



2023 Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA)  
Squadron of the Year Award



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**TSTC recognizes the sacrifices of those who have served in the United States Armed Forces. That's why TSTC has veteran resources at every location to work directly with veteran students and their families to get them the skills and education they need to successfully enter the workforce.**

While services vary by location, veteran students can find assistance such as:

- Application support — FAFSA, admissions, Hazlewood and GI Bill®
- Information and referrals for jobs, counseling, special programs and tutoring
- College policies and procedures support
- Veteran benefits information and assistance
- Assistance with scholarship searches and application process
- Academic advisement and college credit evaluation support
- Veteran Student Alliance Club



## BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO ALL SERVICE MEMBERS

- ▲ **Montgomery GI Bill®**
- ▲ **Post-9/11 GI Bill®**
- ▲ **College Credit for Heroes**
- ▲ **Counseling**
- ▲ **Scholarships for veterans**
- ▲ **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) scholarship opportunities.**  
Apply through local Workforce Solutions offices.



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Scan to apply.

Train in one of these *technologies*.

Aircraft Airframe • Aircraft Pilot Training • Aircraft Powerplant • Auto Collision & Management • Automation & Controls • Automotive • Avionics • Biomedical Equipment • Building Construction • Business Management • Chemical Dependency Counseling • Computer Networking & Systems Administration • Computer Programming • Computer Science • Culinary Arts • Cybersecurity • Dental Hygiene • Diesel Equipment • Digital Media Design • Drafting & Design • Electrical Construction • Electrical Lineworker & Management • Electrical Power & Controls • Electromechanical • Emergency Medical Services • Energy Efficiency Specialist • Health Information • Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning • Industrial Systems • Instrumentation • LVN to RN Transition Nursing Program • Mechatronics • Occupational Safety & Environmental Compliance • Plumbing & Pipefitting • Pre-Allied Health • Precision Machining • Process Operations • Robotics & Industrial Controls • Solar Energy • Surgical • Vocational Nursing • Web Design & Development • Welding • Wind Energy



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## ON THE COVER

**THE MITCHELL INSTITUTE FOR AEROSPACE STUDIES AND GENERAL ATOMICS AERONAUTICAL SYSTEMS, INC. (GA-ASI)** presented the 2023 Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) Squadron of the Year Award to the 111th Attack Squadron (ATKS) of the Texas Air National Guard, Joint Base Ellington Field, Texas. The award was presented at a ceremony at Ellington Field's Lone Star Flight Museum on January 11, 2025. The award is given annually to the Squadron that distinguishes itself through its employment of RPA in meritorious service.

Follow us on  

# FROM THE PRESIDENT



## NGAT Members,



### IT IS UNBELIEVABLE HOW 2 YEARS HAVE ALREADY COME AND GONE.

Its has been an amazing ride and I remain humbled and honored at the trust that you, our members, placed in me to lead this organization. It is my sincerest hope that I, along with the members of our board have made you proud and that you have seen the changes begin or already happen that were promised when I began my

Presidency. Just know that I am not slowing down and as I write this message, we have a solid 2 months left to go. Your board of directors and myself are committed to ending this strong.

So, what do we have upcoming? You'll have representation present at the following events: NGEDA, important to note that our Executive Director, Marvin Harris, is the President of this Association and he will be coming out of Presidency this year. Legislative Workshops for both NGAUS and EANGUS in Washington DC. We will also be present at EANGUS' Mid-Winter which will be in New Orleans, LA. All these events will occur before our State Conference in March.

Legislatively we are continuing our efforts. This year we welcome a new Commander in Chief, our Texas Legislature is in session, and many changes are bound to happen. For the past year your Resolutions Committee has worked feverishly to ensure that the voice of our members has been outlined on paper (in the form of a resolution) and that our lobbyist and Government Affairs Committee are poised to act once session begins. With our visits to Washington DC this year, rest assured that your Board will be visiting legislative offices and continuing to spread the message and the aims of our organization. Year round our Resolutions Committee take in ideas and requests for legislative action. Please email us at [resolutions@ngat.org](mailto:resolutions@ngat.org) and let us know what you'd like considered.

Membership continues to be an ongoing effort and while we weren't victorious in our RED RIVER Rivalry competition versus Oklahoma, we still have numbers that we have not seen in years. Our Membership Committee is always working

on new products and challenges to help encourage new members into our ranks. It cannot, however, be done by the few. This is a committee that needs the effort of the many. Numbers talk legislatively and as a state I know that we can do much better. The ask here is that you spread the word about our organization and encourage membership. I also ask that you support your board members in these efforts. They work tirelessly to promote our organization within the MACOMS, Brigades, Wings, and Regions they represent.

Our 66th Annual NGAT Conference is right around the corner. Can you believe it? If you have not done so already, I encourage you to get registered NOW and make your lodging reservations as soon as possible. Rooms will sell out. Go to [www.ngat.org](http://www.ngat.org), click the News/Events tab, and then click NGAT Conference. All details will be listed there. You will not believe all that we have planned for this conference and trust me when I say you will not want to miss it. Join us in Houston as we "UNMASK the Possibilities" and show you all we have planned for NGAT now and in the future.

Lastly, I want to thank our NGAT staff. Every idea and thought have been met with enthusiasm and a will do attitude. I've thrown a lot of things their way and a lot of changes have occurred in these past 2 years. I could not have done it without them, and I know you share in my sentiments that our staff is second to none. Please join me in thanking them for all they do.

In March I will hand over the reins to President Elect Cerniauskas. He has been a confidant and steadfast supporter throughout my Presidency. I know with certainty that I am handing over the reins to a man equally committed to our organization and ready to take it further. I am excited at the direction that our organization has made and even more encouraged as to where it will go in the future. I hope that you are proud to be a part of this great organization and know that you will assist us as we continue to push further and **GROW TOGETHER.** ★

**Mireya Cruz**  
NGAT President



## NGAT WELCOMES JORGE RODRIGUEZ TO OUR STAFF

**IN LATE DECEMBER**, the National Guard Association of Texas (NGAT) hired **SFC (Ret) Jorge Rodriguez** to serve as our Membership Assistant. Jorge will work primarily assisting the Membership Program and as well as the website and social media. Jorge is a native Texan born in Brownsville, Texas. He joined the Texas Army National Guard right out of High School and entered the Active Guard Reserve (AGR) program in 2000. While in the Guard he served in units in Weslaco, Brownsville, El Paso, and Austin, as a cook and an S1 NCO. He deployed to Iraq in 2008 and to Kuwait in 2013.



He earned an Associates in General Studies and an Associates of Science in Business Administration from Columbia College. He also has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and a Masters of Science in Leadership and Change from St. Edwards University. SFC (Ret) Rodriguez retired from the Texas Guard in 2020.

**He brings with him a wealth of knowledge to help improve NGAT. Welcome to the NGAT Team!**

## NGAT CHILI COOK OFF WINNER



**NGAT WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE** who came out to the NGAT Holiday Open House and Chili Cook-off. Thank you to everyone who donated non-perishable food items to the Central Texas Food Bank. Congratulations to **CPT Adrienne Williams**, NGAT Insurance Administrative Assistant, for winning the Chili Cook-off. See you next year!

# NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION (NGATEF) SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS CLOSE SOON!

**DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE AND  
ADVANCE YOUR EDUCATION!**

The National Guard Association of Texas Educational Foundation (NGATEF) is offering multiple scholarships totaling more than \$27,000. This is a great opportunity to offset educational costs and achieve your academic and career goals.

Are you a member of the National Guard Association of Texas (NGAT) or are you a family member? Are you currently serving? If so, you are encouraged to apply!

**The deadline to apply is February 21, 2025. Apply now at [www.ngat.org/ngatef](http://www.ngat.org/ngatef).**



## BG (RET) HUGH J. HALL AND FAMILY LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of BG (Ret) Hugh J. Hall on January 9, 2025. The National Guard Association of Texas Educational Foundation has established a BG (Ret) Hugh J. Hall and Family Leadership Scholarship in his honor. BG Hall served our country for over 40 years in the U.S. Army serving in the Active Army, Vietnam, the Military Technician Program, and the Florida and Texas Army National Guard. His military positions included Deputy Commander of the 71st Troop Command and Assistant Division Commander for the 49th Armored Division. He was a Military Technician for 29 years, retiring in 1997 from the role as the Mobilization and Equipment Training Site (MATES) Superintendent, his most cherished and impactful assignment.



General Hall's legacy is one of dedicated service, leadership, and an unwavering commitment to the mission of the Texas Army National Guard. Throughout his career, he exemplified the values of integrity, courage, and selfless service, inspiring countless individuals who served alongside him. He was an NGAT Life Member and was inducted into the Texas Military Forces Hall of Honor for his many accomplishments.

**To make a donation to his scholarship go to [www.ngat.org/ngatef](http://www.ngat.org/ngatef).**

## DONATE TO THE NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION (NGATEF)

The NGATEF accepts donations for Educational Scholarships made with cash, credit cards, life insurance policies, memorials and charitable gift annuities. For more information, contact Marvin Harris, at (512) 454-7300 or email [mharris@ngat.org](mailto:mharris@ngat.org). 2024 marked the 46th anniversary of the National Guard Association of Texas Educational Foundation. This organization continues to award scholarships to deserving men, women, and dependents of the Texas Military Department.

Below is a list of our current scholarships that we are accepting donations for:

### MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

CW4 (Ret) Len & Jean Tallas  
CW4 (Ret) Lewis King  
COL (Ret) Dale & Georgie Pyeatt  
CSM John Morgan  
COL (Ret) Richard E. Harrison

### LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS

MG (Ret) James K. "Red" Brown  
MG (Ret) Patrick M. Hamilton  
MG (Ret) Charles K. Aris  
NGAT Past Presidents  
BG (Ret) Hugh J. Hall and Family

## SCHOLARSHIPS



## NOMINATE A DESERVING NGAT MEMBER FOR OUR PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS!

The National Guard Association of Texas (NGAT) is excited to announce that nominations for our annual awards program are now open! This is your chance to recognize fellow NGAT members who have gone above and beyond in their service and contributions.

### Why Nominate?

- **Celebrate Excellence:** Honor those who have provided exceptional service and outstanding contributions to NGAT.
- **Acknowledge Heroism:** Recognize acts of heroism, including life-saving efforts and extreme humanitarianism.

### Award Categories:

**Service Awards:** NGAT Minuteman Award, Davy Crockett Award, Jose Navarro Award and the Spirit of Texas Award

**Heroism Awards:** General K.L. Berry Award and the LTC James A. Spring

**Humanitarianism Award**

#### Important Details:

- **Deadline for Nominations:** February 21, 2025
- **How to Nominate:** Visit [www.ngat.org/awards-program/](http://www.ngat.org/awards-program/) for submission requirements and criteria.

Take this opportunity to shine a light on the remarkable individuals within our community. Nominate someone today and help us celebrate their dedication and bravery!

# UNMASK THE POSSIBILITIES

at the 66th ANNUAL NGAT CONFERENCE

MARCH 27-30, 2025

ROYAL SONESTA GALLERIA • HOUSTON, TEXAS



## REGISTRATION

(ONLINE REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN)

- All attendees must pay the registration fee.
- Registration fee is \$15.00 per person for NGAT member/guest and \$30 for a non-NGAT member/guest.

## 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, 2025)
- A \$20 late fee will be added to all registrations received after March 13, 2025.
- All cancellation requests must be received prior to March 10, 2025. No refunds after that date.

## HOTEL

**Royal Houston Galleria Sonesta**

2222 West Loop South, Houston, TX 77027

- Make your reservations directly with the hotel at: 1-855-463-3091. Be sure to identify yourself as a member of the National Guard Association of Texas.
  - Attendee hotel rate: \$149 single/double plus tax per night.
  - Hotel reservations can be made online at the NGAT website. ([www.ngat.org/ngat-conference/](http://www.ngat.org/ngat-conference/))
- (NGAT cannot guarantee room rate after March 3, 2025)*

## ATTIRE

- **NGAT Welcome Party:** Casual Attire
- **NGAT Business Session:** Business Casual
- **NGAT Awards Banquet:** It's a Masquerade Party. Dress up fancy or in a mysterious costume and don't forget your mask to conceal your identity. Here is your chance to be someone else for the night. Military uniforms and cocktail attire are also acceptable. Please wear a mask.

## CONFERENCE OPTIONAL EVENTS

**Golf Tournament at Hermann Park Golf Course:** Come enjoy oak-lined fairways, terrific views and challenging play for golfers of all levels. 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 on Friday morning at Hermann Park. Registration fee includes a T-shirt, award medals and refreshments.

**Wine Tasting:** Delight your senses with savory wines paired with chef-curated inspired bites at the Royal Sonesta wine tasting event.

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

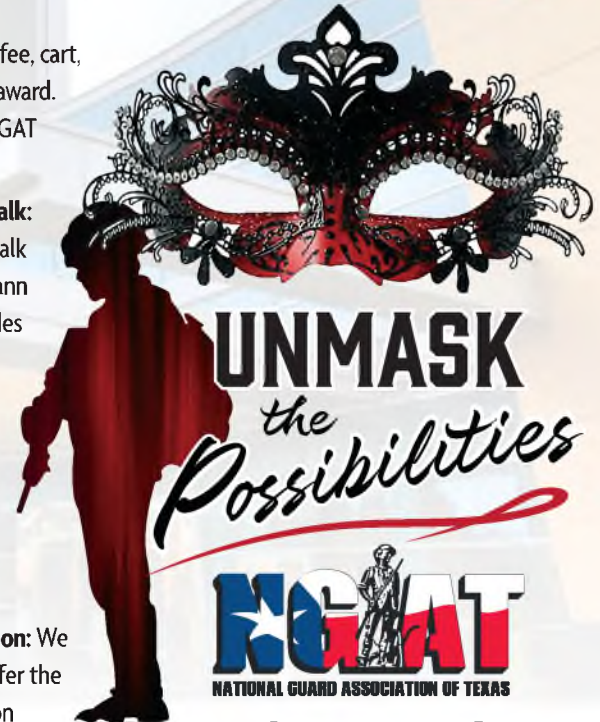
**Welcome Party:** Come in your casual attire and participate in some "Minute to Win It" games for prizes or play Corn Hole, Giant Jenga, Giant Connect Four, and table games while enjoying some DJ music, great food, and networking with friends.

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

**Saturday Awards Banquet:** You are cordially invited to a night of enchantment and mystery at our NGAT Awards Banquet & Masquerade Ball where we will recognize our award winners and present the NGAT Minuteman Award. Join us in your finest mask and attire as we celebrate the magic that lies within us all.

**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](http://www.ngat.org/ngat-conference). ★



**66th Annual NGAT Conference**

March 27-30, 2025 ★ Houston, Texas



# UNMASK THE POSSIBILITIES

## by attending the 66TH ANNUAL NGAT CONFERENCE



Time is running out to make plans to attend the 66th Annual NGAT Conference from March 27-30, 2025, at the Royal Sonesta Houston Galleria in Houston, Texas. This is a great opportunity to learn, connect with old friends and make some new ones and enjoy the event.



We are honored to announce that **Maj Gen (Ret) Ondra L. Berry**, the 30th Adjutant General of the Nevada National Guard, will serve as the keynote speaker for the NGAT General Session.

Throughout his distinguished military career, General Berry held key roles within the **U.S. Department of the Air Force**, the **National Guard Bureau**, and the **National Guard Association of the**

**United States**, where he still serves as Vice Chair – Air on the Board of Directors.

In addition to his military achievements, General Berry is a nationally recognized public speaker and author with a passion for **leadership development, organizational transformation, and enhancing results through employee engagement**. Known for his dynamic speaking style and forward-thinking approach, General Berry has inspired countless individuals to unlock their full potential.

Guided by his core belief that **“Every human being is under construction and has unlimited potential,”** General Berry has committed his life to inspire those within his sphere of influence to realize and actualize their hidden potential. We are thrilled to welcome such an influential and visionary leader to our session.

### WHAT TO EXPECT

**Exciting Theme:** This year’s theme, “Unmask the Possibilities,” promises a exciting masquerade experience with surprises unveiled throughout the event.

**Company Grade & Junior Enlisted Mixer:** Mingle with your peers, chat with Texas National Guard leadership and network with other NGAT members.

**Welcome Party:** It’s a casual affair giving you the chance to have some fun, eat some great food and mingle and network with friends. We will have plenty of games and some special “Minute to Win it” games for prizes. Relax to some music and be entertained by some sing-a-longs to close out the evening.

**Hospitality Rooms:** UNIT HOSPITALITY ROOMS ARE BACK! Close out Friday night with the return of our popular hospitality rooms. That’s right our

Hospitality Rooms are back but only for Friday night. Units will compete for the best room, making it a night to remember!

**Awards Banquet & Masquerade Party:** Join us on Saturday, March 29, for our annual awards banquet, followed by a lively Masquerade Party with dancing. It’s the perfect opportunity to celebrate achievements and enjoy a night of elegance and entertainment.

### UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL: SPEED MENTORING AT THE NGAT CONFERENCE

#### ATTENTION JUNIOR ENLISTED AND COMPANY GRADE OFFICERS!

**Are you ready to take your military career to the next level?** Join us at the **NGAT Conference Speed Mentoring Event**—an exclusive opportunity to connect with Texas Military Department senior leaders, experienced retirees, and influential corporate partners.

**When:** March 29, 2025 / 2:00-4:00pm

**Where:** The Royal Sonesta Houston Galleria, 2222 W Loop S, Houston, TX 77027

**Cost:** Absolutely FREE for Junior Enlisted and Company Grade Officers! This dynamic event is designed to provide you with valuable career insights, networking opportunities, and practical advice in a fast-paced, one-on-one setting. You’ll walk away inspired, informed, and empowered to excel in your professional journey.

**Don’t miss this chance to build relationships that can shape your future! Spots are limited, so secure yours today!**

**To register, visit the NGAT website at [www.ngat.org/ngat-conference](http://www.ngat.org/ngat-conference). For more information, contact NGAT Executive Director Marvin Harris at 512-454-7300 or [mharris@ngat.org](mailto:mharris@ngat.org). ★**



## Conference Registration Form

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

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

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

	Choose Your Meal Package - Meal Packages include Registration Fee			
Conference Registration	<b>LUNCH: LE = Lunch with Exhibitors, SL = Spouses Lunch, RL= Retiree Lunch, DINNER: CK = Chicken, PK = Pork, SM = Salmon, VG = Vegetarian</b>			
	<b>NGAT Member/Guest Full Meal Package</b> <i>(Includes Registration Fee, General Sessions, Exhibits, Breakouts, Welcome Party, Sat Lunch, Sat Banquet and Sun Prayer Breakfast)</i>			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Attendee <b>Lunch:</b> LE SL RL <b>Dinner:</b> CK PK SM VG <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest <b>Lunch:</b> LE SL RL <b>Dinner:</b> CK PK SM VG <input type="checkbox"/> Will you attend the <b>NGAT Prayer Breakfast</b> YES or NO (Select one)		\$175 ea x _____	\$ _____
	<b>Non-NGAT Member/Guest Full Meal Package</b> <i>(Includes Registration Fee, General Sessions, Exhibits, Breakouts, Welcome Party, Sat Lunch and Sat Banquet)</i>			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Attendee <b>Lunch:</b> LE SL RL <b>Dinner:</b> CK PK SM VG <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest <b>Lunch:</b> LE SL RL <b>Dinner:</b> CK PK SM VG		\$200 ea x _____	\$ _____
	<b>Friday Welcome Party</b> <i>(Includes Registration Fee, General Sessions, Exhibits, Breakouts, Welcome Party)</i>			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Attendee <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest		\$65 ea x _____	\$ _____
	<b>Friday Welcome Party &amp; Sat Banquet</b> <i>(Includes Registration Fee, General Sessions, Exhibits, Breakouts, Welcome Party and Sat Banquet)</i>			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Attendee <b>Dinner:</b> CK PK SM VG <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest <b>Dinner:</b> CK PK SM VG		\$150 ea x _____	\$ _____
	<b>Saturday Lunch Only Package</b> <i>(Includes Registration Fee, General Sessions, Exhibits, Breakouts, Saturday Lunch)</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Attendee <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest		\$45 ea x _____	\$ _____	
<b>Saturday Banquet Only Package</b> <i>(Includes Registration Fee, General Sessions, Exhibits, Breakouts, Saturday Banquet)</i>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Attendee <b>Dinner:</b> CK PK SM VG <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest <b>Dinner:</b> CK PK SM VG		\$95 ea x _____	\$ _____	
<b>Jr Enlisted Package (E1-E6 only)</b> <i>(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 Royal Sonesta)</i>				
<b>Hotel Room</b> <input type="checkbox"/> King <input type="checkbox"/> Double (NGAT will book the hotel room) <b>Dinner:</b> CK PK SM VG		\$500 ea	\$ _____	
<b>Add a Guest to your Jr Enlisted Package</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest <b>Dinner:</b> CK PK SM VG		\$150 ea	\$ _____	
<b>You must pay basic registration to attend the Conference or Optional Events</b>				
<i>(Basic Registrations includes: Registration Fee, General Sessions, Exhibits and Breakouts)</i>			x _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Basic NGAT Member/Guest Registration Fee</b>		\$15 ea	\$ _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Basic NGAT Non-Member/Guest Registration Fee</b>		\$30 ea	\$ _____	

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

I would like to donate to: (Circle One)

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

Charge my:  MasterCard  Visa Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

CC Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_ CC Billing Address Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

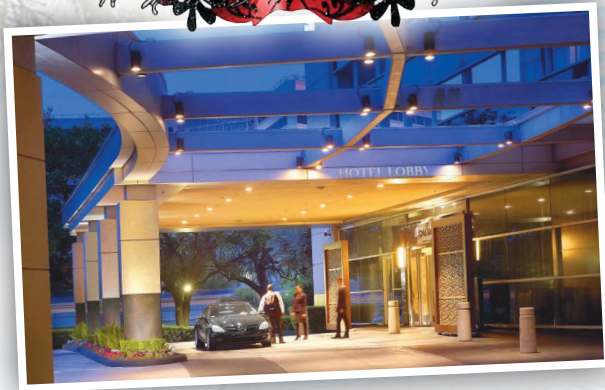
<b>SubTotal:</b>	\$ _____
<b>Add \$20.00 late fee after Mar 13</b>	\$ _____
<b>Total (Check):</b>	\$ _____
<b>Credit Card Handling Fee (Add 5%):</b>	\$ _____
<b>Total (Credit Card):</b>	\$ _____

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

**ONSITE REGISTRATIONS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED AFTER MARCH 15, 2025 [www.ngat.org/ngat-conference/](http://www.ngat.org/ngat-conference/)**

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





## MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS NOW!

If you plan to attend the NGAT Conference, we encourage you to book your hotel room before we are sold out. The host hotel will be the Royal Sonesta Galleria in Houston, Texas. It is full of casual sophistication with a modern appeal and is one of the few AAA Four Diamond rated hotels in Houston. From a laid-back atmosphere, ample amenities and fine dining to a location within walking distance to the Houston Galleria mall and uptown neighborhood, the Royal Sonesta is going to be a great place to do some work and also relax.

Visit the NGAT website [www.ngat.org/ngat-conference](http://www.ngat.org/ngat-conference) to make your reservations online. The room rate is \$149 per night. NGAT cannot guarantee this room rate for reservation made after March 3, 2025. ★



## PART-TIME BENEFITS SPECIALISTS WANTED



The National Guard Association of Texas (NGAT) is looking to hire a Benefits Specialist to assist the Association with SRPs for the Texas National Guard units. The Benefits Specialist would help promote the NGAT State Sponsored Life Insurance (SSLI) Program. This is a perfect job for a military retiree wanting to stay active and connected to Guard units and members. Benefits Specialists must be a member of NGAT and have a Texas General Lines Insurance License or be able to obtain one. The job would require you to travel to locations in Texas and work periodically throughout the year to include weekends. Please contact CW4 (Ret) Terri Marshall at 512-454-7300 for further details or email your resume to [insurance@ngat.org](mailto:insurance@ngat.org). ★

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Register to play at: [www.ngat.org/golf-tournament](http://www.ngat.org/golf-tournament)

## UNIT HOSPITALITY ROOMS ARE BACK!

Units wishing to host a hospitality room at the NGAT Conference should contact the NGAT office as soon as possible to reserve a room. DO NOT CONTACT THE HOTEL. Hospitality rates are the same as the regular room rate (\$149) per night. It's been several years since we have had hospitality rooms which sport a theme chosen by the unit. This year we will only have hospitality rooms on Friday due to the masquerade ball on Saturday following the Awards Banquet. Hospitality room reservation forms are on the NGAT Conference web page. Rooms are limited so don't wait to sign up. ★



**NGAT WAS HONORED TO HAVE THREE NGAT PAST PRESIDENTS** visit us at our Annual Holiday Open House. Pictured L-R: **COL (Ret) Garry Patterson** (88-89), **MSG (Ret) Theresa Billeck-Zuniga** (06-07), and **LTC (Ret) Kenn White** (16-19).

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# KEY LEADERSHIP Update



**MG Matthew Barker**  
Mobilization Assistant to the Deputy Commander  
U.S. Strategic Command  
Offutt AFB, NE



**COL Gene M. Cummins**  
Deputy Commander  
71st Troop Command



**COL Laura Cross**  
Commander  
71st Expeditionary Military  
Intelligence Brigade



**COL Jeri A. Gates**  
Commander  
Texas Medical Command



**Col G. Heath Allen**  
Commander  
147th Mission Support Group



**COL Jeremy V. Magruder**  
Commander  
136th Regiment Regional Training Institute



**LTC Robert A. Cederstrom**  
Deputy USPFO



**LTC Samantha Lewis**  
Commander  
TXARNG Recruiting & Retention Command



**LTC Matthew Fronek**  
Commander  
536th Brigade Support Battalion



**CSM Carlos Diaz**  
Command Sergeant Major  
36th Infantry Division



**CSM Joshua Ray**  
Command Sergeant Major  
TXARNG Recruiting & Retention Command



**CMSgt Ricky Ramsey**  
Command Chief Master Sergeant  
136th Airlift Wing



**CSM Jeremy L. Scribner**  
Command Sergeant Major  
71st Expeditionary Military  
Intelligence Brigade

# DUTY ★ HONOR ★ TEXAS

## ANGLETON



**GUARDSMEN FROM ALPHA COMPANY**, 4th Battalion, 2nd Brigade, Texas State Guard, practice providing aeromedical evacuation support with the assistance of National United States Armed Forces Museum personnel and their CH-46 helicopters in Angleton, Texas, Nov. 16, 2024. (Photo by CW2 Willie Grimes)

## AUSTIN



**SFC DANIEL FREEMAN (RIGHT) AND SSG DIANA CEVALLOS** (left) members of the 149th Financial Management Support Unit try out the photo booth during a Holiday Dining Out.

## GRAND PRAIRIE



**SFC CHRISTOPHER PERSILVER**, 2-149th GSAB, proposed to Kristen Campbell during the units Christmas party in Grand Prairie on the pretense that she would be reading an award that the unit was going to present to him. She said YES! Congratulations!

## FORT WORTH



**LT COL CAMILLE LADREW**, 136th Airlift Wing executive officer, stands ahead of recruits swearing into the U.S. Air Force at the 2024 Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl in Fort Worth, Texas, December 27, 2024. During the game, each branch of the Armed Services were represented as recruits swore into their respective branches. (Photo courtesy of the 138th Airlift Wing)

## SAN MARCOS

**WELCOME HOME TO THE 149TH FINANCE COMPANY!** After months of dedicated service across CENTCOM, the Soldiers of the 49th Finance Battalion, located in San Marcos, returned in mid-November. Their mission was to provide crucial finance operations to ensure that troops on the ground remained supported and mission-ready. (Photo courtesy of the 36th Infantry Division)





AUSTIN

**THE LONE STAR CHAPTER OF THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION** hosted its annual MICA Ball on November 2, 2024. This special event brought together military intelligence Soldiers, associates, and retirees from across Texas for an evening of networking, camaraderie, and recognition of excellence within the MI Corps. (Photo by ILT Zalkari Thornton)



ABILENE

**THE 111TH ENGINEER BATTALION** recently conducted a Change of Responsibility Ceremony, a symbol of a transfer of responsibility is also an acknowledgement, that for an organization, they must concede and understand that change is an opportunity to expand their possibilities for growth. Attending the ceremony L-R: Former 111th Engr Bn Commanders, **LTC (Ret) Richard Stradinger**; **BG (Ret) Charles Schoening**; **COL Matthew Calton**, Commander 176th Engineer Brigade; **CSM Corey Chester**, outgoing Command Sergeant Major; **CSM (Ret) Jimmy Leonard**, former 111th Engr Bn CSM; **COL (Ret) Steve Solka**, former 111th Engr Bn Commander; and **CSM Keli J. Pressley**, incoming Command Sergeant Major. (Photo courtesy of the 111th Engineer Battalion)



AUSTIN

**IN LATE OCTOBER, MG BRAD BOWLIN**, 36th Infantry Division Commanding General, addressed brigade commanders and command sergeants major outside the Texas Military Forces Museum during the 36th Infantry Division Commander's Dialogue Event. The conference focused on the "Division in the Dirt," discussing the importance of getting Soldiers back in the field, enhancing lethality, and emphasizing platoon-level operations. (Photo courtesy of the 36th Infantry Division)



FORT HOOD

**IN MID-NOVEMBER, MEMBERS OF THE 4TH BATTALION, 133RD FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT**, returned home after a successful deployment, greeted with pride by the 36th Infantry Division Commanding General **MG Brad Bowlin**, **CSM Carlos Diaz**, **COL Joshua Pritchett**, and **CSM Dale Williams**. Welcome home to all the troops!



AUSTIN

**THE GOVERNORS TWENTY** is a marksmanship competition that recognizes the top shooters within the Texas Military Department, comprised of Texas Army, Air, and State Guard Personnel. Only the most distinguished and accomplished shooters, from the pistol, rifle, machine gun, and sniper disciplines, will obtain the district honor to be tabbed. Pictured are 2 of the 8 individuals who secured the tab out of 141 competitors. Pictured L-R: **ISG Mark D. Montoya Sr.**, a member of the 822nd Engineer Company; and **CPT Brian Roach**, a member of HHC 111th Engineer Battalion.



## LEGAL UPDATE with Lt Col (Ret) Trinh Warner **MILITARY DIVORCE & SGLI**



**Divorce proceedings are often complex**, with significant financial and emotional consequences for all parties involved. One particular cautionary tale underscores the importance of explicitly addressing beneficiary designations in divorce settlements, especially regarding significant assets like life insurance policies.

In this case, a divorcing couple reached a settlement where the husband (H) was awarded ownership of his Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) policy. However, while the divorce decree specified that H would retain the SGLI, it did not explicitly direct him to update or change the designated beneficiary from his ex-wife to someone else. Perhaps due to oversight, misunderstanding, or lack of legal guidance, H failed to revise the beneficiary designation after the divorce.

Years later, H remarried and started a new family, which included young children. Tragically, H passed away, leaving his current wife and children in a financially vulnerable position. As the SGLI policy had not been updated, the funds were paid in full to his ex-wife, the beneficiary on file at the time of his death. The ex-wife, now legally entitled to the proceeds, refused to share the funds, leaving H's surviving spouse and children without the financial support the policy was likely intended to provide.

This heartbreaking outcome highlights the critical importance of updating beneficiary designations promptly after major life changes, such as a divorce or remarriage. Under federal law, the proceeds

of SGLI policies are distributed strictly according to the beneficiary listed in the policy at the time of the servicemember's death. Unlike some state laws that might recognize a new spouse's claim in similar situations, federal law preempts state statutes in the case of SGLI, leaving no room for exceptions based on intent or equity.

This case serves as a cautionary tale for both individuals and legal professionals handling divorce cases. Divorce decrees should include clear instructions for updating life insurance beneficiaries, retirement accounts, and other critical financial instruments. For the policyholder, it is essential to act swiftly to update beneficiary designations in accordance with their current wishes. Failing to take these steps can lead to devastating financial consequences for surviving loved ones. While courts may enforce the terms of a divorce decree, they cannot override federal law governing SGLI beneficiary designations. Therefore, personal responsibility in ensuring these updates is paramount to avoid unintended outcomes that could jeopardize the financial future of one's family. ★

*Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Trinh Warner is a retired Air Force JAG and an attorney in the San Antonio office of O'Connell West, PLLC. In addition to Family Law, DC-West practices Criminal Law, Military Law and Personal Injury. If you need a free consultation regarding a legal issue, call 512-547-7265. O'Connell West, PLLC stands ready to help. Call us!*

## **CAMP MABRY UNVEILS 3D-PRINTED TRAINING AND INNOVATION CENTER**

**THE FIRST 3D-PRINTED STRUCTURE** to receive approval from a Historical Commission recently opened its doors at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas. The Texas Military Department Training and Innovation Center is a 2,600+ sq. ft. building 3D printed by ICON and is part of TMD's Joint Force Headquarters. Located in the Camp Mabry Historic District, the Innovation Center replaces temporary buildings that have far exceeded their 10-year lifespan, significantly increased the energy efficiency of the space while providing a more modern and useful facility. The training and innovation center at Camp Mabry in West Austin will primarily be a classroom and training space, as well as used for conferences and celebrations. Notably, this building is the first 3D-printed structure to receive approval from a historical commission, a testament to its unique integration of cutting-edge technology. ★

(Photo courtesy of the Texas Military Department)



**CUTTING THE RIBBON ON CAMP MABRY'S FIRST 3D-PRINTED STRUCTURE** is a member of ICON, **LTC (Ret) Brian Stevens**; **BG Monie R. Ullis**, Deputy Adjutant General – Army (center); **COL Zebadiah Miller**, Texas Military Department Director of Facilities (CFMO) (center right); and **MG Brad Bowlin**, Commander, 36th Infantry Division (far right).



by Eric Knustrom  
Principal, Texas Star Alliance

# Ask the Lobbyist, Vol 1, Issue 2

FOR OUR SECOND INSTALLMENT OF “ASK THE LOBBYIST,” WE ARE ANSWERING ONE QUESTION ABOUT PROCEDURE AND ONE THAT IS MORE SUBSTANTIVE. THE PROCEDURAL QUESTION HAS PROBABLY BEEN ASKED BY EVERY SINGLE TEXAN WHO HEARD ON THE NEWS ABOUT THE “FIRST DAY OF THE 89TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE.” AND IT IS...

## “And? What happens next?”

The simple answer is that Texas elected officials, employees of state agencies, and everyone with a stake in the policies of the State of Texas will engage in the deliberative process that is our democracy. And while much has been discussed, some is expected, and still more is subject for speculation, all that is certain is that for 140 days the Legislature will be in Regular Session. The Texas Constitution requires that a budget be passed and signed into law, or the Legislature will be required to return for 30 day long special sessions until a budget is approved. Other than that, everything is “in play.”

**The second question, is “What has happened so far? And what we as NGAT members do in the coming weeks to advance the goals of the Association?”**

### THE KNOWN STATISTICS AT THIS POINT IN THE PROCESS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- As of January 17, 2025, a total of 2,793 bills have been filed in the 89th Texas Legislature: 1,949 in the House and 844 in the Senate
- A record 1,511 bills were filed on Nov. 12, 2024, which was the first day of pre-filing for the 89th Legislative Session.

The first and only major action of the 89th Legislature Session has been the election of the Speaker of the House. On January 14, 2025, opening day of the 89th Legislature, the Texas House of Representatives elected Republican Dustin Burrows of Lubbock as the new Speaker, succeeding Dade Phelan, who stepped down amid pressure from the party's hard-right faction.<sup>1</sup> Burrows secured the position with support from Democrats, defeating state Rep. David Cook, the preferred candidate of the GOP's hard right wing.<sup>2</sup> This outcome signifies a victory for the

Republican establishment and highlights ongoing divisions within the party.<sup>3</sup>

### THE NEXT KEY MILESTONES TO WATCH DURING THE 89TH ARE:

- **State of the State Address by Gov. Greg Abbott; February 2, 2025**
  - Governor Abbott will announce his “priority” items, which under the Texas Constitution are the only policy areas that may be taken up prior to the Legislature passing the General Appropriations Act (budget).
- **Standing Committee Assignments**
  - The House and Senate will likely announce standing committee assignments and the corresponding chairmen in the last days of January, at the earliest, or more likely somewhere in the first two weeks of February.
- **Legislative Hearings**
  - Until the budget is passed, SB 1, the Legislature can only hold hearings on the budget and priority issues. That means until sometime in mid-March,

During this “lull” in the action, NGAT's Board and Legislative team will be reviewing all relevant bills that have been filed, working to advance our legislative agenda, and working on relationships with legislators, old and new, as well as state officials and all other stakeholders. As part of this process, you can contribute by volunteering to reach out to your Senator and State Representative. If you are interested in learning more about opportunities to contribute, reach out to NGAT Executive Director Marvin Harris or the legislative committee chairs.

Our next installment will coincide with many of the key dates discussed above, so stay tuned for important

updates. Until then, sit back and enjoy the show. ★

<sup>1</sup>AP News <https://onlylinks.cc/tr1B>

<sup>2</sup>AP News <https://onlylinks.cc/Xtvh>

<sup>3</sup>Reform Austin <https://onlylinks.cc/GELR>



**THE 147TH ATTACK WING** would like to thanks Rob Lowe, FAA Regional Administrator, Jim Szczesniak, HAS Director of Aviation, and Tim Joniec, HAS Director of Government and Stakeholder Relations, for hosting the Houston Congressional Delegates at Ellington Field on November 21, 2024. The event provided a great opportunity for the 147th Attack Wing to showcase their Airmen and the great missions they accomplish for the Great State of Texas and our nation!  
*(Photo courtesy of the 147th Attack Wing)*



# APPLY FOR EANGUS SCHOLARSHIPS

Apply to win a college scholarships offered by the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) and their many supporting organizations and partners. Scholarships are a great type of financial aid because they do not have to be repaid. Receiving scholarships can help cover the remaining bill and indirect costs, while also minimizing the amount you need to borrow in loans while in college. Enlisted personnel that are members of EANGUS are eligible to apply along with their spouses and sons and daughters. Visit this site for a full list of available scholarships that will open for applications very soon: <https://tinyurl.com/m8dnmd43>. ★



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 Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States

 [youtube.com/@EANGUSNationalOffice](https://youtube.com/@EANGUSNationalOffice)



**EANGUS 2025 CONFERENCE**  
H O M E M E A N S N E V A D A  
AUGUST 11 -14, 2025

## JOIN US IN RENO FOR THE 54th EANGUS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**Make plans to join us in Reno, Nevada for the 54th Annual Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) Conference.**

One of the biggest changes this year are the days of the Conference. In years past Saturday was the travel day to the Annual Conference. This year the conference will be held August 11-14, 2025, and travel days will be Sunday, August 10 and Friday August 15. Please keep that in mind when making your flight and hotel reservations.

There is a lot planned for the conference that includes lot of great speakers, a trade show, professional development and most important the committee meeting where the membership develops the organizations plans for the coming year. **Watch the NGAT website for more information:** <https://ngat.org/eangus-conference/>. ★



# NGAUS CONFERENCE HEADED TO MILWAUKEE

**The 147th General Conference & Exhibition is scheduled for Aug. 22-25, 2025.**



The NGAUS conference will return to the Great Lakes region. The association's annual gathering is headed to Milwaukee, a destination Vogue magazine calls "the Midwest's coolest and most underrated city." Located on the shores of Lake Michigan just 90 miles north of Chicago, "Milwaukee," Vogue said, "is a Midwestern city that feels like a coastal one, where sailboards bob in the harbor and golden beaches stretch along a shockingly blue shore."

It's also a city with great architecture, a thriving arts scene and a vibrant nightlife that includes 150 restaurants downtown plus pubs, bars and, of course, beer gardens. After all, the city is one of the beer capitals of the world. Most conference meetings and the industry exhibition will be in the recently refurbished Baird Center. The facility was also the hub when Milwaukee hosted the event in 1998 and 2011.

But the Wisconsin National Guard Association is planning several events beyond the Baird Center. On Friday, Aug. 22, attendees will be able to choose among golf, a Harley Davidson motorcycle ride or sport fishing from a charter boat on Lake Michigan.

The always popular mixers are set for that evening at the Deer District, a downtown indoor-outdoor sports, retail and entertainment destination. The all-attendee Governor's Reception is scheduled for Discovery World, a large interactive science and technology museum.

Most attendees will reach the city via Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport, which is eight miles from downtown. The city is also just a six-hour drive from eight states.

**Watch the NGAT website for update at [www.ngat.org/ngaus-conference](http://www.ngat.org/ngaus-conference). ★**

## A Living Tribute to All the Men and Women of America's National Guard

The Guard Muster is the permanent register of Guardsmen, past and present, who have enrolled in the Muster by themselves or by those who wish to honor them. Each entry may include an individual's name, rank, state, unit and birthplace, as well as years of service and a biography listing duties performed in the Guard.



A donation of only \$25 is requested for each Muster enrollment, with an additional \$15 to include a high-resolution photograph. The photograph can be added to the Muster at any time. To join or view the Guard Muster roster go to [www.ngef.org/guard-muster](http://www.ngef.org/guard-muster). Please email your biography and/or photograph to [ngef@ngaus.org](mailto:ngef@ngaus.org).

The program is managed by the National Guard Educational Foundation. ★



## NGAUS Seminar Provides Retiree Info

NGAUS conducted its first-ever virtual seminar for retired members on December 4, offering attendees information on health care and other benefits their service has earned them. The seminar focused on TRICARE, the U.S. military's health care provider, and the PACT Act, the 2022 law that expanded the Department of Veterans Affairs health care and other benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits and toxic substances.

**BG (Ret) Maureen Weigl**, Pennsylvania's deputy adjutant general-veterans affairs, was the featured speaker. **BG (Ret) Mike Oster**, the NGAUS retired/separated-Army representative on the association board, and **Brig Gen (Ret) Bobbi Doorenbos** of Arkansas, the board secretary, moderated the discussion. Doorenbos previously served as the NGAUS retired/separated-Air representative. The presentation is the first of a planned series of virtual events for the association's more than 13,000 retired members, Oster and Doorenbos said.

NGAUS plans to conduct two virtual seminars for retired association members annually, Oster said, with the next one in April or May and another in December. Watch the NGAUS website for more information. A recording of the last seminar is available at [www.youtube.com/user/NGAUS1878](http://www.youtube.com/user/NGAUS1878). ★

# NGAT MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

October 1, 2024 thru  
February 28, 2025



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## Here are the Details

**Enlisted:** Service members who have never been an NGAT/EANGUS member get a free membership. All others E1-E6 \$15, E7-E9 \$20. One fee for two great memberships.

**Officers:** Service members O1-O2/WO1-CW2 who have never been an NGAT/NGAUS member get a free membership. All others O1-O3/WO1-CW3 NGAT \$20/NGAUS \$40, O4-O5/CW4-CW5 NGAT \$25/NGAUS \$80, O6 NGAT \$30/NGAUS \$80.

Prizes to be awarded at the  
66th Annual NGAT Conference

**The Professional Association of the  
Texas National Guard**

# NGAT MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

**MEMBERSHIP IN NGAT OVERALL HAS CONTINUED TO INCREASE OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS.** We attribute this to a Statewide Membership Drive that is still going on. This membership drive includes a free dual membership with NGAT/EANGUS or NGAT/NGAUS for one year for any Airman or Soldier who has never previously joined the organization.

We also initiated two Membership Competitions that started in October. The first being the Red River Rivalry Competition with Oklahoma that ended December 31, 2024. This was presented by our NGAT President as a fun competition with another state to increase membership numbers at the national level over a 3-month period. Sadly, Texas did fall short on our membership and Oklahoma took home the win.

We also have a Statewide Unit Competition that is running until Feb 28, 2025. The chart shows you the current membership numbers by major command. NGAT will award cash prizes to the top three commands who increase their NGAT membership the most. Winners will be announced at the NGAT Conference Awards Banquet.

All efforts related to membership present an opportunity for airman, soldiers, and retirees alike to experience the benefits of what the organization has to offer at the state and national levels.

Since you are reading this magazine chances are you are already a NGAT member. We need your help! Tell a friend about NGAT and ask them to join today and help us increase our membership and our voice here in Texas and on capitol hill. All efforts related to membership present an opportunity for Airman, Soldiers, and retirees alike to experience the benefits of what the organization has to offer at the state and national levels. Ask someone to join today by going to [www.ngat.org](http://www.ngat.org) ★



**MSgt Angela Matthews**  
Membership Committee Chair

	1-Oct-24			15-Jan-25			
	NGAT	EANGUS	NGAUS	NGAT	EANGUS	NGAUS	
HQ, Joint Forces	237	34	53	245	13	50	8
Rec & Ret Cmd	34	22	5	42	9	1	8
HQ, TXARNG	29	5	7	36	3	13	7
71st Troop Cmd	270	57	7	342	21	69	72
176th Engr Bde	180	56	22	177	23	31	-3
71st EMIB	55	18	26	61	7	20	6
HQ, 36th ID	133	22	18	138	10	29	5
56th IBCT	427	107	125	457	34	143	30
72nd IBCT	342	58	107	369	23	117	27
36th Sustain Bde	102	39	56	101	12	24	-1
36th CAB	214	40	72	177	14	54	-37
136th MEB	214	81	45	242	53	59	28
<b>Total Army</b>	<b>2237</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>2387</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>150</b>
HQ, TXANG	30	4	4	28	4	4	-2
136th AW	164	83	8	154	29	7	-10
147th ATKW	257	106	8	262	66	8	5
149th FW	292	102	9	302	63	11	10
<b>Total Air</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>30</b>	
<b>Overall Grand Total</b>	<b>33086</b>	<b>1618</b>	<b>1103</b>	<b>33190</b>	<b>1081</b>	<b>1270</b>	
				104	-537	167	

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**CYALUME TECHNOLOGIES**

# Christmas IN THE GUARD



Soldier enjoy a visit from MG John Bowlin, Commander, 36th Infantry Division during the Holidays.



Members of the 272nd Engineering and Installation Squadron celebrate the Christmas holiday during drill in Houston, Texas.



Members and family members of HHC 449th Aviation Battalion in San Antonio visits with Santa during their Christmas drill. *(Photo courtesy of Texas State Family Programs)*



The Texas Adjutant General hosted his Annual Holiday party at Camp Mabry which included a 5K fun run, a competitive BBQ Competition and a Christmas tree decorating contest.



# 2024-25 NGAT CORPORATE Partners

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**CW5 (Ret) Dewaine C. Braeutigan**, Life Member #664, Austin

**SSG (Ret) Leslie W. Brock**, Life Member #32850, Philadelphia, PA

**SSG (Ret) Bobby Cathey**, Life Member #6029, Hamilton

**LTC Lawrence J. Chiappino**, Life Member #3110, Meadowlakes

**CW4 (Ret) J B Cooper**, Life Member #2256, Gatesville

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**CW4 (Ret) Joseph R. Crawford**, Life Member #4026, Austin

**Mr. Agustin De La Rosa Jr.**, Life Member #15567, Groves

**SMSgt Brandon E. Denning**, Life Member #5745, La Vernia

**SGT Marian Kaye Durbin-Tinney**, Life Member #6912, Tucson, AZ

**CW5 (Ret) David R. Hathaway**, Life Member #33584, New Braunfels

**\*SGT Arturo Hinojosa**, Troop B 124th Cav, Sherman

**Mr. Douglas Kleypas**, Life Member #3593, Cameron

**\*\* SPC Colton T. Garsee**, HHC 1-143rd INF, Round Rock

**2LT David R. Gillispie**, Life Member #4378, Amarillo

**BG (Ret) Hugh J. Hall**, Life Member #3683, Gatesville, Former Assistant Division Commander for the 49th Armored Division and former TXARNG Mobilization and Equipment Training Site (MATES) Superintendent.

**SGT (Ret) Reagan Hammett**, Life Member #810, Round Rock

**LTC (Ret) Richard Hutchison**, Dripping Springs

**David J. Lemley**, Marshfield, WI

**CMSgt (Ret) Ronald E. Mauk**, Life Member #100, Montgomery

**MSG (Ret) Samuel G. McPherson, Jr.**, Life Member #3226, Llano

**SPC (Ret) William Mosley**, Graham

**SFC (Ret) Gene "Chawa" Payne**, Life Member #13467, Round Rock

**SPC (Ret) Robert Parker**, Life Member #7224, Terrell

**\* SPC Adrian Salinas**, Co D 3-141 Inf, Edinburg

**CW2 (Ret) F B Smith**, Life Member #4870, Gatesville

**SGT Kenneth "Dwight" Tippie**, Life Member #9095, Millsap

**CW4 (Ret) Joseph H. Waller**, Life Member #1115, Mansfield

**MSgt (Ret) John Waschka**, Colleyville

**\*\* PFC Hunter D. Williams**, RSP Region 1 Recruiting & Retention, Sherman

**MSG (Ret) Lawrence W. Workman**, Life Member #7638, Boerne

*\* 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](mailto:NGATNEWS@NGAT.ORG).



# 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.

Contact Terri Marshall for more info at [tmarshall@ngat.org](mailto:tmarshall@ngat.org) or at 512-454-7300.



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

**PERIODICAL**

[ngat.org](http://ngat.org)

## MARCH 1-2



## OVER THERE: 1918

**SHOWTIMES**  
 1 p.m. each day  
 Rain or Shine

**FREE ADMISSION  
 FREE PARKING**

**CAMP MABRY**  
 Enter via 35th Street  
 (half a mile west of MoPac)  
 Photo ID required

World War I Battle Reenactment  
 Replica WWI tank moving and firing  
 See original World War I artillery,  
 equipment, uniforms and weapons

Commemorating the role of the  
 36th Infantry Division in WWI



**Texas  
 Military Forces  
 MUSEUM**

[www.texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org](http://www.texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org)





# NGAT PLANNING CALENDAR

(As of January 31, 2025)

## 2025

- |       |     |   |
|-------|-----|---|
| 10-13 | Feb | NGAUS Legislative Workshop, Washington, D.C.                                |
| 14-16 | Feb | EANGUS Area IV Mid-Winter Meeting, New Orleans, LA                          |
| 17    | Feb | President's Day (NGAT Office Closed)  |
| 24-26 | Feb | EANGUS Legislative Workshop, Washington, D.C.                               |
| 1-2   | Mar | Over There: 1918 Battle Reenactment, Camp Mabry, Austin, TX                 |
| 2-3   | Mar | NGAT Board of Directors Meeting, Austin, TX                                 |
| 27    | Mar | NGAT Board of Directors Meeting, Royal Sonesta, Houston, TX                 |
| 27    | Mar | Corporate Partners Reception, Royal Sonesta, Houston, TX                    |
| 28-30 | Mar | 66th Annual NGAT Conference, Royal Sonesta, Houston, TX                     |
| 28    | Mar | Company Grade & Junior Enlisted Mix & Mingle,<br>Royal Sonesta, Houston, TX |
| 31    | Mar | NGAT Conference Recovery (NGAT Office Closed)                               |
| 18    | Apr | Good Friday (NGAT Holiday Observed)   |
| 27-28 | Apr | NGAT Board of Directors Meeting, Camp Mabry, Austin, TX                     |
| 23-26 | May | Memorial Day (NGAT Office Closed)   |
| 14    | Jun | U.S. Army Birthday/Flag Day   |
| 19    | Jun | Juneteenth (NGAT Office Closed)   |
| 3-4   | Jul | Independence Day (NGAT Office Closed)                                       |
| 17-18 | Aug | NGAT Board of Directors Meeting, Camp Mabry, Austin, TX                     |
| 11-14 | Aug | EANGUS Annual Conference, Reno, NV  |
| 22-25 | Aug | NGAUS Annual Conference, Milwaukee, WI                                      |

**THE COLOR  
 GUARD FOR  
 2ND BRIGADE,  
 TEXAS STATE  
 GUARD**, marches  
 in the City of  
 Houston Veterans  
 Day Parade,  
 "Houston Salutes  
 American Heroes",  
 in downtown  
 Houston,  
 November 11,  
 2024. (Photo by CPT  
 Matthew Bramanti)

