



BG John "Brad" Bowlin Assumes Command of the 36th Infantry Division

BUILT
FOR
BATTLE.
TOUGH
FOR
LIFE.



EXCHANGE



Scan for the full line-up
of ESS Military Products
or visit our website:
www.esseyepro.com



ESS ROLLBAR™ SUNGLASS

AUTHORIZED
PROTECTIVE
EYEWEAR
LIST (APEL)



Universal Fit - Interchangeable Lenses

Unit Issue Kit: E9018-01 NSN: 4240-01-630-8249

2024 - 2025 Board of Directors

President	Mireya Cruz
President-Elect	Paul Cerniauskas
Vice-President	Jolene Hinojosa
Secretary	Amanda Roberts
Treasurer	Andrew Wenzel
Executive Director	Marvin Harris
HQ, Joint Forces	Jolene Hinojosa
HQ, TXARNG	Amanda Roberts
71st Troop Command	Andrew Wenzel
HQ, 36TH ID	Salvador Flores
56th IBCT	Wesley Hall
72nd IBCT	John Robinson
36th CAB	Craig Neely
176th Engr Bde	Justin Meyers
71st EMB	Julie Perez
36th Sustainment Bde	Michelle Auyer
136th MEB	Matthew Verdugo
HQ, TXANG	Vacant
136th AW	Graydon Phillips
147th ATKW	Angela Matthews
149th FW	Keith Cook
Air Rec & Ret	Vacant
Army Rec & Ret	Vacant
Retired Rep.	Donna Balderston
Retired Rep.	Brandon Horta
Retired Rep.	Oliver Mintz
Family Readiness Rep	Maria Daniels
Army Jr Enlisted	Vacant
Air Jr Enlisted	Vacant
At Large Rep	Tielow-Taneesha Henson
At Large Rep	Richard Newby
Editor	Theresa Billeck-Zuniga
Graphic Designer	Terri Sheets
Publisher	Multicopy Printing Co. Inc.

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

NGAT News (usps 015-752) published quarterly by the National Guard Association of Texas, 3706 Crawford Avenue, Austin, Texas 78731-6308.

Periodicals postage paid at Austin, Texas 78710 and additional offices.

POSTMASTER SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:
NGAT News, 3706 Crawford Avenue, Austin, Texas 78731-6308

MEMBERS MAY EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGES TO:
membership@ngat.org



CONTENTS

p5



MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

p12



DUTY | HONOR | TEXAS

p15



NGAT CONFERENCE 2025

4	From the President
5	Members Spotlight
6-7	36th Infantry Division Change of Command
8	Key Leadership Update
9	Legislative Update
11	Texas State Guard Leadership Conference
12-13	Duty Honor Texas
14	Legal Update
15	NGAT Conference 2025
16	EANGUS Update
17	NGAUS Update
18	Retirees Corner
21	Corporate Sponsors
22	TAPS
24	NGAT Planning Calendar

ON THE COVER:

BG JOHN "BRAD" BOWLIN (center) assumes command of the 36th Infantry Division during a Change of Command ceremony on May 31, 2024, at Camp Mabry.
(Photo by MAJ Nadine Wiley De Moura)

Follow us on

FROM THE PRESIDENT



To Our Members,

SUMMER IS SWIFTLY COMING TO AN END, SO

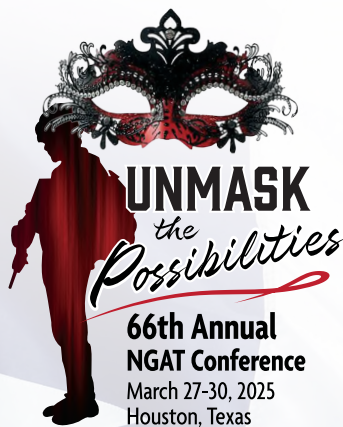
WHAT HAVE WE DONE? Well, for many of us, it ended a school year, annual training for most has been completed, and for those lucky ones maybe a vacation was in store. Looking ahead we will begin the new school year, the fiscal year ends, and for our Association we dive right into the EANGUS and NGAUS conferences.

As we speak about our state's influence in our national organizations, it's important to note the amazing strides of our Enlisted Force. **Our numbers have grown from less than 430 to over 1,775 in a year, allowing us to move into the top 5 in the nation in total voting power.** This is the first time I have EVER seen this for our state and something to certainly be proud of. This allows Texas to have a MUCH greater say in what moves forward legislatively on a national level. On the NGAUS front we are also making tremendous progress going from a membership of 725 to over 1,090 and increasing our overall membership in NGAUS from 15% to 30%. That is a huge improvement for Texas and a big win for you our members. The national associations are starting to take notice that Texas is here to make a difference. **Keep up the good work and continue to spread the word about NGAT, EANGUS and NGAUS.**

Legislatively we are continuing our efforts. Your NGAT team meets with our lobbyist biweekly and has developed a program that will be offered to all our membership to learn how to navigate our legislative process and how to become force multipliers within our organization. Next year we are in our Texas Legislative session and this training will become vitally important. Be on the lookout via email and on our social media platforms for the date and time information of this training. Cannot wait to see you there.

Mark your calendar and make plans to attend the **66th Annual NGAT Conference scheduled for March 27-30, 2025**, at the Royal Sonesta Galleria in Houston, Texas. Our theme will be "Unmask the Possibilities" where we can explore new avenues, embrace our vulnerabilities, and challenge our limitations with new opportunities. It is going to be a lot of fun. Watch the NGAT website for updates as we unmask our events.

We are always on the hunt for more ideas and legislative actions that we can take in the form of resolutions. Please email us at resolutions@ngat.org and let us know what you'd like considered.



If our enlisted numbers previously mentioned is any indicator that membership matters, then I don't know what is. Membership is a year-round effort, but the needle doesn't move without YOU. We are steadily revamping our website and making it easier to join us. We are also providing tools for you to host your own membership drives. We will be creating membership competitions...let's see which MACOM, Brigade, Wing is better than the rest. **Please go to our website <https://ngat.org/membership-toolkit/>** and look at the tools provided. Let us know how we can help! Let's keep the momentum going, lets keep growing.

Your board recently voted to implement Phase 2 in our marketing plan. This will absolutely promote the reach of our organization, increase brand recognition, and analyze trends to ensure that our changes are best serving you. If you want to be part of our communication team, please email me at president@ngat.org.

Our NGAT staff has been doing an incredible job and your Board has been more active than ever to ensure that this year is our **BEST YEAR YET**. I am so proud to be a part of this team and am impressed daily at the efforts they make to ensure that NGAT remains a premier organization. It is my hope that you, our members, are equally proud of the direction we are headed in. **Join me in being part of this change. ★**

Mireya Cruz
NGAT President

SCAN HERE TO UPDATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Have you moved, changed email address or phone numbers?
Have you been promoted, changed units, or retired?



Don't miss out on anything!
Stay connected to NGAT and update your information.



MEMBERS Spotlight

NEWLY COMMISSIONED WARRANT OFFICERS

Congratulations to the newest Warrant Officers in the Texas Army National Guard. All are new members of NGAT and NGAUS. Pictured L-R: **WO1 Michael R. Lane, WO1 John W. Peebles, WO1 Joseph R. Scicchitano, WO1 Andrew C. Beals.** ★



SAMPA NAMED ESGR NATIONAL CHAIR

In an historic Employers Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) event, out-going ESGR National Chair Ron Bogel (left) swears in incoming National Chair, **CSM (Ret) John Sampa** (right) during ESGR's New State Chair training at the Mark Center in Alexandria, Virginia. Sampa begins a four-year tour of leading and supporting around 2,300 ESGR volunteers and staff over 54 committees across all the U.S. states and territories. CSM (Ret) Sampa is a NGAT Life Member and served as the 12th Command Sergeant Major of the Army National Guard prior to his retirement as well as serving as the Senior Enlisted Advisor for the Texas Army National Guard. **Congratulations!** ★

(Photo courtesy of ESGR)



**NOW OFFERING
FREE MEMBERSHIP
FOR SELECT MILITARY RANKS**



SPREAD THE WORD

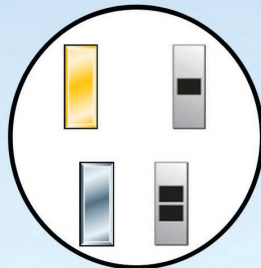
★ **FREE MEMBERSHIP** ★

★ **FREE MEMBERSHIP** ★



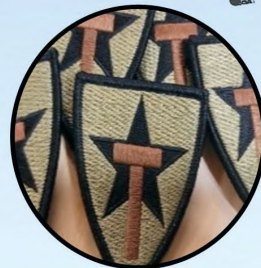
**ENLISTED PERSONNEL
(ALL RANKS)**

Receive a **Free one-year membership** in NGAT & EANGUS.



**OFFICER PERSONNEL
(O1, O2, WO1, CW2)**

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



BG JOHN "BRAD" BOWLIN
Commander
36th Infantry Division



CSM JOSE A. ESCOBEDO
Command Sergeant Major
36th Infantry Division

36th Infantry Division Welcomes New Commanding General from Tennessee

The 36th Infantry Division and Texas Military Department hosted a Division Change of Command ceremony May 31, 2024, at Camp Mabry's Audie Murphy Regional Training Institute in Austin, Texas.

The ceremony honored outgoing commanding general **MG Ronald "Win" Burkett** and welcomed incoming division commander, **BG John "Brad" Bowlin**. Bowlin came to Texas from the Tennessee National Guard and had formerly served as the assistant division commander—operations of the 36th Infantry Division.

Burkett served as the commanding general of the 36th Infantry Division since March 2022. With the relinquishment of his command, his next assignment will take him back to the National Guard Bureau where he will serve as the NGB Director of Operations (J3/4/7).

"Today's change of events for the ceremony is indicative of the last four years," said Burkett. "It has been an environment of high unpredictability. We pulled Soldiers across this state all the time to help with fires, floods, the state freeze and if that weren't enough we were deploying 950 Soldiers to the border a week—setting a theater in motion without infrastructure."

The division accounts for two-thirds of the Texas Military Department's service members. There are roughly 26,000 Soldiers under the division command spanning five states: the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team from the Mississippi Army National Guard, the 81st Stryker Brigade Combat Team from the Washington Army National Guard, the 278th Armored Cavalry

Regiment from the Tennessee Army National Guard, and the 111th Sustainment Brigade from the New Mexico Army National Guard; the Texas Army National Guard units include the 56th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 36th Infantry Division Artillery, 36th Combat Aviation Brigade, 136th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, 176th Engineer Brigade, 36th Sustainment Brigade, and Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion.

In his closing remarks, Burkett applauded his brigade commanders for empowering their brigade staff, their battalions, and their



MG RONALD "WIN" BURKETT (left) receives the Texas Superior Service Medal for his superior service to the military forces of Texas from Texas Deputy Adjutant General—Army, **BG Monie R. Ullis** (right) during the 36th Infantry Division Change of Command ceremony. (Photo by CPT Basil Wang)



THE 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION LEADERSHIP pose after the 36th Infantry Division Change of Command ceremony May 31, 2024, at Camp Mabry's Audie Murphy Regional Training Institute in Austin, Texas.
(Photo by MAJ Nadine Wiley De Moura)

company commanders throughout the modernization and transformation of the division alignment, state and federal missions over the past few years.

“You took the mission and ran with it,” said Burkett, recognizing the dual status, high operational tempo, and role of the command teams. “We looked at readiness as a mission to take care of our people...I am so proud of every single one of you.”

The Texas Deputy Adjutant General—Army, **BG Monie R. Ulis**, presided over the Change of Command ceremony. “We are gathered here today at a time in history when the world we live in has become unstable, divisive and unpredictable,” said Ulis.

Ulis awarded Burkett the Texas Superior Service Medal for his superior service to the military forces of Texas on behalf of **Maj Gen Thomas Suelzer**, the Adjutant General of Texas. Additionally, Burkett was awarded the 200th issuance of the Order of St. Michael-Airborne at the Hail and Farewell dinner the night prior.

“General Bowlin, we are confident that you will continue to lead and demonstrate the excellence that we are accustomed to,” said Ulis. “Great promise as well as challenges are ahead, and I believe you’re the right leader for the right climate.”

Bowlin, a Tennessee native, closed out the ceremony highlighting his familiarity with the brigades and the relationships he has built with the division as the former assistant division commander of operations. “I am no stranger to this division,” said Bowlin.

“You know my strengths, weaknesses and gaps, and you’ve demonstrated that you’re willing to square me away. We are going to be a great team.” Priorities aren’t going to change, Bowlin added. We owe it to the people of Texas to be ready and the same for our Title 10 mission.

“We are going to do that by taking care of people, creating a maintenance culture that enables our DSCA missions and training, building a culture that cultivates a warrior’s spirit, treat people with dignity and respect, and lastly we are going to be experts on our communication,” said Bowlin.

“We are going to transform and modernize the way we think so that we will be ready for Army 2030 and beyond.” ★

“We looked at readiness as a mission to take care of our people...I am so proud of every single one of you.”

Tactical Lighting Solutions - Built in the USA.

FIRST LIGHT
USA

firstlight-usa.com



KEY LEADERSHIP Update



MG Ronald "Win" Burkett
National Guard Bureau
Director of Operations (J3/4/7)



Col Kurt R. Anderson
Deputy Commander
136th Airlift Wing



Col Chris Cornette
Commander
136th Airlift Wing



COL Mark A. Gunn
Commander
72nd IBCT



COL Brent Kemp
Commander
56th IBCT



Col Scott Olech
Commander
149th Mission Support Group



Col Benjamin J. Schill
Deputy Commander
149th Fighter Wing



COL Christopher Sedtal
Chief of Staff
71st Troop Command



LTC Joseph W. Meller
Commander
111th Engineer Battalion



LTC Joshua Pritchett
Commander
136th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade



LTC Christopher Winnek
Commander
71st Theater Information
Operations Group



LEGISLATIVE Update

Welcome to the NGAT Legislative Update, our reoccurring feature in NGAT News Magazine to keep NGAT membership apprised of everything legislative. Right now you're probably asking yourself, "What does THAT mean?"

Well, here are the basics: As you are probably aware, one of the roles that NGAT fills for the membership is as advocate before federal, state, and local elected officials and government. With NGAT being a state association, its efforts are focused primarily on the Texas Legislature and Texas agencies. The mechanisms used to deploy NGAT's legislative advocacy efforts include the NGAT Board of Directors, the Government Affairs Committee, the Resolutions Committee, NGAT professional staff, and the most recent addition, our contract government affairs consultants (Lobbyists) Eric Knustrom and Chad Cantella of Texas Star Alliance.

All of these resources work in concert under the direction of the NGAT Board of Directors to advance NGAT's Legislative Agenda. NGAT's Legislative Agenda is developed during the "Interim" period between regular sessions of the Texas legislature. The process of developing a legislative agenda requires outreach to association membership to identify potential policy proposals related to the issues that impact the NGAT community. One big step in that process was the Legislative Questionnaire that was released during our last Conference, and which can still be completed by filling out our online form at <https://shorturl.at/7sy2a>.

In addition to the questionnaire, the NGAT committees and board members have been reaching out to get feedback on what priorities NGAT can address with the Legislature during its 89th session which begins in January. Alongside our lobbyists we have spoken with stakeholders like TMD, the Office of the Governor, and any other elected officials or state agencies who's interests or oversight align with our strategic goals.

So keep watching this spot in the magazine for future updates that will include a detailed breakdown of the feedback received in the Legislative Questionnaire, a summary of NGAT's Legislative Agenda, opportunities to engage with the Gov. Affairs and Resolutions Committees, and even a schedule of webinars that will provide you with tools to track legislation, train to interact with elected officials, and perhaps to testify on matters of crucial importance to NGAT during the coming legislative session. ★

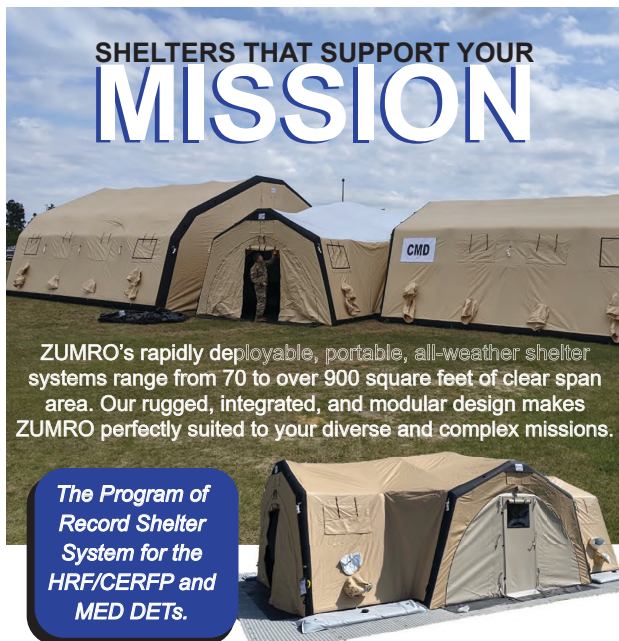
CONTACT:

MIREYA CRUZ
Government Affairs
Committee Chair
president@ngat.org

PAUL CERNIAUSKAS
Resolutions Committee Chair
presidentelect@ngat.org



THE WORLD'S PREMIER MANUFACTURER OF
AIR SHELTER SYSTEMS



SHELTERS THAT SUPPORT YOUR
MISSION

ZUMRO's rapidly deployable, portable, all-weather shelter systems range from 70 to over 900 square feet of clear span area. Our rugged, integrated, and modular design makes ZUMRO perfectly suited to your diverse and complex missions.

The Program of Record Shelter System for the HRF/CERFP and MED DETs.

800.932.6003
ZUMRO.COM



PROUDLY HEADQUARTERED IN TEXAS

WILEYX.COM





Cherry Stovall

Regional Government Account Representative
cherry_stovall@bcbstx.com
972-766-4459
Supporting Illinois, Montana, New Mexico,
Oklahoma and Texas

WE CAN BE
BY YOUR SIDE.



FEP Dental™

FEP Vision™

bcbstfdental.com

bcbstfvision.com

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, a Division of Health Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company, as Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

SECURE & SIMPLIFIED PROCUREMENT OPTIONS

Use our FREE secure web platform for
organizing and planning budgets with these
funding and procurement vehicles:

- GSA
- ANC
- 8A
- Micro-purchase
- BPA
- IDIQ (small business)
- Small Business Set Asides

3 U.S. Distribution
Centers

100+ Military
Bases Globally

Stock Program
Capabilities

TXMAS - Contract# 22-68001

TXSHARE - First Responder Uniforms Contract# 2021-073

BUYBOARD - Contract# 603-20 and 670-22

Contact Galls® today for more information!

(844) GO-GALLS



CTU PROUDLY SUPPORTS THE NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS.

We thank you for being the
voice of the Texas National
Guard and it's members.

coloradotech.edu/military
(855) 230-0555

Colorado Technical University

HDT manufactures the industry's leading AirBeam® shelters,
Base-X® shelters, and DRASH® shelters. We also provide

HDT is the premier supplier of integrated solutions for expeditionary missions

generators, heaters, air conditioners, CBRN air filters/
filtration systems, robotics, and specialty vehicles.

HDT can assist in your mission requirements, contact
your HDT representative or call us at 800-969-8527.



The prevailing force in the field



SERVING THE BRAVE

At American Military University (AMU), National Guard
members have the flexibility to choose how to use education
benefits. And their families do, too.

A UNIVERSITY BUILT FOR YOU

American Military University (AMU) was founded in 1991 by a
Marine Corps officer to provide military personnel with
portable, relevant, and affordable education. AMU is part of
American Public University System (APUS), the #1 provider of
higher education to the U.S. military and a top choice of
veterans using their GI Bill® benefits.*

SUPPORT FOR MILITARY FAMILIES & EXTENDED FAMILIES

Guardsmen families and extended families can also benefit from
a variety of other support services, including our Career Center,
MyCAA, and a robust catalog of mental health resources.

To learn more or find a rep visit:
AMUonline.com/NGR

*Based on FY 2019 Department of Defense tuition assistance data, as reported by Military Times, 2020, and Veterans Administration student enrollment data as of 2023. GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government website at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>.



Portable Toilet Kit with Instant Privacy Tent

Paul Mangum
President
Temecula, CA

Paul@instaprivy.com
951-551-7213

www.instaprivy.com



Veteran Owned Small Business



TEXAS STATE GUARD ACTIVITIES



TEXAS STATE GUARD (TXSG) TROOPS FROM 1ST BRIGADE aid at a point of distribution (POD) location in Angleton, Texas with the support of partnering agencies like TDECU Angleton sponsoring the ice POD. TXSG troops continue to support partnering agencies and organizations to help Texans after Hurricane Beryl. (Photo by ISG Eddie Lack)



Individual Equipment Worldwide



7016 W US Hwy 90
San Antonio, TX 78227
(210) 674-0511 / (800) 531-5529
www.kellac.com



THE TEXAS STATE GUARD 6TH BRIGADE provided support in distributing food and supplies to community members in Lindale, where community members were dealing with storm recovery and power restoration following Hurricane Beryl. (Photo courtesy of the Texas State Guard)



MAJ RYAN BIERLE DMSC, PA WITH THE TEXAS STATE GUARD talks with a patient in Rio Grande City during Operation Border Health Preparedness, formerly Operation Lone Star. This exercise helps the community get ready for disasters. Texas Department of State Health Services and partners like the Texas State Guard offer services at no-cost to the community during this event. (Photo courtesy of the Texas State Guard)



THE TEXAS STATE GUARD (TXSG) LEADERS CONFERENCE was held at the Hilton College Station and Conference Center in College Station, Texas, on June 28–30, 2024. The TXSG Leadership Conference provided an opportunity for leaders to share their knowledge and insights from the past year and to provide guidance for the future of the organization. Keynote speakers for the conference were Bruce Hamilton '78, President and CEO of the Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets Association, and Senator Phil King, District 10. (Photo by CW2 Kevin Farley)

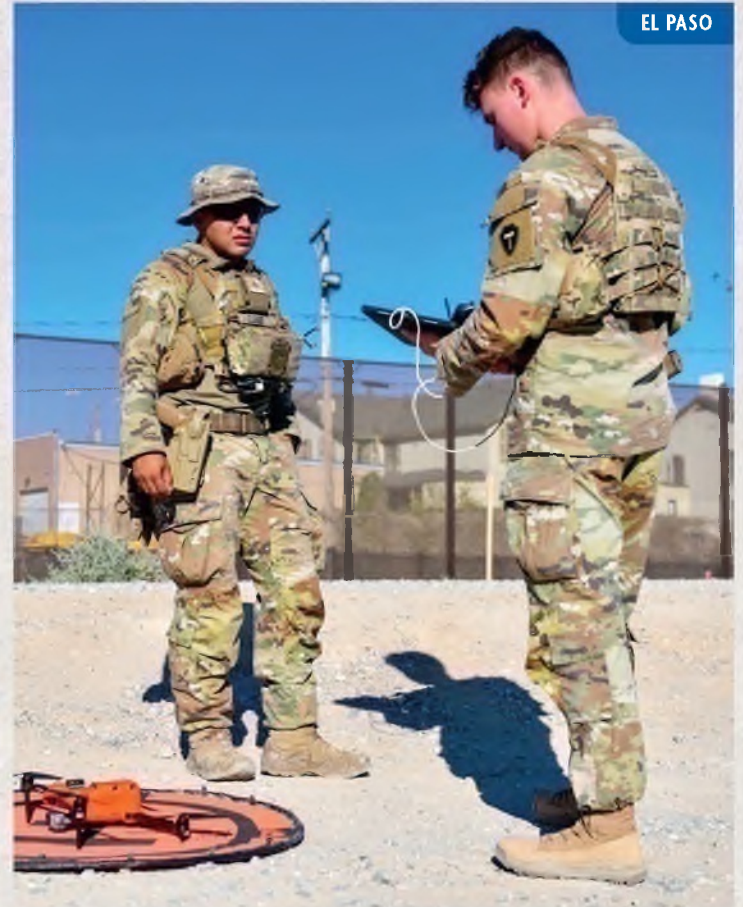
DUTY ★ HONOR ★ TEXAS



LA GRULLA

SIX TEXAS NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS were recognized by Joint Task Force North Commander MG Matthew D. Smith for extraordinary bravery and quick response when a helicopter crashed in La Grulla, Texas, March 8, 2024. Smith said the soldiers' decisive actions saved one soldier's life and exemplified the highest values of the United States Armed Forces.

(Below) TEXAS NATIONAL GUARD soldiers perform a systems check on an unmanned aerial system used to detect and prevent transnational crime along the Texas-Mexico border in El Paso, Texas. (Photo courtesy of Operation Lone Star)



EL PASO



SAVANNAH, GA

(Left) MEMBERS OF THE 147TH SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON prepare visual representations of their defense and operations strategies for their final training exercise at the Air Dominance Center in Savannah, Georgia. (Photo by SrA Asiah Phillips)

TAPA, ESTONIA

SOLDIERS ASSIGNED TO 4TH BATTALION, 133rd Field Artillery Regiment, Texas Army National Guard, supporting 1st Cavalry Division, conduct their annual Table XII live fire exercise near Tapa, Estonia, June 27, 2024. The HIMARS crews from 4-133rd FAR conducted their qualification in front of personnel from the U.S. Embassy in Estonia, Estonia Defense Forces, and forces of NATO partner nations. The 1st Cavalry Division's mission in Europe is to engage in multinational training and exercises across the continent, working alongside NATO allies and regional security partners to provide combat-credible forces to V Corps, America's forward-deployed corps in Europe. (Photo by SPC Trey Gonzales)



AUSTIN



MEMBERS OF THE 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION ARTILLERY pose for a unit photo on Camp Mabry with their commander **COL Brain Hildebrand** (front left) and **Command Sergeant Major Roger Branch**. (Photo courtesy of the 36th ID Artillery)

NARVA, ESTONIA



SPC ABIEL CANTU (LEFT), SPC COLIN ORDAZ (CENTER), AND SPC LINDSAY RIVERA all assigned to the 4th Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery Regiment, Texas Army National Guard, supporting the 1st Cavalry Division, stand in formation at the Estonian Victory Day parade held in Narva, Estonia, June 23, 2024. The static display featured one of 4-133's FA High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, alongside Estonian and NATO partner troops and capabilities to showcase their camaraderie and unity. (Photo by SPC Trey Gonzales)

ADDISON

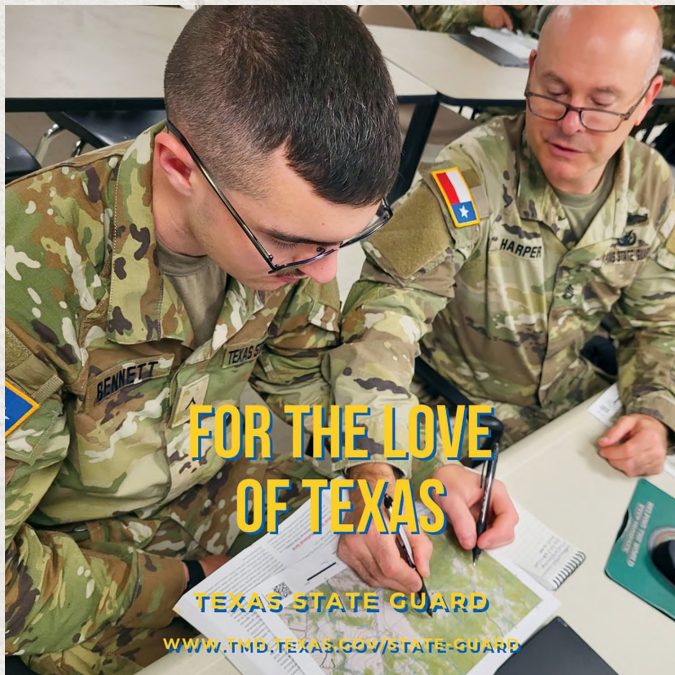


MEMBERS OF THE 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION bands Rock B4 Dawn and Rhythm N' Boots performed on July 1, 2024, at the Addison Kaboom Town event in Addison, Texas. (Photo courtesy of the 36th Infantry Division Band)

TEXAS BORDER



TEXAS NATIONAL GUARD soldiers use propane torches to remove fabric used by illegal immigrants attempting to bypass our razor wire barriers at the border. Texas continues to use all available tools and strategies to repel illegal immigration on the Texas border. (Photo courtesy of the Office of the Governor of Texas)



FOR THE LOVE OF TEXAS

TEXAS STATE GUARD

WWW.TMD.TEXAS.GOV/STATE-GUARD



LEGAL UPDATE with Scott Walters



BEST PRACTICES FOR SUBJECTS OF MILITARY INVESTIGATIONS

Unfortunately, it's gotten to the point that it's difficult to keep track of all the different types and reasons for military investigations, but here are just a few: minor misconduct, Inspector General (IG) complaints, sexual harassment, reprisals, security infractions and classified data spillage, Equal Opportunity and Equal Employment Opportunity (EO/EEO) complaints, toxic command climate, safety and accidents, line of duty, property loss or damage, etc.

The problem, of course, is if you are the subject of the investigation, there are numerous repercussions possible, including a Section 15, removal from your position, derogatory comments on your Officer Evaluation Report (OER) or NCO Evaluation Report (NCOER), a General Officer Memorandum of Reprimand (GOMOR), financial liability, administrative separation, or even a court-martial.

HERE ARE A FEW TIPS THAT I HAVE GLEANED FROM DECADES OF ADVISING CLIENTS AND COMMANDERS:

1. Once notified you are under investigation, immediately write down your recollection of the relevant facts. Do not share your notes with anyone, except your attorney.
2. Despite what your boss or anyone else says, do not assume they have your best interests in mind or that they are only conducting an investigation "to document what happened and protect you."
3. Get a copy of the regulation(s) that govern the particular type of investigation you are facing and educate yourself on the regulatory guidance.
4. Be extremely cautious when interacting with the person who made the allegation; if you outrank this person and take some sort of adverse action against him or her – even a negative counseling statement – you may end up facing TCMJ action for reprisal.
5. Decide whether you want to make a statement. If you do make a statement, when you meet with the investigating officer, make sure to let her know who else she should speak with and what additional evidence she should look for.
6. If you intend to hire an attorney, do not wait until the investigation is closed and you have been served with a GOMOR or other adverse action. A proactive attorney will take steps while the investigation is underway to protect your rights and ensure the best possible outcome.

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Scott Walters is a retired Army JAG and an attorney in the San Antonio office of O'Connell West, PLLC. If you need a free legal consultation regarding a legal issue, call 512-547-7265.

POND
ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING, PLANNING,
AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

35 years serving ANG & ARNG	47 states/territories	490+ projects	\$1.45B construction value
--	---------------------------------	-------------------------	--------------------------------------

MAK SIMULATION SOLUTIONS
UNLOCK THE NEXT LEVEL IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MAK

UNMASK THE POSSIBILITIES

at the 66th ANNUAL NGAT CONFERENCE



MAKE PLANS TO JOIN US FOR THE 66TH ANNUAL NGAT CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 27-30, 2025, AT THE ROYAL SONESTA HOUSTON GALLERIA IN HOUSTON, TEXAS. All events other than the Golf Tournament and Fun Run will be held in the Royal Sonesta. The Royal Sonesta is located at 2222 West Loop South, Houston, TX 77027. Our hotel rate is \$149 per night. Visit the NGAT Conference website to book your room today.

Our conference theme will be “Unmask the Possibilities” and rally around a masquerade theme and unmasking of additional events throughout the conference. Starting with the return of the hospitality rooms on Friday night only, units will compete for “**best hospitality room**” on Friday, March 28, 2025. Our annual awards banquet will be held on Saturday, March 29, 2025, and will feature a Masquerade Party with dancing after the banquet.

The NGAT Educational Foundation Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, March 28, 2025, at the Hermann Park Golf Course located at 2155 N MacGregor Way, Houston, TX a short 9 miles from the conference hotel.

Watch the NGAT Conference website for updates and all the great things that are being planned for the conference. The possibilities are endless. www.ngat.org/ngat-conference/. ★



DJ WANTED

HEY NGAT MEMBERS! WE ARE LOOKING FOR A DJ FOR THE NGAT CONFERENCE WHO IS IN THE HOUSTON AREA. If you are interested or know of someone, please contact our Executive Director, Marvin Harris at 512-454-7300 or at mharris@ngat.org. ★

 **Ken's Shop** 

254-345-6227

**185 Private Road 3063
Lampasas, TX 76550
(254) 345-6227**

kenhagan2354@gmail.com


FLEXDECKS
MAINTENANCE PLATFORMS

Sheila Croff
Category Manager
sheilac@flexdecks.com

14325 West Hardy Rd.
Houston, TX 77060

346-998-0210 / **phone**
832-550-2355 / **fax**
713-205-5781 / **cell**

flexdecks.com



DC-MATIC™

Steve Robbins

817 454-1833

dcmaticsteve@gmail.com

DC Matic Enterprises, Inc.
6750 Cartagena Court
Fort Worth, TX. 76133

Phone: 800-344-0609

WE DESIGN, MANUFACTURE, ENGINEER, AND INSTALL METAL ROOFS


A-LERT ROOF SYSTEMS

A-LERT ROOF SYSTEMS HAS EARNED A REPUTATION AS ONE OF THE LEADING METAL ROOFING CONTRACTORS IN THE UNITED STATES. WITH OVER 35 MILLION SQUARE FEET INSTALLED FOR OVER 2,500 CLIENTS NATIONWIDE, WE ARE EASILY ONE OF THE MOST EXPERIENCED AS WELL.



Join us on a night to **REMEMBER THE PAST.** **STAND UP FOR TOMORROW.**

9/11/2024 | ONE WORLD OBSERVATORY

Located in the One World Trade Center (corner of West and Vesey Streets)
117 West Street | New York, New York 10007

EANGUS works to improve and protect the benefits of the men and women serving in the National Guard and their families.

9/11 was a watershed moment for the National Guard. The attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, thrust the Guard into a new era of homeland defense and overseas warfighting. In the immediate aftermath of the attacks, the Guard mobilized more than 50,000 troops to provide security at airports, bridges, and other critical infrastructure. Guard units also assisted with search and rescue operations at Ground Zero in New York City and the Pentagon.

In the years since 9/11, the Guard has played a vital role in the War on Terror. Guard units have deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq, and other countries in the Middle East. They have also supported homeland defense missions, such as Operation Noble Eagle, which involved the deployment of fighter jets to patrol American airspace. The National Guard has also been involved in a number of other domestic missions since 9/11. Guard units have responded to natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina and Superstorm Sandy. They have also provided security at major events, such as the Super Bowl and the Olympics.

9/11 changed the National Guard in many ways. The Guard is now a more visible and active part of American life. It is also a more versatile force, capable of responding to a wide range of threats. The Guard's role in the War on Terror and other homeland defense missions will likely continue for many years. "It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather, we should thank God that such men lived," said George S. Patton.

This event is dedicated to those who have fallen. Our 9/11 Remembrance Gala is not only about remembering and honoring those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, it is about celebrating life and the human spirit, along with the contributions of the National Guard in furthering the future of America. On 9/11/2024, we will gather to remember our past and thank God for our National Guard heroes.

For more information about attending or sponsoring visit:
<https://eangus.org/eangus-911-remembrance-gala/> ★



Don't Miss the **EANGUS Conference** Detroit, Michigan

Join us for the 53rd Annual EANGUS Conference in Detroit, Michigan on August 17th! This gathering brings together members of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States for networking, professional development, and camaraderie in the historic city of Detroit.

Registration is still open. This is an election year for EANGUS so during the conference the membership will vote on all the executive committee positions as well as recommended bylaw changes and approve resolutions for the upcoming year.

There will be plenty of guest speakers and opportunities to network with fellow guard members from across the United States both active and retired. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with fellow service members and enhance your skills. Get involved. Visit <https://eangusconference.org/> to register and learn more about the event. See you in Detroit! ★



EANGUS HAS A FEW NEW FACES AT THE NATIONAL OFFICE. We welcome them to the organization and encourage you to contact them should you have questions concerning their area of responsibility. Pictured L-R: Michael Lane – Legislative Director; Elizabeth Moseley – Director of Media and Marketing; and David Daniels IV – Manager of Legislative Affairs.



VOTE MIREYA CRUZ **EANGUS VICE PRESIDENT**

NGAT PRESIDENT SFC MIREYA CRUZ has served as the EANGUS Secretary for the past two years. She will be running for EANGUS Vice President at this year's EANGUS Conference in Detroit, Michigan. We wish her the best of luck.



NGAUS Conference Social Events Set

The final event of the 146th General Conference & Exhibition, August 23-26, in Detroit, will honor the nation's contributions to World War II with era-appropriate attire. Participants attending the States Dinner on Monday, August 26, are encouraged to wear outfits recalling either the conflict's home or war fronts.

Attendees at the dinner — which runs from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the Huntington Place Convention Center — may also wear clothing that was worn to work in wartime factories. For example, guests can dress as Rosie the Riveter — the media icon who represented those women who served in manufacturing roles during World War II. Women also joined the men overseas during World War II, serving as nurses. Conference-goers who want to experience the States Dinner in more contemporary fashions can come in business casual attire.

Dinner is set to begin at 7:30 p.m., followed by a special concert happening at 9 p.m. The concert will feature two Michigan natives — **Sadie Bass**, a Nashville country music singer-songwriter who made a bit of a splash on NBC's "The Voice" in 2022 and **Jason Cross**, a Nashville country rock musician.



MICHIGAN NATIVE SADIE BASS from Season 2022 of the "The Voice" will perform at the NGAUS States Dinner.

The NGAUS General Conference serves as the association's annual business meeting, with Army and Air Guardsmen from all 54 Guard organizations nationwide attending. The event lets attendees network, set their legislative agenda and hear from America's civilian and military leaders.

The suggested attire is aligned with this year's conference theme — **The National Guard: Built to Defend America**, which celebrates the Guard's status as the nation's first military organization.

The National Guard Association of Michigan (NGAM) has declared 2024 the year of the "Company Grade Officer." NGAM is still offering free registration to all currently serving lieutenants, captains, warrant officer 1s and chief warrant officer 2s and a guest.

Field-grade officers and chief warrant officer 3s, 4s and 5s and a guest only pay \$50. All other guests pay \$180 for this year's NGAUS conference.

For more information and to register visit <https://ngat.org/ngaus-conference/>. ★

Connect with Company Grades

During what is being called "The Year of the Company Grade Officer," the NGAUS Company Grade Committee has established an online presence which includes an email address, a website and three social media accounts.

You can visit each of these accounts at:

Email: cgocomm@gmail.com

Website: www.ngauscgo.org

Instagram: www.instagram.com/ngaus.cgo

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/ngaus-company-grade-officer-committee

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/NGAUS.CGO



STATUS TO RETIREES

STATUS TO RETIREES

GRAY AREA RETIREES INFORMATION

Gray Area Retirees are members who served in the Guard or Reserve, who qualified for retired pay, and have retired from their service (stopped drilling) but are not yet at the age where they can start receiving retired pay.

ALL Gray Area service members must apply for military retired pay to receive it. Too many times service members think this is an automatic system that starts paying them when they reach the eligible retirement age. You must apply for this benefit.

Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) automatically creates a Gray Area Retiree "Future Retiree" pay account when each member of EVERY Service transitions from an active (drilling) pay status to the Retired Reserve.

These accounts now exist in myPay for all Services, BUT THE MEMBER HAS TO GO INTO MYPAY AND UPDATE IT WITH A CIVILIAN EMAIL AND CONFIRM THE MAILING ADDRESS. Only about 25% have done so.

Why is this important? DFAS and your Service will stay in touch with you during your Gray Area time — policies and programs change, and you'll want to know about those — and they will remind you when and how and where to apply for the retired pay you've earned.

And when life events happen — marriages, divorces, deaths, births, adoptions — those impact your benefits, especially the Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan that over 90% of you have signed up for. To learn more, read this DFAS webpage: <https://www.dfas.mil/RetiredMili.../plan/Gray-Area-Retirees/>. ★

CHIEF MEADOWS RETIRES

Col Scott Wedel (left), Commander, 136th Maintenance Group presents **CMSgt James Meadows** with a certificate of retirement after nearly 40 years of service to the Air National Guard, at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas. ★ (Photo by Mrs. Julie Briden-Garcia)



YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR A VA HOME LOAN

Did you know that National Guard members might be eligible for a VA home loan? Both active and discharged members can potentially qualify based on their service record. Learn more about eligibility by connecting with an experienced VA home loan lender, calling a VA home loan representative at 877-827-3702, or visiting our website for more information at <https://www.va.gov/housing/...home-loans/eligibility/>. ★

LET NGAT HELP YOU'RE 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. ★

NATIONAL AIRBORNE DAY AUGUST 16TH

The former officers and men of the 1Bn/133FA/71Abn Bde and 271stEngAbn unit will be gathering for the 2024 National Airborne Day observance in Beaumont. All former Army paratroopers are invited to join us. Spouses are also welcomed to attend.

PLACE: CRAZY CAJUN RESTAURANT
2310 N 11th St
Beaumont, Tx 77703
DATE: Friday, Aug. 16th
TIME: 4:00pm-6:00pm
(RSVP's will be greatly appreciated)

POC: TOM HOGAN 409-926-8187



Fed Protect

Group Level Term Life Insurance to age 121

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.



LITEFIGHTER®

FUTURE OF FIELDCRAFT



RUGGED, LIGHT WEIGHT, VERSATILE & HIGHLY MOBILE

INDIVIDUAL SHELTER SYSTEMS & TACTICAL GEAR FOR THE US MILITARY

WWW.LITEFIGHTER.COM





2024-25 NGAT CORPORATE Partners

PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



CORPORATE SPONSORS





TAPS

As of July 31, 2024

1SG (Ret) Oscar G. Adame, Life Member #616, Donna

MAJ (Ret) Jimmy E. Allen, Life Member #12711, Cape Girardeau, MO

SGM (Ret) Guy Barrow, Life Member #8985, Austin

SGT (Ret) William C. Bird, Sr., Vinton, LA

Col (Ret) Jimmy Allen Carrigan, Life Member #7043

SMSgt (Ret) Mark Vern St. Cyr, Life Member #156, Webster

SMSgt (Ret) Richard L. Diana, Life Member #15889, Gun Barrel

SSG (Ret) Salvador Flores, Life Member #23386, Corpus Christi

CW5 (Ret) Charles L. Frazier, Life Member #6405, Manor

****SPC Devon D. Freeman**, HHC 636 MI Bn, San Antonio

MSG (Ret) Leslie W. Gallatin, Life Member #7335, Austin
(Spouse of our longtime Insurance Director, Kathy Gallatin)

1SG (Ret) Jesse F. Garza, Life Member #7053, San Antonio

Mr. Israel Guerra Jr., Life Member #16679, Round Rock

CCMSgt (Ret) Harold L. Higgins, Life Member #32391, Whitehouse
(Former Command Chief of the Texas Air National Guard)

CW4 (Ret) Leonard Ittis Jr., Life Member #3813, Georgetown

***SSG (Ret) Robert G. Johnston**, Life Member #35300, Nolanville

MSgt (Ret) Douglas E. Lamp, Life Member #17799, Texas City

TSgt Richard O. Leighty, Jr., Life Member #20274, Webster

Harold J. Mathis, Jr., Richmond

CCMSgt (Ret) Oren W. McClure, Life Member #6358, Cascade, CO
(1986 NGAT Minuteman Recipient)

****SPC Mario A. Navarro Jr.**, HHC 1-141 IN, Houston

Reynaldo Nino, Houston

***SPC Jamin M. Oliva**, HHC 136th MP Bn, Carrollton

SSG (Ret) Adam Presley, Georgetown

****SSG Jeremy Randolph**, Co G 949 Spt Bn, Eagle Pass

SMSgt (Ret) Joe R. Rodriguez, Life Member #225, Rosenberg

SSG (Ret) Jimmy Bob Rolls, Life Member #1676, Longview

MSG Roy Salinas, Life Member #14376, San Antonio

SFC (Ret) Billy Shiflet, Life Member #12536, Caldwell

SFC (Ret) Roy L. Snoddy, Life Member #4197, Gatesville

CSM (Ret) Brad Sutton, Palestine

CPT (Ret) Albert Woo, Life Member #27409, San Antonio

** 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.



ENHANCE YOUR CAREER

WITH GLOBALLY RECOGNIZED CERTIFICATIONS

At PM-ProLearn, we honor your service by providing you a path forward to a rewarding career through project management training and certifications.



COVER THE COST WITH G.I. BILL

- ✓ Only 1 Month of G.I. Bill Needed
- ✓ Only \$100 Deposit Required (Reimbursed by VA)
- ✓ Exam Fees Included
- ✓ 1 Year Access to Our Study System
- ✓ 1 Year Free Re-Attendance



WHY GET CERTIFIED?

- ✓ 31% Higher Average Salary
- ✓ Increased Career Opportunities
- ✓ Gain Invaluable Problem-Solving Skills
- ✓ Stand Out in a Competitive Job Market
- ✓ 73% of Organizations Use a Formal PM Approach

ABOUT US:

PM-ProLearn is a Premier Project Management Institute (PMI) Authorized Training Partner offering flexible learning options to fit your schedule and preferences.

GET IN TOUCH TODAY



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

PERIODICAL

ngat.org

MEMBERS OF THE 1-149TH ATTACK BATTALION perform maintenance on an Apache helicopter during annual training at Fort Cavazos. *(Photo courtesy of the 36th Combat Aviation Brigade)*



I WILL NEVER QUIT



YOU'RE MY NUMBER ONE PRIORITY
 IF YOU NEED HELP, CONTACT US: (800) 123 4567
 Servicios en español disponible



NGAT PLANNING CALENDAR

(As of July 31, 2024)

2024

11-12	Aug	NGAT Board of Director Meeting, Austin
17-22	Aug	EANGUS Conference, Detroit, MI
23-27	Aug	NGAUS Conference, Detroit, MI
30 Aug-2 Sep		Labor Day Observed (NGAT Office Closed)
11	Sep	Patriot Day
14	Oct	Columbus Day (NGAT Office Closed)
24-27	Oct	AFBA Conference, Alexandria, VA
31	Oct	Happy Halloween – Send us your Halloween Photos
1	Nov	Registration for 2025 NGAT Conference opens
8-11	Nov	Veteran's Day Observed (NGAT Office Closed)
28-29	Nov	Thanksgiving Break (NGAT Office Closed)
13	Dec	National Guard's Birthday
24-31	Dec	Christmas Break (NGAT Office Closed)

2025

1	Jan	New Year's Day Observed (NGAT Office Closed)
---	-----	--



(Above) **MEMBERS OF THE 149TH MEDICAL GROUP** conduct a daily training meeting during their medical facility annual training (MFAT) at Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy! This collaborative effort aims to enhance their medical capabilities, ensuring they are prepared to provide the best health care in any situation. *(Photo courtesy of the 149th Fighter Wing)*

(Left) **MEMBERS OF THE 149TH MEDICAL GROUP DETACHMENT 1**, the 149th Force Support Squadron Fatality Search and Recovery team, and Texas Army National Guard units attached to the 6th CERFP, complete their joint training exercise evaluation that included search and recovery operations, CBRNE principles, and emergency response tactics in Disaster City, College Station, Texas. *(Photo courtesy of the 149th Fighter Wing)*