

## NGAT WINS NGEDA COMMUNICATION AWARD



67<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NGAT CONFERENCE  
MARCH 26-29, 2026



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Built in America, the UH-72 Lakota Provides **Unmatched Versatility** and **Safety** in Support of **Homeland Defense** and **Border Patrol Missions**.  
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Photos courtesy Master Sgt. Michael Leslie

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## ON THE COVER

NGAT receives the NGEDA Communications Award at their Annual Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. L-R: **SFC Mireya Cruz**, NGAT Government Affairs Chair and EANGUS Vice President; **MSGt Angela Matthews**, NGAT President-Elect; **Raquel Fuentes**, Vice President of Marketing and Communications, AFBA; **LTC (Ret) Marvin Harris**, NGAT Executive Director; and **Cindy Ramirez**, Owner of R&R Promotions, Inc. (Photo courtesy of NGEDA)

Follow us on  



## FROM THE PRESIDENT



### A BELATED HAPPY NEW YEAR! MAY 2026 BE PEACEFUL — FILLED WITH BLESSINGS FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES!

I would like to first express congratulations to **Maj Gen Thomas Suelzer, The Adjutant General of Texas**, for his nomination as the **Director of the Air National Guard**. This is another example of Texas Guard excellence and presence in our military. Way to go, sir!

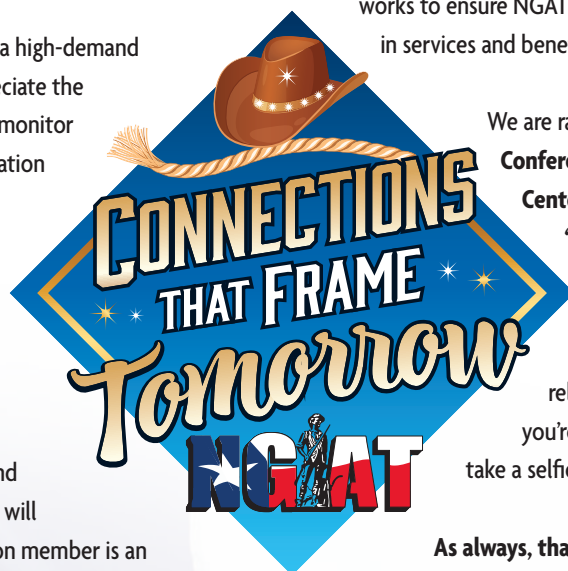
On with the comments...Time is sailing by — nothing new there.

#### HERE ARE SOME ASSOCIATION UPDATES IN A LIST (BECAUSE I FEEL LIKE WRITING A LIST):

- **Your Board of Directors conducted a strategy assessment for our Association.** This event was necessary for us to ensure the Board and Association are driving in the right direction. We confirmed our mission statement, revised our vision statement, and generated goals, strategies and specific actions for goal achievement. Committee Chairs will have additional work to complete the remaining items, but we are well on our way.
- **NGAT Relief Fund:** This continues to be a high-demand service for our Association and we appreciate the opportunity to help. Please continue to monitor the NGAT website for updates on application timelines and other information on this service.
- **Membership Drive:** This association is here because of our members, and to be effective, every Texas Guardsman should have the opportunity to join. We have a unit membership drive continuing through end of February. As I have stated before (and will continue to emphasize), every Association member is an NGAT spokesman and recruiter to the new Soldiers and Airmen. Please tell your story to potential members, ask your unit rep for resources to help communicate, or call the NGAT office. Also, the one-year complementary membership for junior enlisted, warrant officers, and officers is still available. As everyone always says, “Ya can’t beat free.” (Yes, everyone always says this — ask anyone.) Contact [membership@ngat.org](mailto:membership@ngat.org) for more information.
- **Government Affairs:** The Government Affairs committee is active year-round. This past week, our Government Affairs Committee Chairperson, SFC Mireya Cruz, participated in the National Guard

Association of the United States (NGAUS) Legislative Workshop, and conducted several advocacy engagements on Capitol Hill. Please see her comments in this magazine. We look forward to participating in the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) Legislative Workshop coming up in March.

- **Our Resolutions Committee Chairperson MAJ Jon Ireland** is working resolutions to develop relevant benefit opportunities and to refine the process and resolutions backlog to a manageable level. All of this works to ensure NGAT continues in our core mission – improvements in services and benefits to Texas Guardsmen.



We are rapidly coming up on the **67th Annual NGAT Conference in Waco, Texas, at the Waco Convention Center on March 26-29, 2026**. Our theme is

“Connections that Frame Tomorrow.” The Conference Committee is doing great work at refining the timeline and activities, making it a more affordable, reasonable, and relevant event. I hope to see you there. And while you’re there: make new connections, renew old ones, take a selfie with the NGAT President — it will be great!

As always, thank you for saying “yes” to service. It adds to this world, for sure. May God bless you and your families. ★

PAUL CERNIAUSKAS  
COL (Ret)  
President



## *Dream Big!* – BUT DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE

THE NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION (NGATEF) 2026 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IS OFFICIALLY OPEN — AND THE CLOCK IS ALREADY COUNTING DOWN.

This is real funding for your education, but only if your application is submitted on time. The deadline is February 20, 2026. No extensions. No late submissions.

### WHY APPLY NOW

NGATEF is awarding scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 to support students pursuing college, university, or trade school opportunities. High school seniors, college students, and graduate students are all eligible. This opportunity is available exclusively to NGAT annual and life members, as well as their spouses and children.

### SERVICE MEMBERS — THIS MEANS YOU

If you are currently serving in the Texas National Guard, your application is strongly encouraged. These scholarships are designed to support your commitment to service and your future beyond the uniform.

### DEADLINE MATTERS

Applications must be submitted by **February 20, 2026**. Waiting until the last minute could cost you thousands in scholarship funds.

Apply today and lock in your chance to be considered. Download the application at [www.ngat.org/ngatef/](http://www.ngat.org/ngatef/)

*Your future won't wait – neither should you!*

## NGAT WELCOMES JAMISON COX TO OUR TEAM

THE NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS (NGAT) is excited to welcome Jamison Cox as the newest member of our staff. Jamison joins us as the Administrative Assistant, supporting both our Insurance and Membership Directors and helping keep daily operations running smoothly.



A Keller, Texas native, Jamison attended Central High School before completing her final two years through home schooling, graduating in 2024. She is currently continuing her education at Austin Community College, where she is pursuing a degree in Business Administration.

Outside of work and school, Jamison enjoys expressing her creativity through painting, baking, and writing. She is also the daughter of NGAT Life Member CW5 John Cox, and we are proud to welcome her into the NGAT family. Please join us in giving Jamison a warm NGAT welcome. ★

## UPCOMING BYLAWS REVIEW

National Guard Association of Texas

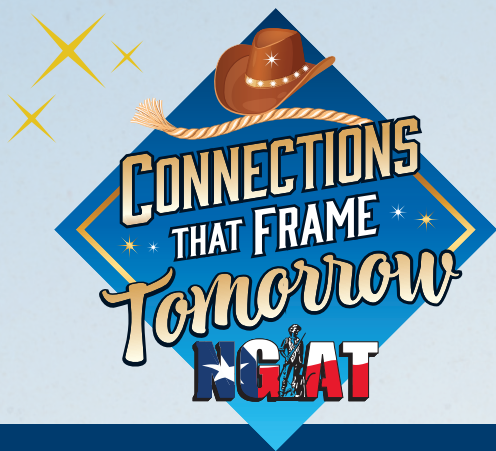
### What to Expect

The National Guard Association of Texas is finalizing a set of recommended bylaws amendments for consideration by the membership. In accordance with NGAT bylaws, the proposed amendments will be provided to members in advance of the Annual Meeting, where they will be presented for discussion and vote.

Members are encouraged to be on the lookout for upcoming communications and to check the NGAT website and social media channels for the release of the proposed amendments and supporting materials.



TRANSPARENCY • GOVERNANCE • MEMBER ENGAGEMENT



## 67th Annual NGAT Conference

**“CONNECTIONS THAT FRAME TOMORROW”**

**March 26-29, 2026 • Waco, Texas**



## NGAT Conference: New and Improved — Built by YOU, for YOU!

**YOU ASKED. WE LISTENED.** This year's NGAT Conference is reloaded, re-energized, and restructured to give you the experience you've been asking for. **The 67th Annual NGAT Conference is all about connecting, engaging, and shaping the future of our Texas National Guard family — together.**

### Welcome Party — The Gateway to Hospitality Night

We heard you loud and clear — no more late-night full meals! The Friday Welcome Party has been redesigned into a high-energy launch pad for the evening. You'll enjoy light finger foods, music, and plenty of chances to reconnect and network before heading out to the hospitality rooms. This year's interactive theme, **“Snap and Connect: Selfies and Strategies,”** turns networking into a mission. Each attendee will receive a conference passport with fun, mission-based challenges — from snapping a selfie with a senior enlisted leader to answering trivia or meeting someone from another service branch. Complete your passport and turn it in on Saturday for a shot at prizes. It's a new way to meet people, share stories, and build meaningful connections across our Guard family.

### Business Session — Later Start, Stronger Engagement

After a night of networking and fun, we're giving you more time for rest and recovery. The **Business Session** now kicks off at 0900 hours — so grab your coffee and come ready to engage with leadership, hear updates, and shape the future of NGAT.

### Golf Tournament — “Teeing Up for Tomorrow”

Don't miss the **NGAT Educational Foundation Golf Tournament**, our primary fundraiser supporting educational scholarships for our Guard members and families. Open to everyone — conference attendees, family, and friends — this event is about more than golf. It's about building future leaders, one swing at a time. Every drive makes a difference. Every putt supports a purpose.

### Silent Auction — 22 Years Strong

Back for its 22nd year, the **Silent Auction** supports the Texas National Guard Foundation. We're always looking for donations — handmade crafts, themed baskets, collectibles, and creative items are welcome. Bring your item to the conference, drop it off with a board member, or deliver it to the NGAT office anytime throughout the year. Your creativity and generosity fuel this tradition of giving.

### Awards Banquet — Denim, Diamonds & Texas Glam

Join us as we recognize and celebrate outstanding individuals who go above and beyond for our association. Uniforms are not required — this year we're adding a little sparkle with our **Denim and Diamonds: Country Glam** theme! Show off your western flair with a touch of shine and get ready for a night of Texas-style fun after the banquet.

### Stay in the Loop

Keep an eye on the NGAT Conference website for updates, announcements, and new event details as they roll out: [www.ngat.org/ngat-conference](http://www.ngat.org/ngat-conference). We can't wait to see you in Waco — ready to connect, engage, and frame tomorrow together.

**Teeing Off Today for Tomorrow's Leaders**

**NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS  
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION  
TOURNAMENT**

**Friday, March 27, 2026**

**SHOT GUN START**  
**COTTONWOOD CREEK GOLF COURSE**  
**5200 Bagby Ave | Waco, TX**

**Individual Player \$100**  
**Team of 4 Players \$400**  
**Includes: Green fee, cart, breakfast tacos,  
lunch, awards and goodie bags**

**BONUS STARS & STRIPES WINNER**  
**To qualify as the Stars & Stripes winner  
your entire team must consist of current  
or former members of the National Guard.  
The lowest scoring team will win \$400.**

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

## Major General (Ret) Francis M. McGinn

PRESIDENT & CEO, NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION  
OF THE UNITED STATES



The National Guard Association of Texas is honored to welcome Major General (Ret) Francis M. McGinn as the featured General Session speaker on March 28 at the 67th Annual NGAT Conference in Waco.

As President and Chief Executive Officer of NGAUS, General McGinn serves as the National Guard's chief advocate in Washington, D.C., providing unified representation before Congress on issues impacting readiness, modernization, benefits, and quality of life for Guardsmen across all 54 states, territories, and the District of Columbia.

With more than four decades of service—beginning as an enlisted Soldier and culminating as a general officer — General McGinn brings a perspective grounded in operational experience and informed by daily engagement at the strategic level. His role places him at the center of critical policy discussions, from equipment modernization and force structure to medical readiness and Guard authorities.

His General Session remarks will provide NGAT members with insight into the broader strategic environment facing the National Guard and how advocacy at the national level directly influences readiness, modernization, and the Guard's ability to meet current and future missions.



## Join Us for a Powerful General Session

The National Guard Association of Texas is proud to welcome Brigadier General Carrie Perez, Director of Army Personnel Management (G-1), National Guard Bureau, as a featured speaker during the Saturday

General Session on March 28 at the 67th Annual NGAT Conference.

As a Texas Guardsman serving at the national level, Brigadier General Perez brings insight into Army National Guard personnel priorities and the issues shaping the future of our force.

## Connections That Frame Tomorrow – Set to Music



Learn more about the 36th Infantry Division Band at  
[lonestarband.org](http://lonestarband.org).

“Before the conversations begin and the connections take shape, the music brings us together.” Setting the Tone: 36th Infantry Division “Lonestar” Band

Few Army bands carry the reputation, versatility, and musical excellence of the 36th Infantry Division Band — and this year, they’re helping NGAT kick off the conference in a powerful way.

On Friday night, March 27, the band’s Rhythm & Boots ensemble will take the stage at the Welcome Party, bringing soulful beats and smooth grooves that create an instant connection on the dance floor. With a passion for R&B and a love for performing, Rhythm & Boots blends classic hits from the past with modern jams topping today’s charts — music designed to get people moving, grooving, and engaging with one another.

Earlier that afternoon, the Heart of Texas Brass Quintet from the 36th Infantry Division Band will perform live on the exhibit hall floor, adding energy and atmosphere as attendees reconnect with colleagues and engage with exhibitors. Heart of Texas Brass provides a wide variety of music meant to entertain and bring refinement to any occasion.

From polished daytime performances to a high-energy R&B Welcome Party, the \*\*36th Infantry Division Band — featuring Rhythm & Boots and Heart of Texas Brass\*\* helps frame the moments that turn conversations into connections, and connections into the future we’re building together.

### O'CONNELL WEST, PLLC

## Wills and POAs

Discounted for  
NGAT Conference Attendees &  
NGAT Members

| Will & POA Package                                      | Will                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Will, Financial POA, Medical POA, & Advance Directive | • \$500 for NGAT members   |
| • \$750 for NGAT members; \$1000 for non-members        | • \$750 for non-members    |
| • Spouses additional \$250                              | • Spouses additional \$250 |

**Space is limited, reserve by 13 March**

**Contact O'Connell West, PLLC**  
512-547-7265  
Mention NGAT Conference

**Former Texas Guardsman Doug O'Connell of O'Connell West, PLLC is providing discounted wills and powers of attorney for NGAT members and conference attendees.** Participants will call the office of O'Connell West, PLLC, complete a short intake packet, receive a scheduled phone appointment, and finalize their documents on-site Saturday (28 March) during the NGAT Conference.

## Conference Registration Form

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

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

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

| Conference Registration                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Choose Your Meal Package - Meal Packages include Registration Fee                                                                                                                       |          |          |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|--|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>LUNCH:</b> LE = Lunch with Exhibitors, SL = Spouses Lunch, RL = Retiree Lunch, <b>DINNER:</b> CK = Chicken, PK = Pork, VG = Vegetarian                                               |          |          |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>NGAT Member/Guest Full Meal Package</b><br><i>(Includes Registration Fee, General Sessions, Exhibits, Breakouts, Welcome Party, Sat Lunch, Sat Banquet and Sun Prayer Breakfast)</i> |          | \$150 ea |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Attendee <b>Lunch:</b> LE SL RL <b>Dinner:</b> CK PK VG <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest <b>Lunch:</b> LE SL RL <b>Dinner:</b> CK PK VG                   |          | x _____  |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Will you attend the <b>NGAT Prayer Breakfast</b> YES or NO (Select one)                                                                                        |          |          |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Non-NGAT Member/Guest Full Meal Package</b><br><i>(Includes Registration Fee, General Sessions, Exhibits, Breakouts, Welcome Party, Sat Lunch and Sat Banquet)</i>                   |          | \$175 ea |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Attendee <b>Lunch:</b> LE SL RL <b>Dinner:</b> CK PK VG <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest <b>Lunch:</b> LE SL RL <b>Dinner:</b> CK PK VG                   |          | x _____  |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Friday Welcome Party</b> <i>(Includes Registration Fee, General Sessions, Exhibits, Breakouts, Welcome Party)</i>                                                                    |          | \$60 ea  |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Attendee <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest                                                                                                                 |          | x _____  |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Friday Welcome Party &amp; Sat Banquet</b><br><i>(Includes Registration Fee, General Sessions, Exhibits, Breakouts, Welcome Party and Sat Banquet)</i>                               |          | \$120 ea |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attendee <b>Dinner:</b> CK PK VG <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest <b>Dinner:</b> CK PK VG                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                         | x _____  |          |  |
| <b>Saturday Lunch Only Package</b> <i>(Includes Registration Fee, General Sessions, Exhibits, Breakouts, Saturday Lunch)</i>                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                         | \$30 ea  |          |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attendee <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                         | x _____  |          |  |
| <b>Saturday Banquet Only Package</b> <i>(Includes Registration Fee, General Sessions, Exhibits, Breakouts, Saturday Banquet)</i>                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                         | \$75 ea  |          |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attendee <b>Dinner:</b> CK PK VG <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest <b>Dinner:</b> CK PK VG                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                         | 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> |                                                                                                                                                                                         | \$500 ea |          |  |
| <b>Hotel Room</b> <input type="checkbox"/> King <input type="checkbox"/> Double (NGAT will book the hotel room) <b>Dinner:</b> CK PK VG                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                         |          |          |  |
| <b>Add a Guest to your Jr Enlisted Package</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                         | \$150 ea |          |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest <b>Dinner:</b> CK PK VG                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                         |          |          |  |
| <b>You must pay basic registration to attend the Conference or Optional Events</b><br><i>(Basic Registrations includes: Registration Fee, General Sessions, Exhibits and Breakouts)</i>                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                         |          |          |  |
| <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  |          |  |

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

I would like to donate to: (Circle One)  
☐ Check Enclosed (Please make check payable to NGAT) ☐ NGAT Educational Foundation ☐ Texas National Guard Foundation  
 Charge my: ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CC Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_ CC Billing Address Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

**SubTotal:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Add \$20.00 late fee after Mar 16** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total (Check):** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Credit Card Handling Fee (Add 5%):** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total (Credit Card):** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

ONLINE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.NGAT.ORG

For Assistance Call 512-454-7300

ONSITE REGISTRATIONS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED AFTER MARCH 16, 2026 [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)



## NGAT CONFERENCE HOTEL DEADLINE FAST APPROACHING

Hilton Waco, 113 S University Parks Dr • Waco, TX 76701

Make your reservations directly with the hotel at: 254-754-8484. 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 February 25, 2026)

Join us for a variety of optional events, connect with industry partners at the Military Trade Show, and gain insight from our distinguished Guest Speakers. These opportunities are designed to inform, engage, and enhance your time at the conference.



## Recognize the Best of NGAT — Nominate a Fellow Member Today!

EACH YEAR, THE NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS (NGAT) honors the remarkable men and women who strengthen our organization and embody the highest standards of service. Nominations are now open for the 2026 NGAT Annual Awards Program, and we're calling on you to help spotlight the outstanding NGAT members who make a difference every day.

### THESE AWARDS ARE FOR NGAT MEMBERS — HELP US CELEBRATE OUR OWN

The NGAT Awards Program exists to honor the dedication, leadership, and impact of current NGAT members. Whether they serve quietly behind the scenes or lead from the front, these individuals represent the very best of our association and the Texas National Guard community.

### OUR HIGHEST HONOR — THE NGAT MINUTEMAN AWARD

The Minuteman Award stands as NGAT's most prestigious recognition. It is reserved for a member whose service, commitment, and influence have left a lasting mark on NGAT and the broader Guard family. If you know a member

whose contributions rise to this level, now is the time to put their name forward — the deadline is approaching quickly.

### AWARD CATEGORIES

- Service Awards • NGAT Minuteman Award
- Davy Crockett Award • Jose Navarro Award
- Spirit of Texas Award • Heroism Awards
- General K.L. Berry Award • LTC James A. Spring Humanitarianism Award

**Nomination Deadline: February 20, 2026**

**Don't wait!** — nominations close soon, and late submissions cannot be accepted.

**How to nominate:** visit [www.ngat.org/awards-program](http://www.ngat.org/awards-program) to review award criteria and submit your nomination forms.





## KEY LEADERSHIP Update



**COL Rodney P. Kelley**  
Commander  
72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team



**CW4 (P) Bryan T. Shaw**  
Command Chief Warrant Officer

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## NGAT Wins NGEDA Communications Award



**THE NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS (NGAT)** was honored with the Communications Award at the National Guard Executive Directors Association (NGEDA) Awards Banquet in Indianapolis, Indiana, recognizing the association's commitment to effective, innovative member engagement. During the acceptance remarks, NGAT Executive Director **LTC (Ret) Marvin Harris** emphasized that the award reflects the outstanding behind-the-scenes work of Deputy Director/Membership Director **MSG (Ret) Theresa Billeck-Zuniga**. Her leadership and dedication to telling NGAT's story, engaging members, and strengthening the association's voice through our website, social media and our NGAT News Magazine were central to this recognition. This award represents a true team effort and highlights the impact of consistent, mission-driven communication. ★





# GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE Report

**ANOTHER QUARTER HAS PASSED AND YOUR GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS TEAM HAS BEEN VERY BUSY WORKING FOR YOU.** Even through the holiday season we have continued to meet biweekly as we set up and strategize the best way to approach 2026 in a way that benefits the members of our association best.

With that in mind we began the New Year attending the NGAUS Legislative Workshop held in Washington DC, January 13-14. Texas' team included both NGAT and Texas Military Department (TMD) Government Affairs leadership. This was a great opportunity to collaborate and build on the way NGAT can best support TMD initiatives. Speakers at the workshop provided all attendees with insight into matters within the National Guard Bureau. This information is invaluable as it provides the Association's thorough understanding of what's being worked at the NGB level and allows us to best serve our delegations.

During this visit, NGAT conducted 6 Congressional visits and attended 1 Legislative Reception. This allowed us to reinforce our relationships with our congressional delegation, but it also gave us the opportunity to spread the message of the needs of our members.

As we move forward towards our Annual Conference, the Government Affairs team will attend the EANGUS Legislative Workshop where we will



**SFC MIREYA CRUZ**  
EANGUS Vice President  
NGAT Government Affairs  
Committee Chair

visit even more members of our congressional delegation and continue to tell the stories of our members while advocating our legislative priorities that YOU set for us last conference.

Our Annual Conference will be here before you know it, and we encourage all our members to submit resolutions highlighting issues that matter most to you. Those priorities voted on at the conference become our marching orders for next year. Let us know what you'd like those priorities to be.

We work for you year-round and as quickly as legislation has been moving lately, we want to hear from you whenever concerns arise. This allows us to pivot to the matters that require our attention most. Bottomline, is we need to hear from you.

As a reminder, at the conference, we are going to award an NGAT Legislative Award to a member and staffer at the State and Federal level who have been instrumental in affecting legislation benefiting the Texas National Guard and our Retirees. If you have nominees, please email the Government Affairs committee at [legislative@ngat.org](mailto:legislative@ngat.org).

The Government Affairs Committee continues to be committed to strong advocacy and ensures that Texas Guardsmen and Retirees voices are heard. ★



**NGAT WAS PROUD TO ATTEND THE 2026 NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES (NGAUS) LEGISLATIVE WORKSHOP**, held January 13-14 at the National Guard Memorial, NGAUS headquarters in Washington, DC. Representing Texas, pictured left to right: **MAJ Phil Fountain**, Director, Texas Military Department Government Affairs Office; **LTC (Ret) Marvin Harris**, NGAT Executive Director; **BG Carrie Perez**, Director of Army Personnel Management (G-1), National Guard Bureau, and one of the workshop speakers; **SFC Mireya Cruz**, NGAT Government Affairs Committee Chair; and **Eric Vining**, Deputy Director, TMD Government Affairs Office. NGAT remains committed to strong advocacy and ensuring Texas Guardsmen's voices are heard where it matters most.



**TWO DAYS, SIX TEXAS CONGRESSIONAL VISITS, AND ONE LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION.** **LTC (Ret) Marvin Harris**, NGAT Executive Director, and **SFC Mireya Cruz**, NGAT Government Affairs Chairman, were out in Washington, D.C. attending the NGAUS Legislative Workshop working for you by advocating for our Soldiers and Airmen.

# DUTY ★ HONOR ★ TEXAS

## FORT WORTH



**COL CHRISTIAN CORNETTE (RIGHT)**, Commander 136th Airlift Wing greets Secretary of War Pete Hegseth's (left) during his Arsenal of Freedom tour. Representatives from every branch of service at NAS JRB Fort Worth gathered on the flightline at Base Operations, showcasing joint strength and mission readiness while he engaged with service members and recognized outstanding performers. (Photo courtesy of the 136th Airlift Wing)

## TEXAS BORDER



**COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR CARLOS DIAZ** traveled to the border this past Thanksgiving to check on the troops and hand out coins. Battlefield circulation is one of CSM Diaz's favorite jobs as it allows him to meet Division troops from all over Texas.

## MARYLAND



**2LT MATTHEW SOVINE** has 17 years of military service, 7 combat tours, Bronze Star with Valor, and is now training to become an Army physician at the Uniformed Services University in Bethesda, Maryland. His journey started as a DUSTOFF flight paramedic with Alamo DUSTOFF in San Antonio, earning his degree while serving. The Guard gave him purpose beyond himself and education benefits that opened doors to medical school.

## BROWNWOOD



**ON NOVEMBER 17, 2025**, Soldiers of the 36th Division Artillery (DIVARTY) proudly celebrated the 250th birthday of the U.S. Army Field Artillery Branch with a traditional cake-cutting ceremony, honoring the heritage, precision, and lethal fires that define the "King of Battle." Joined by Commander, **COL Brian R. Hildebrand**, Officers, NCOs, and Soldiers from across the formation gathered to reflect on the legacy of Field Artillery.



#### EAGLE PASS

**GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT** was joined by Governors Mike Kehoe (MO), Jim Pillen (NE), Bill Lee (TN), and Glenn Youngkin (VA) in mid-November in Eagle Pass to serve meals and thank Texas National Guard soldiers and Texas Department of Public Safety troopers stationed on the border over Thanksgiving 2025. (Photo courtesy of the office of the Governor of Texas)



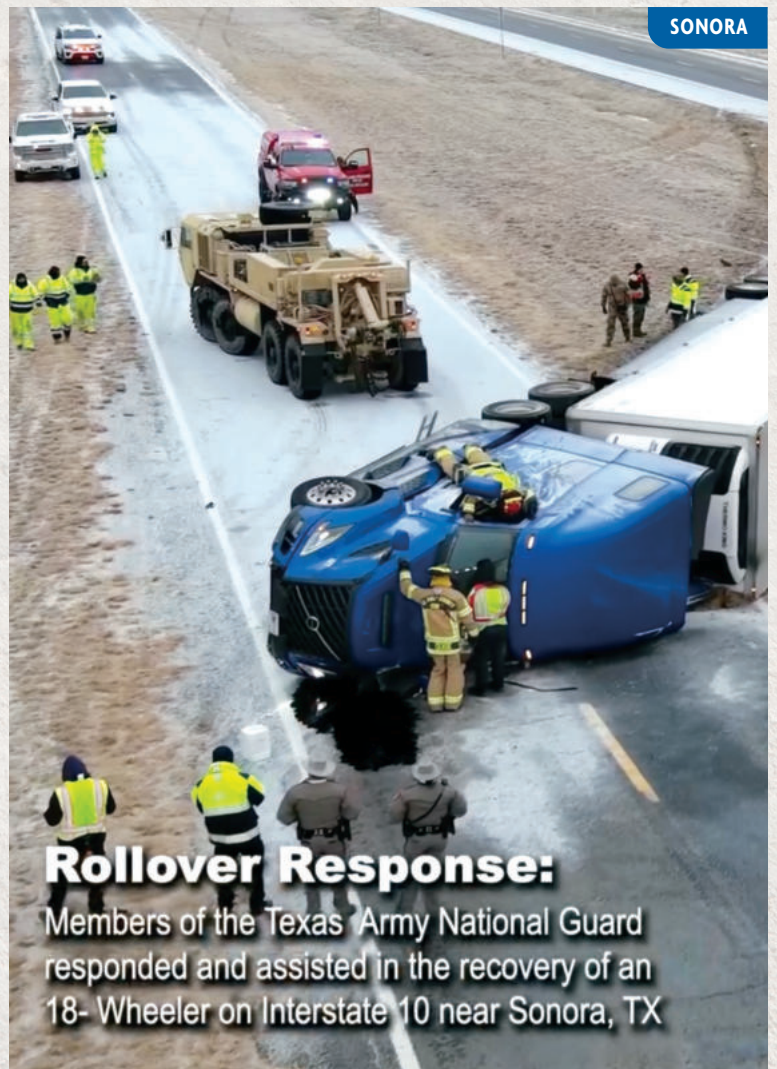
#### ARKANSAS

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TEXAS NATIONAL GUARD SHOOTING TEAM** for their incredible performance at the 2026 Winston P. Wilson Championship at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas! Our marksmen dominated the field, taking 1st Place in both Pistol and Carbine and securing 2nd Place Overall. Pictured left to right: **COL Burton**; **SGT Connor Sloan**, Trp C 112th CAV Rgmt; **SSG Richard Ballentine**, HHC 1-143rd Inf Rgmt (ABN); and **CSM Toynh**. (Photo by SSG Israel Sanchez)



#### DEER PARK

**SFC JOSE LARA (LEFT), BTRY B 3-133RD FA, AND SSG DAVID IBARRA (RIGHT)**, Recruiting & Retention, visited Deer Park High School for the ultimate culinary showdown — the MRE Challenge. They tasked these talented culinary students with taking a standard “Meal Ready-to-Eat” and transforming it into a restaurant-quality dish. The results were incredible! These students proved that with a little creativity and adaptability — two things we value deeply in the Guard — you can make something great out of any situation.



#### SONORA

### Rollover Response:

Members of the Texas Army National Guard responded and assisted in the recovery of an 18-Wheeler on Interstate 10 near Sonora, TX



## LEGAL UPDATE with Amber Wagner

# ESTATE PLANNING IS FOR EVERYONE

**DO YOU HAVE A WILL?** It is a common question asked prior to deployment. However, it is woefully incomplete. A will is just one of many important documents. A comprehensive estate plan should plan for any contingency. A few examples of what is included in a comprehensive estate plan are powers of attorney (POAs); end of life wishes (living will), directions for social media and digital assets, guardians for minors; and trusts. This article explains these documents.

POAs are legal documents where you appoint someone else to do something in your name. Most Servicemembers have probably been told to 'go get a general POA' before deployment or mobilization; however, a good attorney will dissuade you from executing a general POA (GPOA) because it grants too much power and most have seen the aftermath of an abuse of a GPOA. Instead, you can execute special POAs to give specific powers.

Further, a comprehensive estate plan should include a healthcare power of attorney which allows someone else to make your medical decisions if you are unable. A living will, called an Advance Directive to Physicians in Texas, allows you to explain to your physicians what your end-of-life care should or should not include.

Most people have a social media presence and/or digital media and probably have not thought about what would happen to it after death.

This is often overlooked, but a comprehensive estate plan will ensure your wishes for digital assets are documented.

If you are the parent of a minor child, it is very important that you appoint a guardian for your minor child in the event of your death. Such an important decision should not be left to the courts.

Finally, some estates benefit from creation of trusts. Minors cannot inherit property outright so a trust must be created for their benefit. Larger estates may benefit from tax benefits of certain trusts.

Bottomline, a will is only one document in a comprehensive estate plan. Often a Servicemember can execute a will and POAs prior to deployment; however, these are usually hastily created and are insufficient to provide a comprehensive estate plan. Instead, give your loved ones the best gift you can: peace of mind. Contact O'Connell West, PLLC at 512-547-7265 for a comprehensive estate plan by an attorney who understands both the military and Texas estate law. ★

*Attorney Amber Wagner is a former Active Duty JAG Officer and current USAR officer. Amber focuses on representing military service members, veterans, first responders and their family members. O'Connell West law firm provides free consultations to NGAT members. Call 512-547-7265 or email Admin@OConnellWest.com to get legal help.*



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# EANGUS Presidents and Legislative Workshop

**EANGUS IS GEARING UP FOR ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS OF THE YEAR:** the Presidents and Legislative Workshop, taking place March 22-24, 2026. This annual gathering brings together Guard leaders from across the country to connect, learn, and sharpen their advocacy skills.



This workshop is a key opportunity to strengthen the Guard's collective voice and ensure enlisted priorities are heard.

**Register here:** <https://eangus.org/2026-state-presidents-legislative-workshops/> ★

## EANGUS Area IV Mid-Winter Conference Brings Enlisted Leaders Together

**ENLISTED LEADERS FROM ACROSS AREA IV** are invited to come together February 13-15, 2026, for the 2026 Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) Area IV Mid-Winter Conference, an annual event focused on collaboration, connection, and mission-driven leadership.

Hosted at Camp J.T. Robinson in Little Rock, Arkansas, the conference offers a distinctive military setting with convenient on-post facilities, historic venues, and easy access to off-post lodging. The event begins with an evening ice breaker at the Camp Robinson Post Museum, where attendees can enjoy light hors d'oeuvres while reconnecting with colleagues and building new professional relationships.

Official Area IV business meetings will take place Saturday at the MWR Complex, providing a comfortable and professional environment for

productive discussion, planning, and the exchange of best practices. The day will conclude with a relaxed BBQ-style buffet dinner — an opportunity to unwind, continue conversations, and strengthen the camaraderie that defines the enlisted force.

This mid-winter gathering is a valuable chance for enlisted leaders to engage, share ideas, and support one another while advancing EANGUS priorities at the regional level.

**Register for the conference and reserve lodging at:** <https://eaang.net/areaiv-conference/> ★



## Sun, Sand, and a Seat at the Table: Why Soldiers & Airmen Need to Be at EANGUS 2026

**WHO DOESN'T LIKE DAYTONA BEACH IN THE SUMMER?** Add ocean views, unmatched networking, and a real opportunity to influence the future of the National Guard — and you've got the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) Annual Conference, July 31-August 4, 2026, in Daytona Beach, Florida.



and recommending equipment, supplies, and services that support more than 450,000 Army and Air National Guard members and their families. Your presence helps ensure enlisted priorities are represented at the national level.

Beyond the meetings, EANGUS 2026 delivers what makes conferences memorable: camaraderie, shared purpose, and yes — some well-earned

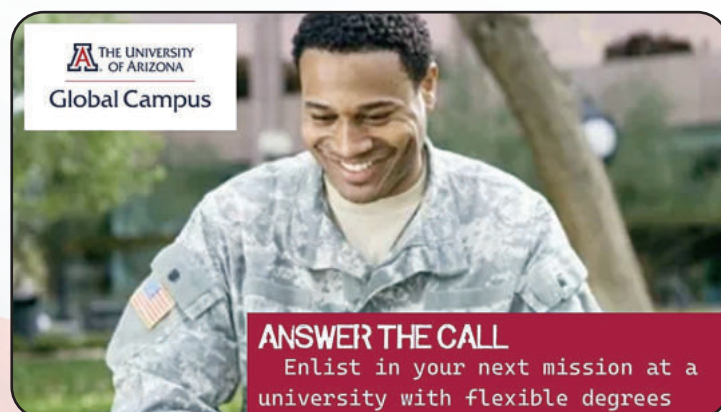
This annual tradition brings together nearly 2,000 enlisted Soldiers and Airmen, senior enlisted leaders, elected officials, and industry partners from all 54 states and territories. For Guardsmen who want their voices heard, this is where it happens. Members vote on top legislative priorities, exchange ideas that shape policy, and strengthen the bonds that make our Guard community second to none.

The conference is also a powerhouse of influence. It's one of the largest gatherings of military and industry decision-makers focused on evaluating

time by the beach. From professional development to unforgettable connections, this is where enlisted leadership from every state, NGB, and DoD comes together to move the Guard forward.

Join us in Daytona Beach to stand up for enlisted interests, support our Guard at the national level, and celebrate the patriotic, innovative spirit of National Guard service — surf, sunshine, and all.

**Register now:** <https://eangus.org/2026-registration>. ★



# The 148th NGAUS Conference Building Careers, Connections, and the Guard's Future

**THE 148TH GENERAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION, AUG. 28-31 IN INDIANAPOLIS,** offers a powerful opportunity — especially for Soldiers and Airmen who have never attended — to see firsthand what makes this event so impactful for the National Guard community.

More than 4,000 Guard officers, family members, and guests from across the nation will gather under the theme **The National Guard: America's Strength at Home & Abroad.** For first-time attendees, the conference delivers unmatched exposure to professional development, leadership insight, and networking that simply can't be replicated at the unit level.

Most conference activities — including professional development sessions, meetings, and the industry exhibition — will take place at the Indiana Convention Center, conveniently located next to Lucas Oil Stadium. Conference hotels are connected via skywalks, making it easy for new attendees to navigate and stay engaged throughout the event.



Beyond education, the conference offers unique experiences that help build lifelong professional relationships. Events include a golf tournament at the iconic Brickyard Cross Golf Course, tours of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and its museum, and a walking tour of the city's historic war memorials. Evening mixers provide informal settings to connect with peers and senior leaders from across the Guard. The Governor's Reception will conclude the conference. It's planned for the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis and will feature racing and laser-shooting simulators and a drone show over the adjacent canal.

Professional development sessions and the industry exhibition begin Aug. 29, featuring nearly 350 companies showcasing products, services, and solutions that directly support Guard missions and careers.

For Soldiers and Airmen who have never attended, this conference is more than an event — it's an investment in your professional growth, your network, and your understanding of how the National Guard shapes the nation's defense. ★

## NGAUS Launches A New Membership Portal

**NGAUS HAS LAUNCHED A NEW MEMBERSHIP PORTAL.** This new tool will help them stay connected with you and improve your membership experience. Please follow the instructions below to login to your account for the first time.

**Go to <https://ngaus.users.membersuite.com/auth/portal-reset-password>**

- 1 The system will ask you for an Email address.** Please type in your email address that you used in your historic NGAUS account. Then, click on the Reset my password button:

Forgot your password?  
Enter your Email Address below and we will send a message to reset your password

Email Address

[Reset my password](#)

[Back to Sign In](#)

- 2 You will receive a link sent to that email address that needs to be used to reset your password.** Click on this link to reset your password and gain access to your account.

- 3 Once your password is updated, please update your profile so they can better serve you in the future!**

NGAUS

NGAUS Members Sought to Escort Honor Flights

My Info Membership My Account

My Personal Information

Email Address

**For future reference, their new portal can be found here: <https://ngaus.users.membersuite.com/home>**

**If you have any questions regarding your new account, please contact NGAUS at [membership@ngaus.org](mailto:membership@ngaus.org).**

# NGAT UNIT MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

October 1, 2025 – February 28, 2026

## ATTENTION COMMAND TEAMS

### HERE ARE THE DETAILS

Encourage your **Soldiers** and **Airmen** to join the National Guard Association of Texas (NGAT) during the membership drive period. Units with the **highest participation** will be recognized and rewarded at *the 67th Annual NGAT Conference*.

### UNIT AWARDS

1st Place Unit – \$500  
2nd Place Unit – \$300  
3rd Place Unit – \$150

*Win money for your unit while increasing NGAT membership.*

### MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS & DETAILS

#### ENLISTED PERSONNEL

- Enlisted members who **have never** an NGAT/EANGUS member **may join for FREE**.
- All other Enlisted members:
  - **E1–E6: \$15**
  - **E7–E9: \$20**
- One fee provides two memberships (NGAT and EANGUS)

#### OFFICER PERSONNEL

- Officers who have never been an NGAT/NGAUS member may join for **FREE**
- **O1–O3 / WO1–CW3: NGAT \$20 / NGAUS \$40**
- **O4–O5 / CW4–CW5: NGAT \$25 / NGAUS \$80**
- **O6: NGAT \$30 / NGAUS \$80**
- Payment plans available for Life Memberships.

*First-time Enlisted and Officers join FREE.*



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

**THE PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE TEXAS NATIONAL GUARD**

# THE MILITARY TO START MEASURING TROOPS' BODY FAT BY WAIST-TO-HEIGHT RATIO

Story courtesy of the Military Times

ON JANUARY 12, 2026, the Pentagon issued a memo directing the U.S. military to evaluate the body fat of troops using a waist-to-height ratio, replacing traditional height-and-weight tables as the primary measure of physical standards.

"The upper limit for allowable [waist-to-height-ratio] for Military Service body composition policies shall be less than 0.55," the memo declared. The new body fat expectations range from 18% to 26% for men and 26% to 36% for women, according to the memo.

Personnel who surpass these thresholds will be enrolled in the military's remedial program, it stated, adding that failure to meet the standards "may result in the withholding of favorable personnel actions, including promotions."

Continued violations, meanwhile, could lead to administrative measures, such as separation from the military, the document stated. Under the new rules, all service members will be evaluated twice a year.

The memo, signed by Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel Anthony Tata, framed body composition as a "vital component for the warrior ethos and foundational to lethality and readiness."



The directive also addressed service members who perform well on fitness tests yet fail to meet body composition requirements. Those who excel on fitness tests "may be granted allowances," but only within limits set by their branch. The memo stresses, however, that high performance "does not excuse non-compliance with body composition standards."

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, who previewed the shift to a waist-to-height measurement system in September, said the change is intended to "promote consistency and fairness across the joint forces." ★

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# RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE Report

## “SAFEGUARDING OUR GUARD — ADVOCATING FOR PAY CONTINUITY IN UNCERTAIN TIMES”

AS WE KICK OFF 2026, reflecting on the challenges of the past year reminds us why the NGAT remains steadfast in our advocacy for the men and women who serve in the Texas National Guard (TXNG). Last year's 43-day federal government shutdown in 2025 hit our TXNG community hard, underscoring a vulnerability that we should not face: performing critical duties without the certainty of pay. As Chair of the Resolutions Committee, I've heard directly from our constituents, Soldiers, Airmen, and their families, and seen the impacts of the real-world toll of these funding lapses. As Texas Servicemembers, it's time we amplify their voices and push for lasting federal solutions.

The Texas National Guard is the backbone of our state's resilience. With over 21,000 members across the Army, Air, and State Guard components, we respond to everything from devastating hurricanes and wildfires to border security operations and overseas deployments in support of national defense. But when Washington grinds to a halt over budget disputes, the ripple effects reach right here to Texas. During the 2025 shutdown, we saw missions disrupted in ways that eroded our operational edge, readiness, and togetherness. Drills and training exercises were canceled or scaled back, leaving units underprepared for the next emergency. Supply chains faltered, delaying essential equipment maintenance. And for our full-time technicians, those essential DoD civilian employees who keep our aircraft flying and vehicles running, furloughs meant working without pay or being sent home, creating gaps in support that no amount of dedication could fully bridge. One example I witnessed is our full-time technicians requesting furloughs because they had run out of money to feed their families. An event we would like to believe would be unthinkable in America's military.

The human impact was even more profound. NGAT fielded countless calls and emails from members facing financial uncertainty. Our constituents



**MAJ JONATHAN (JON) IRELAND**  
Chair, Resolutions Committee

are clear about what they want: certainty. They're not asking for special treatment; they're asking that military pay and benefits never become bargaining chips in political negotiations. They echo the sentiment that the Guard reliably serves Texas and the nation; the federal government should do the same. Bipartisan bills like the Pay Our Troops Act (H.R. 5401) in the current Congress offer a blueprint, providing continuing appropriations for pay, allowances, and essential support until funding is restored. That bill covers FY 2026. Our position is that there should be no time limit on ensuring our Service Members are paid

for their duty. In short, politicians have a built-in safety net to receive pay; Service Members do not. We should have the same pay protection for those in uniform.

At NGAT, we're channeling this feedback into real progress. We are pushing our newly adopted resolution, Support for Uninterrupted Pay and Benefits for Texas National Guard Members During Federal Funding Lapses, for a vote at our NGAT conference this year. This resolution puts forth unwavering endorsement for bipartisan federal initiatives, pressing legislators to secure continuous pay for the Texas National Guard and the entire U.S. military. We require forward-looking protection to head off these challenges entirely. Teaming up with the National Guard Association of the United States and connecting with our Texas representatives in Congress, we can foster a significant drive toward meaningful reform.

**WE ANSWER EVERY CALL...ANSWER OURS WITH RELIABLE PAY.**

**ALWAYS READY, ALWAYS THERE. ★**

## CAMP MABRY ID CARD OFFICE INFORMATION

**THE CAMP MABRY ID CARD OFFICE ISSUES ID CARDS MONDAY 0800-1500.**

Walk ins must be signed in by 12:00 pm. Tuesday-Friday Appointments only. They are closed all federal holidays. Contact the office at (512) 782-6841. Each appointment scheduled will accommodate one customer, therefore if you need multiple transactions done, each transaction will need an appointment time.

All customers must sign in NLT 10 minutes prior to appointment time. If you arrive 10 minutes past your appointment time, your appointment will NOT be honored. Customers will need to know their confirmation number to cancel/reschedule an appointment. Please keep a copy of your appointment confirmation page. Do not schedule an appointment for a Common Access

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# TAPS

As of January 31, 2026

**CMSgt (Ret) Larry Barker**, Life Member #16751, Atascosa

**MSG Gordan Brandenburg**, Life Member #13928, Gonzales

**MSG (Ret) Ivan Burch**, Life Member #2581, Arlington

**Mr. David Campbell**, Life Member #4810, Midland

**Mr. Gerald Chancellor**, Life Member #1564, Montpelier, VA

**CMSgt (Ret) Johnny O. Dolan**, Life Member #24413, Emory

**CW5 (Ret) Anthony F. Friesenhahn**, Life Member #5552, New Braunfels

**MSG (Ret) Juan M. Gonzalez**, Life Member #9681, Austin

**TSgt (Ret) Dennis C. Karr**, Life Member #6911, Jackson, TN

**Mr. Billy Ray Lee**, Arlington

**SFC (Ret) Jack R. Martin Jr.**, Life Member #19265, Gordon

**LTC (Ret) William "Bill" McLemore**, Bastrop

**Mr Steven Kenneth Peio**, Helotes

**SFC (Ret) Ross H. Redding**, Life Member #12393, Chico

**MSG (Ret) Frederico Salazar**, Life Member #25484, Bastrop

**Mr. Larry G. Vasut**, Life Member #6929, Industry

**Mr. Rodolfo Villagomez**, Life Member #6153, San Antonio

**\*\* SPC Kentrell West**, 294 QM Company, Houston

**MSgt (Ret) Belinda Wilson**, Life Member #12053, St Augustine

*\* 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).

## MARCH 14-15



## OVER THERE: 1918

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**PERIODICAL**

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**SPC LIAM JOUVENAT**, 294th Quartermaster Company, Texas National Guard rigger, secures a pallet of food and water onto a trailer within the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, January 21, 2026. The 294th QM team regularly prepares pallets of various supplies for transport throughout the CENTCOM AOR using U.S. Air Force cargo aircraft. (Photo by TSgt Justin Norton)

#### **TWELVE TEXAS NATIONAL GUARD SERVICE MEMBERS**

assigned to the Texas Joint Counterdrug Task Force participate in the annual Norwegian Foot March in El Campo, Texas, December 9, 2025. The race consisted of an 18.66 mile ruck with a minimum 25lbs ruck sack in tow.

(Photo by SSG Asiah Phillips)



**AIRMEN FROM THE 136TH AIRLIFT WING ROPERS**, alongside U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to 2nd Battalion, 362nd Field Artillery, conducted proficiency training on December 19, 2025, at Fort Bliss, Texas, loading and unloading a HIMARS missile launcher aboard a C-130J Super Hercules.

(Photo courtesy of the 136th Airlift Wing)



## **NGAT PLANNING CALENDAR**

(As of January 31, 2026)

# 2026

|                |     |                                                                   |
|----------------|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12-14          | Feb | NGAUS Legislative Workshop, Washington, D.C.                      |
| 14-16          | Feb | EANGUS Area IV Mid-Winter Meeting, Little Rock, AR                |
| 16             | Feb | President's Day (NGAT Office Closed)                              |
| 1-2            | Mar | NGAT Board of Directors Meeting, Austin, TX                       |
| 5              | Mar | NGAT Advisory Council Meeting, Microsoft Teams                    |
| 14-15          | Mar | Over There: 1918 Battle Reenactment, Camp Mabry, Austin, TX       |
| 22-24          | Mar | EANGUS Legislative Workshop, Washington, D.C.                     |
| 26             | Mar | NGAT Board of Directors Meeting, Waco Convention Center, Waco, TX |
| 26             | Mar | Corporate Partners Reception, Waco Convention Center, Waco, TX    |
| 27-29          | Mar | 67th Annual NGAT Conference, Waco Convention Center, Waco, TX     |
| 30             | Mar | NGAT Conference Recovery (NGAT Office Closed)                     |
| 3              | Apr | Good Friday (NGAT Holiday Observed)                               |
| 22-25          | May | Memorial Day (NGAT Office Closed)                                 |
| 14             | Jun | U.S. Army Birthday/Flag Day                                       |
| 19             | Jun | Juneteenth (NGAT Office Closed)                                   |
| 3              | Jul | Independence Day Observed (NGAT Office Closed)                    |
| 31 Jul - 3 Aug |     | EANGUS Annual Conference, Daytona Beach, FL                       |
| 23-24          | Aug | NGAT Board of Directors Meeting, Camp Mabry, Austin, TX           |
| 28-31          | Aug | NGAUS Annual Conference, Indianapolis, IN                         |



**ARROWHEAD SOLDIERS FROM THE 36TH ID'S HHBN** continue training, despite the wintery conditions, to sharpen their skills and maintain readiness, January 20-27, 2026, at Camp Bowie, Brownwood, Texas. Staying at the top of training ensures the battalion is prepared to support the mission whenever called upon.