley, CW3 Victor Valdez. (Back row): CW4 Ryan Ramsey, CW5 (Ret) Earnest Metcalf, CW4 Don Gilmore, CW2 Xander Votan, CW5 Katherine Brown and WO1 Theodore Robinson.



Guardsmen from Alpha Company, 1st Brigade, Texas State Guard delivered toys to Medical City Children's Hospital in Dallas, Texas, bringing joy to children, in support of the Texas State Guard — Young Heroes of the Guard toy drive along with many of our Texas State Guard service members, December 16, 2023. *(Photo courtesy of the Texas State Guard)*

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Thank you to our Corporate Partners who continue to support the National Guard Association of Texas and the Texas Military Forces. Together we strive to make a difference for those who serve in the National Guard, today and in the future.

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SPC (Ret) Santiago Y. Blake, San Antonio

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MSG (Ret) James L. Cragg, Life Member #33603, Sadler

SFC (Ret) Joseph Crayton, Austin

MSgt (Ret) Roy R. Cuevas, Life Member #166, Lakehills

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Col (Ret) Marquita Johnson-Bailey, Life Member #33010, Sylvania, AL

***1SG (Ret) James M. Landers**, Life Member #28169, Royse City

SGT (Ret) Sammy Leal, Life Member #23644, Abilene

MSgt (Ret) Gilbert L. Mauricio, Life Member #8328, San Antonio

Brig Gen (Ret) Lester Lee McIntyre, Life Members #18733, Colleyville,
Former Assistant Adjutant General – Air

***SFC (Ret) Robert D. Miller**, Life Member #22906, Marshall

COL (Ret) Richard “Rick” W. Nichols, Life Member #20861, San Antonio

LTC (Ret) Robert “Bob” H. Riley, Life Member #2657, Fair Oaks Ranch

MSG (Ret) Ronald Frank “Ronnie” Ruby, Seguin

Maj (Ret) Melvin N. Russell Jr., Life Member #7646, Burleson

Frank Schlather Jr., Life Member #8581, New Braunfels

****SPC Jasper Springman**, HHC 3-144 IN Bn, Rowlett

SFC (Ret) Burney R. Striplin, Life Member #18248, Texarkana

SFC (Ret) Calvin Wallick, Buna

****TSgt James C. White III**, 136th Maint Sq, Aledo

SFC (Ret) David Woodberry, Life Member #8658, DeSoto

** Had NGAT Life Insurance Policy*

*** Had No-Cost Active Guard Policy of \$1,000*



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.



Fed Protect

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underwritten by 5Star Life Insurance Company

Prepare for the future. Protect your loved ones.

In today's unpredictable world, you know what it means to have others depend on you both on the job and at home. Protect your family's financial future with coverage you can count on. All current and former Federal employees and contractors, government groups, and spouses between the ages of 18–75 are eligible to apply with coverage continuing through age 121.

24 hour coverage

No war or terrorism exclusions. Coverage on and off duty with no hazardous, line of duty or occupational restrictions.

Emergency death benefit

Once you have coverage for two years, up to \$15,000 of the total death benefit is released as an Emergency Death Benefit (EDB).^{*} No emergency death benefit if Terminal Illness rider exercised.

Terminal illness benefit

Receive 50% of the death benefit in a lump sum amount in the event of a terminal illness with less than one year of life expectancy (24-months in Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, and Washington). The money can be spent entirely at your discretion – to pay medical bills, out of pocket expenses, or anything else. The remainder benefit amount is paid to the beneficiary upon death.

Spouse coverage

Secure the same great benefits for your spouse. With our simplified enrollment form, applying for coverage is easy with no medical exam. Simply have your spouse answer the Statement of Health (SOH) questions and sign. Coverage is dependent upon the answers to the SOH questions.

Keep the coverage

After you retire or separate, you can continue coverage for you and your spouse as long as contributions are paid.

AFBA member benefit

As a unique member benefit, AFBA is proud to offer families of eligible fallen members the Charles C. Blanton AFBA Family Survivor College Scholarship. Surviving spouse and children are eligible for \$10,000 per year, up to a total maximum benefit for the entire family of \$40,000 toward an undergraduate degree, license or certification.

Not available in New York. In Virginia, only available to First Responders. AFBA reserves the right to change this program at any time as it deems necessary.

^{*} EDB is released within one business day once all requirements are met. It can be done over the phone without the need to provide a death certificate as long as third-party proof of death can be verified (subject to contestability). Not available in California.

^{**} AFBA is not affiliated with any government agency.

Life insurance underwritten by 5Star Life Insurance Company (a Lincoln, Nebraska company), with an administrative office at: 909 N. Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Death benefits are not available in all states and U.S. Territories.

Policy #LT050197(Rev), LTCERT2016
FedProtectFlyerR1123

Founded to protect those who serve

In 1947, the Armed Forces Benefit Association (AFBA) emerged from the basement of the Pentagon to provide our military members with death benefits no one else would. We were founded with a commitment to safeguard those who serve.^{**}

We leverage a legacy of service to create a membership experience that caters to the unique needs of all who serve. We make the hardest days easier with a proactive claims process that delivers essential aid swiftly and compassionately. We provide support that goes beyond life with member benefits including a survivor scholarship.

AFBA membership provides military members, first responders, federal employees and contractors, and their families certainty and peace of mind, with benefits tailored to their real-life needs. Purpose-built for all who answer the call to serve, our benefits provide the security our members deserve and the protection their loved ones need. More than 75 years later, we remain steadfast in our mission.

Learn more at www.ngat.org/insurance or call 512-454-7300.



National Guard Association of Texas
 3706 Crawford Avenue
 Austin, Texas 78731-6308

PERIODICAL

ngat.org



CONGRATULATIONS TO SSGT CODY FOSTER from the 136th Airlift Wing for being chosen the 2023 USO National Guardsman of the Year for helping save the lives of a mother and 3-year-old child at the U.S./Mexico border. This esteemed recognition is a testament to Foster's exemplary service, dedication, and contributions to the National Guard mission. His commitment to duty reflects the highest standards of military professionalism and is a source of pride for his entire organization.



BATTLEGROUND 1863

SHOWTIME

1:30 p.m.

Rain or Shine

FREE ADMISSION

FREE PARKING

CAMP MABRY

Enter via 35th Street.
 Photo ID required
 for admission to post.

See firing demonstrations of some of the war's most famous weapons

Learn how soldiers lived during the Civil War

Watch infantry drill

Experience a skirmish between Union and Texas troops



www.texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org



NGAT PLANNING CALENDAR

(As of January 31, 2024)

2024

- 16-18 Feb EANGUS Area IV Mid-Winter Meeting, Natchez, MS
- 19 Feb President's Day (NGAT Office Closed)
- 26-28 Feb EANGUS Legislative Workshop, Washington, D.C
- 26-29 Feb NGAUS Legislative Workshop, Washington, D.C.
- 9-10 Mar Battleground 1863 Civil War Living History Event, Camp Mabry, Austin, TX
- 21 Mar NGAT Board of Directors Meeting, Kalahari Resort, Round Rock, TX
- 21 Mar Corporate Partners Reception, Kalahari Resort, Round Rock, TX
- 21-24 Mar 65th Annual NGAT Conference, Kalahari Convention Center, Round Rock, TX
- 22 Mar Company Grade & Junior Enlisted Mix & Mingle, Redd's Piano Bar, Kalahari Resort, Round Rock, TX
- 25 Mar NGAT Conference Recovery (NGAT Office Closed)
- 29 Mar Good Friday (NGAT Holiday Observed)
- 28-29 Apr NGAT Board of Directors Meeting, Camp Mabry, Austin, TX
- 24-27 May Memorial Day (NGAT Office Closed)
- 14 Jun U.S. Army Birthday/Flag Day
- 19 Jun Juneteenth (NGAT Office Closed)
- 4-7 Jul Independence Day (NGAT Office Closed)
- 11-12 Aug NGAT Board of Directors Meeting, Camp Mabry, Austin, TX
- 17-22 Aug EANGUS Annual Conference, Detroit, MI
- 23-27 Aug NGAUS Annual Conference, Detroit, MI



MEMBERS OF 1-126TH AVIATION REGIMENT and the Kosovo Search and Rescue Association recently conducted a Basic Life Saver course and hoist training in Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo.