

Legislative Goals 2005



The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States



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The 2005 Legislative Goals of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) contains the position statements, goals and objectives of the Association for the first session of the 109th Congress.

The goals and objectives were established through the resolution process passed by association delegates at the 33rd Annual Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. From these resolutions, come the issues EANGUS will pursue in Congress and with the Department of Defense (DoD).

This document reflects the collective will of more than 85,000 EANGUS members from the 54 states and territories, and the National Capitol region. Our focus is on issues affecting the Enlisted men and women of the National Guard and their families. These include pay and compensation, readiness, quality of life, full-time manning and equipment.

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EANGUS Position Statement

The first session of the 109th Congress will have some tough decisions to make. President Bush is calling for cuts in the defense budget - at the same time we are conducting very expensive operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The National Guard is fully involved in those operations - almost 200,000 National Guard members have served overseas in recent years. In addition to Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan), Guard members have served in Bosnia and Kosovo, and continue to serve in the Sinai.

The National Guard has been critical in maintaining domestic security since September 11, 2001. Operation Noble Eagle is ongoing, with Guard members still protecting nuclear power plants, dams, power plants, tunnels, bridges and rail stations.

Congress must ensure that critical military capability is not reduced by cutting the defense budget. At the same time, we must continue to attract and retain qualified personnel in the National Guard. A balance must be struck between transformation of the Guard and maintaining adequate personnel to get the job done. Currently almost two-thirds of the Guard has already been deployed. A certain percentage cannot be deployed – those who fill essential positions on a full-time basis here in the U.S., for example.

If the current pace of operations continues, it will be crucial to retain current National Guard members and to recruit new ones. In order to do this, equity must be achieved between benefits for Guard members on active duty and regular active duty members. Any disparity – even the perception of disparity – may cause Guard members to flee the service.

There is no doubt that National Guard members will continue to serve their country in any way asked. EANGUS' job is to make sure that they will not suffer financial losses or ruin, and to ensure adequate resources are provided for family support operations.

History

Descended from the militia that protected frontier settlements and battled the British, National Guard members are state troops during peacetime and Federal troops during federal call-ups. Long before the Declaration of Independence was written, a century before Thomas Jefferson drafted the Bill of Rights, even before the first of our thirteen colonies raised a flag, citizen soldiers were fighting for freedom.

Carpenters, farmers, doctors and blacksmiths became known as the famous Minutemen-ordinary citizens who could be called upon at a minute's notice to defend their colonies. Citizen soldiers

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have been part of American heritage for more than 360 years. The citizen-soldiers who make up the National Guard have fought in every major American War since the Pequot War in Connecticut in 1637. These patriots fought for independence at Lexington and Concord; they camped with General George Washington at Valley Forge; they charged San Juan Hill and scaled the cliffs of Normandy; they marched through the jungles of Vietnam and protected the skies



above; they demonstrated their unique abilities during Desert Storm and in the peacekeeping missions in Bosnia. Right now, they are in Afghanistan. This proud heritage includes the names of our finest heroes: Paul Revere, Ethan Allen and John Hancock. It also includes the names of eighteen of our presidents including: Colonel George Washington, Captain Abraham Lincoln, Captain Harry S. Truman, and Lieutenant George W. Bush of the Texas Air National Guard.

At no time in our history has the National Guard been better equipped, trained or prepared to serve than it is at this hour, on this day. Why? Because the Congress of the United States has taken the Constitution of the United States, Article 1, Section 8, very seriously:

“THE CONGRESS SHALL HAVE POWER TO PROVIDE FOR CALLING FORTH THE MILITIA TO EXECUTE THE LAWS OF THE UNION, SUPPRESS INSURRECTIONS AND REPEL INVASIONS; ...TO PROVIDE FOR ORGANIZING, ARMING, AND DISCIPLINING THE MILITIA, AND FOR GOVERNING SUCH PART OF THEM AS MAY BE EMPLOYED IN THE SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES, RESERVING TO THE STATES RESPECTIVELY, THE APPOINTMENT OF THE OFFICERS, AND THE AUTHORITY OF TRAINING THE MILITIA ACCORDING TO THE DISCIPLINE PRESCRIBED BY THE CONGRESS.”

State Emergencies

The Guard is well known for providing support to governors and citizens of the United States during disasters and civil disturbances. The Guard is activated each year, in both its federal and state role, to aid emergency management authorities in response to floods, fires, storms and other domestic emergencies and has consistently proven its worthiness through its efforts in hurricanes, earthquakes, and blizzards.

Cost Saving

During this period of unknown threats and conflicts, the National Guard remains a very cost-effective means of achieving the objectives of American and foreign policy. The Guard is part-time in nature and therefore can provide a maximum defense capability at minimum cost to our nation. In an era of reduced Pentagon spending, the Guard can provide the necessary war fighting resources for a fraction of the cost. The Department of Defense Total Force Policy Study and the Congressional Budget Office estimate that Army National Guard units cost 25 to 33 percent of the cost of similar active component units.

Ready, Willing, and Capable

The Army and Air National Guard represent a stable force that acts as a storehouse for skilled professional personnel and an effective structure to retain skilled personnel departing the active services.

The National Guard has proven itself. It has performed and continues to perform in operations here and abroad. Through nation-building missions, the Guard has improved the quality of life for many in Honduras, Jamaica, Panama and across the United States. When integrated as a full partner in the Total Force, the National Guard has provided ready and capable units in response to deployment orders and performed its assigned missions.



In times of state emergencies, the National Guard has contributed to relief efforts, disaster assistance, and aided firefighters in containment and control of forest fires. More than 1,000 National Guard members volunteered and arrived at Ground Zero in New York within hours of the World Trade Center attacks. The National Guard is still on duty at the nation's airports, water treatment facilities, bridges and nuclear power plants. The Guard continues to provide security as well as peace of mind for all U.S. citizens.

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More than 300,000 National Guard members were called up to serve in Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Some freed up active duty service members for overseas duty while others were deployed overseas. These citizen-soldiers are continuing to do

everything from law enforcement, medical and intelligence to combat air patrol, air refueling operations and security operations.

Recent increases in the overall defense budget have not corrected the funding shortfalls in the National Guard's Operations & Maintenance, Personnel, Modernization and Military Construction accounts. With the increasing Operations Tempo (OPTEMPO), these readiness shortages are becoming more critical.

The National Guard is the nation's community-based defense force, providing a link to the

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American people. Often, the only military uniform the American public sees is the one worn by a National Guard member while performing domestic missions. This is a priceless commodity.

The Guard is your next-door neighbor: your truck driver, lawyer, teacher, or doctor. When the National Guard is called, 'America goes to war!' The Guard is family – Americans at their best! The National Guard: protectors of freedom, defenders of peace!

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States' 2005 Legislative Goals contains EANGUS' highest priority issues for this session of Congress. EANGUS believes the following issues affecting Enlisted members of the National Guard deserve attention from Congress.

Homeland Defense

The events of September 11, 2001, have brought the subject of homeland defense to the forefront of issues facing Congress. Just a few short years ago, the attitude toward security on the home front was almost one of indifference. We now must ensure that our airports, nuclear power plants, and water supplies are well protected so that they will not become the Weapons of Mass Destruction.

The role of the National Guard continues to evolve in the area of homeland security. It is also important to ensure that the National Guard can continue to be utilized in its primary federal mission. Certainly, the Guard must have a part in protecting the homeland; however, it is equally imperative for the National Guard to maintain its federal mission. This means that the Congress must ensure that the National Guard is properly trained, manned and equipped. Funding increases must be made to increase the capabilities of the National Guard. The dual mission of both the Army and Air National Guard are a vital resource, not just to the nation, but also to the Army and Air Force. The Guard is part-time in nature and therefore can provide maximum defense capability at a minimal cost to our nation. It is imperative that the National Guard remains a vital part of the Total Force as a storehouse for skilled personnel and an effective structure to retain skilled personnel departing the active services.

The National Guard was there when the first of the World Trade Towers came down and the National Guard will continue to have a key role to play in securing the homeland. The National Guard will continue to work in cooperation with other agencies to ensure that the American public is adequately protected.



Funding for Civil Support Team Training Facility

In FY99, ten (10) Rapid Assessment and Initial Detection Teams (now called Civil Support Teams-CSTs) were authorized by Congress. Since that time Congress has authorized an additional forty-five (45) CSTs. The CSTs have a unique civil support mission. Thus, the traditional warfighting-related training classes of the Army and Air Force are unable to meet their critical training requirements. The National Guard CSTs currently go to numerous sites around the country to receive their initial core training. Numerous training courses are taught by other federal agencies, at a large expense to the Guard. As an example, the New Mexico National Guard CST team spent approximately \$250K in travel and \$150K in course costs in the first year of training.

The Guard has experienced priority problems when attempting to receive this external training. This contributes to initial training times being in excess of a year. Additionally, the CSTs have found that most of this training is only partially applicable to their missions.

A dedicated training facility for National Guard CSTs would save considerable money, improve training efficiencies, and significantly reduce the time spent traveling around the country to many different training facilities. If this facility was located in a mild weather environment and close to a major metropolitan area, estimated initial core training times could be reduced from more than one year to less than two months. This facility would be joint service and joint use in that it could house a local CST, a counter-drug unit, and related National Guard border security and Homeland Security entities. The CST trainees could also perform pilot

evaluations of technologies that benefit CST units in other states. CSTs from all over the country could receive their core training at this facility which would be supplemented by collective field training at existing DoD facilities such as Ft. Leonard Wood, Dugway, Ft. Mc Clelland and others.

Civil Support Team Training for the Army National Guard

The WMD-CST's were established to provide support to civil authorities in the event of an incident involving a weapon of mass destruction. These National Guard teams provide DOD's unique expertise and capabilities to assist state governors in preparing for and responding to chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear incidents as part of a state's emergency response structure. Each team consists of 22 highly skilled, full-time National Guard members who are federally resourced, trained and exercised, and employ federally approved CBRN response doctrine. The WMD-CST's mission includes identifying agents and substances, assessing current and projected consequences, advising on response measures, and assisting with requests for additional military support.

This training program harnesses the power of the Internet and existing networks to deliver high quality learning by bringing together intelligent tutors, distributed subject matter experts, real time in-depth learning management and a diverse array of support tools to ensure a responsive, high quality "learner centric" system. Structured training provides a deliberate focus on training objectives by immersing participants in a realistic scenario, with cues and conditions set up to support a planned sequence of task performance.

The modular nature of a virtual environment/structured training system based on interactive courseware and commercial gaming technology presents the ability to incorporate realistic 3D models of key infrastructured facilities and other important locations to train for a variety of "what if" situations. This effort is a state-of-the art technology-based solution for enhancing national security through training and education to our National Guard Civil Support Teams.

In order to sustain and improve the high level of initial training required for the WMD-CSTs, a comprehensive recurrent training program must focus on individual and collective training in interagency operations and battle staff skills. This training improves the essential aspects of civil-military interoperability and mission planning. Deployments in response to the attacks of September 11 and since September 11 have validated the requirement for an effective situational training exercise program. The Civil Support Team Training (CSTT) program is aimed at providing the National Guard's Civil Support Teams with that training.

EANGUS urges authorization and funding to field the Civil Support Team Training (CSTT) program, a simulations-based training program for the WMD-CSTs, and expand the scenario data base.

Weapons of Mass Destruction Mobile Chemical Agent Detection System

In order for National Guard WMD-Civil Support Teams to respond quickly to any WMD threat, Civil Support Teams must have the equipment necessary to accurately detect, identify, and map dangerous chemicals. The recent emergence of Mobile Chemical Agent Detection technology that detects dangerous chemicals from safe, standoff distances makes this possible. The Mobile Chemical Agent Detection (MCAD) system should be funded and procured in FY2004.

The Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams Retention and Incentive Pay

The Department of Defense has deemed it necessary to fund CSTs throughout the country to fight the war on terrorism and potential use of WMD. The CSTs are being negatively impacted by the high OPTEMPO and the higher salaries being offered by civilian companies seeking highly trained hazardous material technicians trained in WMD.

Each member of the team undergoes a rigorous eighteen-month training program, above the normal required military training: 600 hours are specialized training in chemical, biological and radiological agents. When these members are fully trained, civilian companies are seeking them out for related civilian applications of their military training. The CSTs become competitors with civilian companies who can offer higher compensation than the military.

Much of the required training is away from home station and the team member incurs multiple episodes of Temporary Duty (TDY), frequently in successive assignments. The WMD-CST's are required to maintain a C-1 readiness rating. CST members are on-call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. No other National Guard unit has to maintain these requirements. The Army's Tech Escort Unit (TEN) and the Marine's Chemical Biological Incendiary Response Force (CBIRF) have similar missions and receive special duty assignment pay (SDAp).

Civil Support Teams Special Duty Assignment Pay needs to be set at a level consistent with civilian compensation levels. This compensation initiative will serve as an incentive to remain assigned to respective Civil Support Teams in spite of the rigorous OPTEMPO required to maintain readiness. It will also help bring compensation closer to what these highly trained personnel can earn in the private sector.

Technology Needs and Solutions for National Guard Civil Support Missions

The National Guard has numerous Civil Support missions, including those related to responding to Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) attacks and natural disasters within the United States, counter-drug activities, border security and other activities. Equipment for these missions is not commonly found in the active component.

National Guard personnel will be operating in CONUS, frequently in urban environments, undertaking missions that are different from the traditional Army and Air Force warfighting roles. Their new missions will require additional technologies and associated training that are currently not available. A better understanding of their needs for equipment and incorporating new emerging technologies, will help in the preparation of technology development roadmaps. These roadmaps will help define budgets for future technology development. Guard personnel could also benefit from technical assistance during their operations which may include response simulation support from appropriate providers.

EANGUS recommends that funding be provided to the National Guard Bureau to pursue the development and acquisition of necessary technologies to support the needs of National Guard personnel in their Civil Support missions.

National Guard Force Protection and Communication Programs

The threat of terrorist targeting of federal and state government, military and civilian facilities and population centers has become a grim reality. As a result, the Department of Defense has placed increased emphasis on Military Support to Civil Authority (MSCA) in support of civilian first responders to such an event. National Guard forces will respond to the crisis and increase the overall security of communities in all States, territories and the District of Columbia.

As a national Homeland Security asset, the National Guard has a responsibility to enhance the effectiveness of a coordinated response to such an event and to provide effective communications support to local, state and federal government and military responders. To effectively provide the necessary level of support required, the National Guard must expand current communications access and interface capability of existing systems required for this mission.

EANGUS recommends that Congress support acquisition of the Mobile Communications suites for the Plans, Operations and Military Support Officer in all States, Territories and the District of Columbia; for the National Guard Bureau; for all National Guard Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams; and Operational Readiness Floats.

Commercial-Off-The-Shelf (COTS) Surveillance Systems for National Guard Counterdrug Units and Support Homeland Security Missions

The National Guard is the principal military component of the Department of Defense of the United States capable of providing full-time active duty aviation and ground support for counterdrug and public safety assistance to civilian authorities.

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 demonstrated that National Guard forces need additional equipment to meet emerging missions for Homeland Security.

These Commercial-Off-The-Shelf (COTS) Surveillance Systems, which include Gyro-Stabilized "Stedi-Eye" Binoculars, with night vision and Video Down Link Systems, are in short supply. This specialized, multi-functional equipment will allow National Guard Forces to conduct surveillance missions important to the Homeland Security of the United States.

This COTS technology will provide crucial "real time" video images to command centers and mobile units. These systems are immediately available, providing state-of-the-art surveillance capabilities today. These modern COTS Surveillance Systems provide the National Guard with system interoperability with many civil law enforcement responders.

EANGUS recommends that the Army National Guard be equipped with COTS Surveillance Systems such as the Stedi-Eye with Night Vision capability and video down-link system for the National Guard to accomplish the Homeland Security missions that it will be tasked with.

Equitable Personnel Benefits

The current world situation has resulted in a Total Force: Active, National Guard and Reserve, performing duty side-by-side. The National Guard and Reserve Components maintain the same high readiness standards as their active duty counterparts and participate in all real world contingencies on a regular and increasing frequency. Over the years, the National Guard and Reserve Components have increasingly contributed to the superior capabilities of our nation's military. However, incentives to join and continue service in the National Guard and Reserves still do not mirror those provided to the active component soldiers and airmen they serve alongside.



The increased role of the National Guard in the nation's security takes the Guard member away from his or her family and civilian employment more and more frequently. In many cases, the pay and incentives the soldier or airman receives are not comparable to that of their civilian employment. This puts an increased hardship on the family.

A variety of benefits are available to members of the active and reserve components, but some of those benefits are inequitable between the active and reserve components. Many of those inequities have been identified and corrected by Congress, but many still exist and are in need of correction. These inequities create an appearance of unfairness for members of the National Guard and Reserve components.

Retirement for Reserve Component Members

Earlier Retired Pay Eligibility

Members of the Active Components are eligible for an immediate annuity upon attaining twenty years of creditable service at a minimum of 50 percent of base pay. Members of the Reserve Components must wait to receive their annuity until age 60, regardless at what age they complete twenty "good" years of honorable service and the pay is based on a point system. The age limit for receipt of retired pay by National Guard and Reserve Component service members was set decades ago when the National Guard and Reserve were not relied upon the way they are today. Today's increased deployments of National Guard and Reserve members, some for extended periods of time, means that Guard and Reserve members will accrue less in their civilian retirement plans, less years of service to apply toward their civilian annuity and less money placed into their 401k and IRA plans. Legislation to allow for immediate annuity would help recruit and retain members by offering a more equitable retirement compared to their active component counterparts. Legislation should be enacted to allow for receipt of earlier retired pay upon attaining twenty years of honorable military service for reserve component members.

Immediate Medical/Dental Benefit for Retired National Guard Members

Just like their retired pay, National Guard retirees must wait until age sixty to enroll in TRICARE and receive medical and dental benefits. EANGUS believes that immediate Medical/Dental benefits for Guardsmen at retirement would also be an important retention tool.

Concurrent Receipt

Military retired pay and veterans' disability compensation are each earned in their own right—retired pay for an arduous career of uniformed service, and disability compensation for the pain, suffering, and lost future earnings resulting from service-connected disabilities. Currently, disabled retirees with decades of service, now forfeit most or all of their earned retired pay to receive the same disability compensation paid a similarly disabled veteran with far fewer years of service. All understood the time and sacrifice required to earn retired pay; however, none were ever told while serving that it could be taken away from them if their service career ended up impairing their health and future earning power.

In recent years, Congress has gone a long way toward correcting this inequity for servicemembers. But there is still more to do. Legislation needs to be expanded to retirees not covered, service members with 40% or lower ratings and military disability retirees with less than 20 years of service.

It is wrong to force our most honored veterans to fund their own disability compensation. Congress must enact legislation to appropriate full funding for retired pay restoration for every military retired professional.

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Technician Retirement Eligibility

National Guard Technicians are dual-status – full-time civilian employees who must be a member of the National Guard. If they lose their military positions, they lose their civilian jobs. The military Technician must continue to work until age 55 before being able to retire without a reduced annuity. Many are forced to retire with penalties because of work-related complications which leave them unable to meet strict military physical requirements. EANGUS believes that adequate funding and statutory authority to implement changes to the Technician Retirement System is necessary. Technicians should be allowed to retire at age 50 with 20 years of Technician service or at any age after 27 years of Technician service with no reduction in retired pay.

Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA)

The SCRA (formerly the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act, SSCRA) was passed by Congress to provide protection for individuals called to active duty in any of the military services. The SCRA suspends certain civil obligations to enable service members to devote full attention to duty. It protects the individual and his family from foreclosures, evictions, and installment contracts for the purchase of real or personal property if the service member's ability to make payments is "materially affected" by the military service. The SCRA entitles a person to reinstatement of any health insurance that was in effect on the day before they were called to active duty and was terminated during the period of active duty. It also protects the service member against termination of private life insurance policies during the term of active service.

Credit Rating Protection

When Reserve Component members are mobilized to active duty, they may face negative differentials between civilian salaries and their active duty military pay and allowances. Because of this loss of income, reserve component families often face serious problems including maintaining a positive credit history.

While SCRA provides some protection, it needs improvement particularly in light of increased numbers of mobilizations together with a smaller military force. These combined factors result in reserve component service members who are more likely to experience pay differentials because they are more likely to be mobilized because of a smaller military and the increased OPTEMPO.

There have been instances where Guard and Reserve members deployed overseas have had their credit histories impaired as a result of their military service. Soldiers and airmen have come home to find themselves faced with negative credit reports that adversely affect their ability to qualify for car loans, mortgages or other credit.



Because of the speed and intensity of mobilizations, service members often do not have adequate opportunity to protect themselves from damage to their credit standing and adverse credit reporting. Increasingly, reserve component service members must draw on retirement and other savings accounts to maintain their families and then face financial ruin when these funds run out.

EANGUS believes that the SCRA, and any other applicable law, such as the Fair Credit Reporting Act, should be amended to provide relief for involuntarily mobilized members of the reserve

components of the U.S. Armed Forces. The law should provide that no adverse judicial or administrative action may be taken affecting a reservist's credit history from the date of mobilization until 180 days after discharge from active duty. This protection should include, but not be limited to, any adverse action by a credit-reporting agency. Adverse information covering this period should only be reported after 180 days following discharge, if the returning reservist has been afforded full due process rights to review and challenge any adverse action which is being referred to a credit agency for reporting.

Providing Homeowner's and Renter's Insurance Protections

Members of Active Duty and the Selected Reserve who own or rent homes or apartments are deploying from their homes for extended periods of time to support this nation's military objectives. Many deploying military members have insurance policies that do not cover damage to the home or apartment if the apartment or home is vacant or unoccupied for a period of time. Some insurance companies will cancel insurance policies if the military member's home or apartment is vacant or unoccupied for a period of time.

EANGUS urges Congress to enact legislation amending the SCRA to provide protections that would prevent insurance companies from: 1) canceling an insured's homeowner's or renter's insurance policy when the insured is away from the insured premises on military orders; 2) canceling an insured's homeowner's or renter's insurance policy due to the insured's status as a member of the Active Duty or Selected Reserve; 3) denying coverage on any claim submitted by an insured where damage occurred while the insured was on military orders away from the insured premises.

Compensation

Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH)

Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) is paid out at different levels based on whether or not the service member has dependents. Deployed members of the Selected Reserve, whether single or married with dependents, own or rent homes or apartments. When single members are deployed and receive government housing, they do not receive BAH to continue their rent or mortgage. However, our single members still have to pay that rent or mortgage, even if they are not living at home while on active duty.

EANGUS urges legislation to provide for BAH for single members called to active duty, even when government housing is supplied. Married members should have the option to receive a housing allowance based on where they are assigned or where they live, whichever is higher.

Development of Common Benefits for Operational Missions under Title 32 USC to Ensure Parity for Guard and Reserve Members Regardless of Whether Service Is under Title 10 or Title 32

A variety of benefits are available to members of the active and reserve components, but some of those benefits are either not available or available at a reduced rate (e.g. BAH II) to those Guard members who are activated under Title 32 status for operational missions instead of Title 10 status. This lack of parity of benefits creates inequities for members of the National Guard and Reserve components.

EANGUS believes that for pay and entitlement purposes, Titles 10 and Title 32 active duty should be identical. It is frequently in the best interest of the country for National Guard members to serve in Title 32 status. There needs to be a common pay and benefit system for all operational missions regardless of whether the duty is performed under Title 10 or 32 to reflect the new and changing duties, risks, and obligations of the Reserve Forces in the current world environment. This resolution addresses the whole spectrum of Reserve pay and benefits, including BAH, veteran's status, and TRICARE benefits.

EANGUS urges Congress to enact legislation to eliminate the existing lack of parity in benefits between duty performed under Title 10 and Title 32 by allowing military service under Title 32 to be creditable in the same manner as that of military service under Title 10 for operational missions.

Aviation Incentive Pay and Hazardous Duty Pay for Members of the Reserve Components

National Guard personnel receive incentive pay for undertaking an aviation career or for certain hazardous duty. The amount of pay is determined by: the type of duty; service branch; and for flight duty, rank and/or years of aviation service.

- Hazardous Duty Incentive Pay (HDIP) applies to eleven categories of hazardous duty. Only three involve reservists in numbers great enough to be economically significant: 1) Flight pay for non-rated crew members (Army, Marine & Coast Guard); 2) Parachutist duty; also known as "jump pay"; 3) Explosive ordnance disposal (EOD).
- Aviation Career Incentive Pay (ACIP) applies to rate crewmembers (pilots) in all service branches. It is designed to attract and retain volunteers in an aviation career.
- Career Enlisted Flight Incentive Pay (CEFIP) applies to non-rated enlisted crewmembers (Air Force & Navy). It is designed to attract and retain volunteers in an aviation career.

- Career Enlisted Flight Incentive Pay (CEFIP) applies to non-rated enlisted crewmembers (Air Force & Navy). It is designed to both compensate for the hazardous nature of the duty and provide an incentive to attract and retain volunteers to aviation specialties.

Each reservist must meet the same minimum calendar performance and training standards as their active duty counterpart to qualify for payment of incentive pay. Aviation reservists, in particular, spend many unpaid hours maintaining the expected level of professional knowledge in order to meet the required standards expected for the operation of today's complex military aircraft.

All reservists receive their incentive pay by an amount equal to 1/30th of the appropriate incentive pay per each duty day paid. Therefore, on average, the reservist receives 4/30th of the appropriate incentive pay for each monthly drill performed. An airborne qualified soldier receives \$20.00/month jump pay for one four period drill; instead of the full amount of \$150.00/month.

Fairness and equality in compensation dictate that reservists who are required to perform the same number of training tasks to the same standard or who are subject to the same degree of risk should receive the same incentive compensation, in full, for that duty or exposure.

EANGUS believes that full-rate incentive and hazardous duty pay must be paid for qualified members of the Guard and Reserve.

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Military Technicians

Increase in Military Leave for National Guard Technicians Supporting Overseas Operations

The provision for 15 days or 120 hours of military leave has become inadequate for National Guard Technicians to meet assigned tasks; therefore an updated policy in the law is necessary. Title 5, section 6326, provides for military leave for technicians. It should be modified to allow for additional military leave for overseas deployments only.

In 1997, Congress authorized 44 days of military leave with the provision that the member be in a "no pay" status for the military duty, earning points only. This allowed them time to transit to an overseas location. A change to allow additional paid leave for overseas duty is necessary. Full time technicians provide training for traditional members. It is the basis for their existence. Training and guidance does not stop when units deploy. A portion of the deployed forces will always be technicians. Rotations may be in 14-15 day increments. However, there are many cases when there is a requirement for more than one rotation during a calendar year due to a shortfall in qualified personnel or the availability of personnel. In the Air National Guard, specifically with their Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF) commitments, the requirement for military technicians increases.

EANGUS urges modification of the language in Title 5 to read: (d) (1) At a military reserve technician's request, the technician is entitled to leave without loss of, or reduction in pay, credit for time in service, or

performance or efficiency rating for each day, not to exceed 30 workdays in a calendar year, in which such person is on active duty, as authorized pursuant to section 12315 of Title 10, under section 12301 (b) or 12301 (d) of Title 10 (other than active duty during a war or national emergency declared by the President or Congress) for participation in operations outside the United States, its Territories and possessions.

Use of 44-day Leave Program During Periods of Declared National Emergencies

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996 authorized an additional 44 days of military leave for military technicians participating in non-combat operations outside the United States, its territories and possessions, other than active duty during a war or national emergency declared by the President or Congress.

Following the events of September 11th, National Guard volunteers from across the nation answered the call and departed for OCONUS locations. They deployed under the assumption they would be able to use the 44-day Military Leave Program. However, the President declared a national emergency, which precludes the use of the program.

Removal of the words “or national emergency” would permit National Guard Technicians the ability to participate in non-combat operations outside the United States even following the declaration of a National Emergency by the President of the United States or Congress without fear of financial difficulties during periods of active duty.

Burial

Burial Rights for Reservists in National Cemeteries

National Cemeteries are intended for those who have served their country in the defense of this nation. National Guard and Reserve component personnel only become eligible for burial benefits upon completion of 20 qualifying years of service for retirement while the active component counterparts need only serve 24 months. The equitable solution is for the National Guard and Reserve personnel to qualify for benefits upon successful completion of the Minimum Service Obligation (MSO).

Other Important Personnel Issues

Inconsistencies in the Pay System for Mobilized National Guard Members

Soldiers mobilized during Desert Storm/Desert Shield were converted to the Joint Uniformed Military Pay System – Active Component (AC). They experienced insurmountable pay problems and many were not resolved until the service member was released from active duty (REFRAD) and returned to the JUMPS – Reserve Component (RC) pay system. Procedures were changed and National Guard members mobilized currently remain in the JUMPS-RC pay system but are not authorized to utilize the various options available to their AC counterparts. They cannot take out allotments and they are not authorized to make child support payments. This creates a severe hardship on these soldiers for they cannot make arrangements to meet their obligations while mobilized.

Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) should change the current pay system to reflect a mobilized service member's status. Upon being placed in this "mobilized status," the service member would be entitled to the same pay options as their AC counterparts for the duration of the mobilization. This change should increase readiness of Reserve Component service members.

Tax Deductions for Inactive Duty Travel

National Guard and other Reserve Component members incur numerous expenses that are a direct and unavoidable result of service on behalf of the national defense of the United States of America. They incur unreimbursed expenditures for travel and transportation to drill sites, meals, lodging, uniforms, and other duty-related items. The Tax Reform Act of 1986 changed the treatment of these expenditures from reductions to gross income to part of the itemized deductions. This change totally eliminated the deduction for those who do not itemize.

Legislation passed last year allows an above-the-line deduction for those travel expenses incurred when the drill site is more than 100 miles away. EANGUS believes that members of the Guard and Reserve should be allowed to deduct all out-of-pocket expenses, including uniform expenses, incurred as a result of membership in the National Guard or Reserves without a distance restriction.



Veteran Status for Benefits of Certain Retired National Guard Personnel

Certain retired men and women of the National Guard with twenty or more years of creditable service are qualified for federal military retirement benefits, but have never served on active duty, and therefore were not issued a DD Form 214. These men and women without a DD214 are not considered "veterans" by the Department of Veterans Affairs and are denied significant benefits they have earned and deserve.

EANGUS believes that the retired men and women of the National Guard described above should be considered veterans for the purpose of establishing eligibility for benefits provided by and through the Department of Veterans Affairs, including but not limited to, health care services and medical treatment at Veterans Affairs hospitals and similar facilities.

Retired Member Veterans Home Residency

National Guard retired members have faithfully served this great state and nation for a minimum of twenty years. They receive a retirement annuity and full retirement benefits at age 60 except for the eligibility to reside in "State" veterans homes. Federal and state funding supports construction and operation of State veterans homes. Non-Veterans Administration resident's costs are approximately double the VA rates in State veterans homes.

EANGUS believes that both state and federal regulations should be changed to allow residency in state veterans' homes for National Guard retirees eligible for federal retired annuity payments.

Inactive Duty Travel Lodging for Reserve Component Soldiers

National Guard Bureau (NGB) statistics indicate that automobile accidents continue to be the number one killer of soldiers. The majority of these accidents occur while the soldier is traveling from their unit of assignment or duty station. These accidents are usually the result of fatigue. Most soldiers have the option to

stay in transient housing, stay at an armory, pay expenses for lodging “out of pocket,” or drive to and from their home of record between consecutive Inactive Duty Training (IDT) periods. Some soldiers sleep in their Privately Owned Vehicles (POVs) rather than drive the long distance or pay lodging expenses.

The law clearly authorizes funding for lodging during Inactive Duty Training (IDT) periods: (1) The FY 2000 National Defense Authorization Act, Section 631, Provisions of Lodging in Kind for Reservists Performing Training Duty and Not Otherwise Entitled to Travel and Transportation Allowances; (2) 37 USC 404 (I) which states that when transient government housing is not available or is inadequate, the Secretary concerned may provide lodging; and (3) DODI 1225.9, para 6.5, which states that the Secretary concerned may pay the service charge and other expenses for this lodging out of funds approved for operation and maintenance using the government charge card. Therefore, the authority for lodging during IDT periods clearly exists; however, the lack of DA implementing instructions and funding has kept the program from being implemented nationwide.

EANGUS urges the Assistant Secretary of Defense to provide implementing instructions and funding for Inactive Duty Travel lodging for the Army National Guard.

Buy Back of Title 32 Service Time

Service while serving in Title 10 status is eligible for credit to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS), while service in Title 32 status, even though it may be performing identical duty, is not creditable.

This inequity should be eliminated by allowing military service under Title 32 to be creditable in the same manner as that of military service under Title 10, and provide for creditable buy-back toward a Civil Service Retirement.

Readiness Issues

Full-time Support Manpower in the Army and Air National Guard

In response to the attacks on September 11, 2001, the United States is presently at war using an impressive array of joint military forces and civilian agencies to combat terrorism at home and abroad. Our Nation's military forces, including the Active and Reserve Components are fully participating in this ongoing Global War on Terrorism.

Nationwide, the Army National Guard has a shortfall in full-time manning. While other reserve branches of the Armed Forces are manned at substantially higher percentages of their requirements, the Army National Guard (ARNG) and Army Reserve are manned at approximately 58%.

The reserve components are manned approximately as follows:

- Air National Guard – 92%
- Air Force Reserve – 92%
- Navy Reserve – 100%
- Marine Corps Reserve – 96%
- Department of Defense Total – 73%

The National Guard Bureau has proposed increasing the ARNG full-time manning to 71% over a ten-year period. This, however, is too long. Maintaining 71% authorizations would allow for increased readiness due to increased manning. Manning at 58% takes its toll on unit readiness. It is virtually impossible for units to maintain readiness requirements with such limited full-time support.

EANGUS supports resourcing to attain 71% of full-time manning requirements in five years. This increase would result in AGR end strength to 41,321 and 42,329 by FY 2007. Furthermore, the ramp for full-time manning will be at the rate of 3,455 AGR personnel and 3,423 Technician personnel per year. The ramp shall also include appropriate increases in controlled grade authorizations and that any additional missions will be resourced with additional full-time support resources.

Tiered Resourcing

The United States Army has just experienced the most recent mobilization on the GWOT. Currently units in the Army National Guard have 3 categories of readiness goals C-1, C-2, C-3. Units are resourced at the readiness level with an overall resourcing of 78% of the requirements.

As units were deployed, they were required to be at a C-1 level for Combat Arms and C-2 for Combat Support and Combat Service Support. To meet the deployment readiness goals, extensive personnel and equipment cross leveling was required. As a result many non-deploying units' readiness was seriously degraded, in some cases reducing the readiness to C4.

EANGUS supports increasing the readiness goals of all units in the Army National Guard to a minimum of C-2 with 100% of the required resourcing.



National Guard Advanced Information Technology Services

The National Guard must have integrated and consolidated information technology services to support both federal and state missions. The Army National Guard needs automated information management methods to improve unit administration, training, the quality of planning, and speed of mobilization efforts.

The Reserve Component Automation System (RCAS) is providing an integrated capability that supports mobilization and improves day-to-day administration and management of Army Reserve and Guard forces. Distributive Training Technology Project (DTTP) facilities increase access to readiness training by providing it remotely, thus promoting the knowledge, skills and abilities of National Guard members. DTTP also provides command and control capabilities in the states and delivers distributed training in support of Homeland Security, Weapons of Mass Destruction, Counterdrug operations, State Partnership Program initiatives, and Information Operations initiatives. DTTP assists states in developing higher education programs that leverage DTTP technology for shared community use at state and local levels. Guardnet, as a shared use network, provides the telecommunications connectivity that supports RCAS, DTTP and other National Guard information technology efforts. Guardnet has also been identified by the White House as a key component of the homeland security “network of networks.”

Because the acquisition phase of RCAS ended 30 Sep 03, as did the RCAS contract, the National Guard Bureau’s Advanced Information Technology Services (AITS) contract is being developed to support the integration and consolidation of Guardnet, RCAS, DTTP, and other information technology efforts. AITS will provide flexibility for the National Guard in meeting its federal and State missions and will support inclusion of additional tasks and/or organizations.

EANGUS recommends funding for the AITS effort in the Future Years’ Defense Program, and the FY2006 authorization and appropriations.

Procurement of Individual Small Arms Marksmanship Training Systems (LMTS) for the Army and Air National Guard

The Laser Marksmanship Training System (LMTS) is a proven laser-based marksmanship training system engaging various types of targets using a soldier’s own assigned weapon without the use of live ammunition.



The Army Research Institute (ARI) states “The LMTS is used to support realistic marksmanship instruction to identify soldiers in need of remedial instruction, and deliver that training when needed, prior to live-fire qualification.” LMTS supports individual marksmanship from the first stage through advanced sniper skill level. LMTS is the only basic rifle marksmanship system that can be used indoors in a regulated environment or outdoors in realistic weather and light conditions. It is deployed as a domestically non-destructive, urban friendly system that meets all OSHA safety and environmental requirements for such weapon systems. In addition, LMTS allows “shoot and move” training without additional facility costs. LMTS contributes to individual soldier

and unit readiness, improves skill retention, better prepares for unit mobilization, greatly reduces unit training costs and achieves environmental cost avoidance associated with live fire lead – based ammunition training.

Over 700 LMTS systems have been deployed to units in all 50 states and territories. An estimated 70,000 Guardsmen and women have been successfully trained on the LMTS system. HQDA DCSPOS approved an Operational Needs Statement (ONS) for the Reserve Components on 2 July 2001, in addition to adding the LMTS to the TRACOC approved Field Manuel, FM 2-22.9. The US Army Marksmanship Proponent at the US Army Infantry School, Ft. Benning, GA, endorses LMTS. The validated unfunded requirement is for an additional 1,445 LMTS systems to be fielded to the National Guard.

The Army National Guard is earning significant cost avoidance savings at the unit armories and facilities, saving valuable training time by reducing travel to and from ranges, grouping, and zeroing service weapons, saving an average 55% on ammunition expended, and achieving outstanding first time “go” rates, and reducing the number of re-fires to achieve weapons qualification through the utilization of LMTS. All of these can be achieved whether at a unit facility, at pre-mobilization or during unit mobilization when called to state/federal active duty or for emerging missions under Homeland Defense.

EANGUS recommends that the National Guard Bureau, the Department of the Army, the Department of the Air Force, the Department of Defense and the Congress of the United States continue funding and procurement for sufficient Laser Marksmanship Training Systems for full fielding of LMTS to the Army and Air National Guard to maintain marksmanship training on individually assigned weapons for improving readiness rates through greater first time weapons qualifications, and saving scarce OPTEMPO funding.

Combat Arms Training System

The Army National Guard currently has over 250 small arms training systems of mixed technology and capabilities fielded across the states. Of this number, 246 are of the older generation analog systems which need to be modernized to meet the increasingly demanding training requirements of individual soldiers and units. The Army Guard began modernizing these systems in FY 04, upgrading to the more capable CATS-Army (Combat Arms Training System – Army), but require additional funding to bring all of these systems up to the latest in training capability.

National Guard soldiers must be capable of performing missions of both Homeland Security and Homeland Defense anywhere in the world. This requires them to be fully trained to respond to situations of varying levels of threat, including domestic violence, anti-terrorism training and war fighting. Modernization of these older version systems provides enhanced training in marksmanship, less than-lethal judgmental scenarios, and combat scenarios including combined arms missions: roles in which the ARNG must maintain proficiency.

The Air National Guard has also procured these modernized systems, giving the National Guard the capability to conduct joint training using the systems in a distance training format involving both ARNG and ANG units.

With the increased mission reliance on the Army National Guard units for operational deployments and in view of their role in anti-terrorism, it is imperative that they be funded to support the training proficiency afforded by the modernization of these small unit combat arms training systems.

EANGUS urges funding to upgrade from older generation small arms training systems to the more capable CATS-Army virtual trainer.

Health Care Issues

TRICARE Access for All Reserve Component Members

With the National Guard and Reserves now serving throughout the world in the Global War on Terrorism, ensuring that our troops have the best available access to quality healthcare is a top priority. More than 150,000 Army and Air National Guard members have been mobilized and deployed to missions in support of the largest Guard call-up since the Korean War. The health of a Reserve Component member, especially at time of mobilization, is a prime factor in readiness and deployability. National Guard and Reserve members must maintain the same readiness standards as their active duty counterparts.

Medical readiness is essential if National Guard and Reserve members are to continue their role as part of a cohesive, seamless force. Although Guard and Reserve members maintain employment in the civilian sector, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports a significant number, 20 percent or more, have inadequate or no health insurance at all.

Medical readiness is essential if National Guard and Reserve members are to continue their role as part of a cohesive, seamless force.

Continuity of care is an important issue for the families of National Guard and Reserve members. They experience problems when moving from their civilian health care to TRICARE when the servicemember is deployed. They frequently must change physicians, which is stressful for family members, such as a pregnant spouse, who require continuing care. Members and their families can also experience problems when returning to private healthcare from TRICARE if there is a condition which began while in the TRICARE system. Minimizing or eliminating this problem would be an enhancement to recruiting and retention.

National Guard and Reserve members train hard, take time off from their civilian jobs, and make many family sacrifices in order to serve. They are expected to be a ready force when deployed. To facilitate the use of the National Guard and Reserve as an integral part of our Armed Forces, we need a consistent health care option that covers our members and their families whether they are deployed or not.

In addition, such coverage would provide employers with some relief from high cost, employer-sponsored health plans. Employers of Guard and Reserve members make sacrifices of their own when their Reservist-employees are activated. Easing the stress on these employers will not only reward their patriotism, but will also assist them in their decision to hire and retain National Guard and Reserve employees.

In 2003, Congress authorized TRICARE as an option for National Guard and Reserve members who did not have employer-sponsored health care or were unemployed. The program was never implemented by the Department of Defense. The FY2005 National Defense Authorization Act created a new program that provides TRICARE Standard, on a cost-share basis, for Guard and Reserve members and their families who have been on active duty for more than 90 days since September 11, 2001. Access to TRICARE will last for a year for each 90 days served on active duty.



While this program will provide health care for a percentage of Guard and Reserve members for a limited period of time, it will not address the readiness or continuity of care issues so important to our members. EANGUS urges Congress to authorize and earmark funding for permanent health care in the TRICARE system for all members of the National Guard and Reserves and their families.

Dental Coverage for Traditional Guard Members

National Guard and Reserve troops are required to maintain medical and dental standards for continued membership in the National Guard. The Department of Defense (DoD) requires National Guard and Reserve members to have an annual dental examination. DoD found dental readiness problems throughout the military -- readiness problems resulting in significant amounts of lost duty time.

An important aspect of deployability of a National Guard or Reserve member is dental readiness. Reservists have a personal responsibility to attain and maintain Dental Classification 2 standards in order to deploy. Class 2 requires that the National Guard or Reserve member's oral condition is not expected to result in dental emergencies within 12 months.

Traditional members of the National Guard are currently forced by DoD to pay out-of-pocket to maintain dental readiness.

The Department of Defense does offer a dental program to Selected Reserve members and their families. This program provides diagnostic and preventive care for a monthly premium, and other services including restorative, endodontic, periodontic and oral surgery services on a cost-share basis, with an annual maximum payment of \$1,200 per enrollee per year. However, only 5% of eligible members are enrolled. Because of the annual cap, an individual would take several years under the current program to go from a dental readiness level three to a level two, provided no additional dental problems occurred.

In 2002, the Army National Guard (ARNG) issued a memorandum requiring all ARNG soldiers assigned to units scheduled to deploy within 75 days of mobilization to have an annual dental

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screen and be brought up to Class 2 standards. The Army provided the funding. Soldiers with repairable dental problems were having teeth pulled at mobilization stations in the interests of time and money instead of having the proper dental care administered. The Director of the ARNG and Command Sergeant Major found this practice inappropriate and asked for funding to remedy the situation.

The FY2004 Defense Authorization Act contained a provision that allows DoD to provide medical and dental screening for Selected Reserve members who are assigned to a unit that has been alerted that the unit will be mobilized in support of a operational mission or contingency operation. Waiting for an alert to begin screening will be too late in many cases. During the mobilization for Iraqi Freedom, the average time from alert to mobilization was less than 14 days, not sufficient time to improve dental readiness. In some cases, units were mobilized before receiving their alert orders.

Civilian health care costs are increasing rapidly leaving many Guard members with reduced benefits from their civilian employers or possibly no benefits for self-employed, unemployed or student members.

We believe that enrollment in the TRICARE Dental Plan should be mandatory and cost-free for the Selected Reserve member, with no annual caps. This would allow all National Guard and Reserve members to maintain dental readiness, alleviating the need for dental care during training or mobilization and the need for the abusive techniques of removing teeth instead of repairing them.



TRICARE for Life

Medicare does not cover purchase of eyeglasses or hearing aids. When TRICARE For Life came into effect on October 1, 2001, eyeglasses and hearing aids were not included in the program. Many retirees cannot afford these items. Legislation is needed to provide for inclusion of eyeglasses and hearing aids in the TRICARE for Life program.

Education Issues

Payment for Distance Learning and Advanced Distributed Learning Courses

The Fiscal Year 2002 National Defense Authorization Act contained a provision, Section 603; Reserve Component Compensation for Distributed Learning Activities Performed as Inactive-Duty Training (IDT), that prohibits members being paid for attending this type of course, as it is considered inactive-duty training. Active training days, such as annual training, are prohibited from being used for Distance Learning (DL)/Advanced Distributed Learning (ADL) courses.

Currently there is no mechanism in place to compensate National Guard and Reserve Component soldiers for required Distance Learning courses. For example, completing required Distance Learning courses for the Primary Leadership Development Course is in excess of 40 credit hours of class work. All National Guard and Reserve Component soldiers are donating their time for these required courses. Active Component (AC) soldiers are paid in either a Temporary Duty (TDY) or a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) status for the resident courses.



The issue is not with donating the time; it is an inherent responsibility that comes with a leadership role.

However, expecting National Guard and Reserve Component soldiers to spend this amount of time and without any compensation or assistance is the issue. It is not equitable for the soldier, or to his or her family. National Guard and Reserve Component members should be compensated for the time spent on each Distance Learning course upon successful completion of that course.

The Honoring of All Existing Enlistment Contracts and the Back Pay of Accrued Interest on Student Loans

The National Guard Bureau has recently taken action to deny payment of the accrued interest on student loans for soldiers and airmen taking part in the Student Loan Repayment Program. Their contracts clearly state they are to be paid interest as well as the principal. Denial of such interest payments clearly violates the letter of those enlistment contracts as well as the ethical intent of the contracts. Violation of those enlistment contracts opens the possibility of setting the precedent for further violation of contracts such as bonus programs and other pay and entitlement programs. This violation of contracts and soldiers' and airmen's trust has produced a recruiting and retention problem for the National Guard. All existing enlistment contracts should be honored as presently written and back payments of accrued interest should be made to those soldiers and airmen who have already been denied their full lawful payments as stated in their existing contracts.

Family and Employer Support Issues

Tax Credits for Employers of National Guard Members and for Self-employed Members

The National Guard and Reserve component members must take time off from their civilian employment to perform military duties. Increased operational tempo dictates that National Guard and Reserve component personnel must be placed on active duty service more frequently and for extended periods of time. This increased operational tempo places additional financial burdens on employers at a greater extent than ever before. Employers cannot be expected to bear an ever-increasing financial burden that increased deployments of the National Guard and Reserves places on them.

There is a recognized loss to the employer when an employee is required to attend training in a military status or leaves in support of an operation or contingency. It takes exceptional, dedicated, and ambitious citizens to take on the responsibility of a Reserve obligation along with maintaining a full-time civilian position. Guard and Reserve forces struggle yearly to meet retention goals. Employer support of these people is imperative. A tax incentive should be granted for employers of the Reserve Components and self-employed National Guard and Reserve members.

Information Technology: Family Support

The support of the family is integral to the readiness of the Reserve Component forces. The family faces hardships in peacetime while soldiers are accomplishing required training. The family faces severe hardships when soldiers are mobilized. The National Guard member needs to



be able to focus on the mission; not worry about family at home. They can only perform their duties in an exceptional manner when they feel family members are secure. Support to the morale and welfare of families of mobilized and deployed National Guard soldiers and airmen is an area of concern. Email and video teleconferencing have become critical means of supporting family communications for Guard men and women on extended deployments. More can be done to provide communications capabilities that can enhance information and sharing for families and lessen the anxieties that occur when status and news is not forthcoming in a timely and efficient manner. Funding for enhancement and expansion of video and email capabilities that support families with soldiers and airmen involved in mobilization and deployments are highly recommended.

Counterdrug

The National Guard has provided assistance to federal, state and local law enforcement agencies and anti-drug coalitions since 1989 in support of the President’s National Drug Control Strategy. Counterdrug missions performed by the National Guard have helped law enforcement to reduce the trafficking and abuse of illegal narcotics, an effort that has been critical to the protection and security of the United States and its borders.

Today, domestic National Guard Counterdrug support falls into two general areas: providing support to help law enforcement stop illegal drugs from being imported, manufactured and distributed; supporting community-based drug demand reduction programs.

TOTAL SEIZURES FOR FY04:

Item	Total Quantity	Total Value
Crack Cocaine	7,300 Lbs.	\$3,335,370
Cocaine	103,091 Lbs.	\$42,092,053
Heroin	1,440 Lbs.	\$3,155,040
Marijuana, whole plants	1,903,145 Plants	\$3,697,810,735
Marijuana, processed	860,433 Lbs.	\$937,846,157
Marijuana, Wild Ditchweed	448,066 Lbs.	\$304,684,880
Methamphetamine	10,874 Lbs.	\$26,450,715
Designer Drugs	14,762 Units	\$265,716
Ecstasy	411,616 Pills	\$10,899,592
Hashish	81 Lbs.	\$75,735
Opium	4,216 Lbs.	\$55,082,040
Currency	\$221,043,045 Dollars	\$221,043,045
Weapons	17,890 Units	\$3,267,966
TOTAL		\$5,306,009,044

The National Guard is also heavily involved in Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) activities designed to prevent and educate our children about the dangers of substance abuse.

Organizations such as Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE); Drug Education for Youth (DEFY); Youth Against Crime, Gangs, and Drugs; the Drug Enforcement Administration's Red Ribbon Campaign; Parents Research Institute for Drug Education (PRIDE); and Parent to Parent are all partners that have made a positive difference in the lives of our youth.

The results of these activities are usually measured in terms of the DDR “audience,” or number of people reached with a drug free message. For FY04, National Guard personnel reached a DDR audience of over 5 million people, about half of which were in grade school and middle school.

The National Guard Counterdrug mission plays an important role to America’s effort in the Global War on Terrorism. Members of Congress, national security leaders and federal drug enforcement officers have concluded that there is a direct link between the illegal trafficking and

sale of drugs and terrorism as profits from these illegal activities are used to finance an array of terrorist organizations.

The same clandestine routes that are used to smuggle illegal drugs into the country could be used by terrorists to bring in weapons of mass destruction. By supporting domestic Counterdrug efforts, the National Guard is enhancing the country's homeland defense posture by denying a key funding source for terrorists and preventing potential weapons of mass destruction from entering our borders.

The National Guard also oversees the administration of five Counterdrug Schools that are regionally located throughout the United States. These schools are separately funded by Congress and other sources. They provide a variety of training to both law enforcement agencies and community-based organizations and also facilitate several courses by providing classrooms and equipment. All this is done at no cost to the supported agencies. In FY04, the National Guard provided courses to over 18,000 individuals.



EANGUS urges the United States Congress and the Department of Defense to support long-term program stabilization by ensuring funding to maintain baseline manning levels for the Counterdrug program. We urge support for long-term funding of National Guard initiatives to reduce demand in the effort to reverse the national drug problem.

EANGUS also urges Congress and the Department of Defense to reject any and all attempts to legalize the use of Marijuana or other Schedule I drugs, to strongly support the edicts of a drug-free National Guard, and to not tolerate the use of any illegal drugs by members of the National Guard.

Equipment

Army National Guard

Continued Funding for the Army's Rapid Fielding Initiative (RFI) Program

The RFI program began in 2002 at the direction of the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army. The Vice Chief recognized the urgent need for both individual and unit equipment that either wasn't in the Army's procurement inventory or, due to the viscous nature of the procurement processes, was not immediately available to the soldiers and combat units that needed the equipment.

The soldiers of concern at this time were those engaged in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) in Afghanistan. Soldiers and tactical units were buying much-needed items of equipment with their own money. In October 2002, the Army initiated a program to correct this situation. The Army's Program Executive Officer (PEO) Soldier was tasked to assess the equipping lessons learned from OEF and to rapidly provide the needed individual and unit equipment.

In 2003, the Army expanded the program to include all deploying units participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The Congress supported the RFI concept and program and provided the needed funding.

By Fiscal Year 2004, the list of individual and unit equipment included more than fifty separate items of equipment. This list included such items as: special clothing and protective garments, night vision devices, special optical devices for use in urban combat operations, new individual and crew served weapons. Today, to equip a single combat brigade, requires four C17 cargo aircraft. This equipment is being fielded to soldiers in Iraq and to those preparing for deployment to Iraq.

The equipment being provided is a living program in that it is continually assessed for the inclusion of needed items.

Recently, the Army's leadership directed the PEO to structure the RFI program so that the entire operational Army, active and Reserve, combat through combat service support brigades, will be provided this essential equipment by the end of Fiscal Year 2007.

The RFI Program provides the soldier the finest in state-of-the-art individual and unit equipment that enhances the tactical lethality, mobility, and survivability on today's complex battlefields.

The continued funding by the Congress, through Fiscal Year 2007, is essential to the life of this critically needed program.

Funding of Equipment for Units Returning to CONUS Who Leave Their Equipment in Theater

In order to provide the best protection possible for soldiers in the theater of operations (armored-up HMMWV's, M-1 Tanks, etc.), many units returning from operations in Iraq and Afghanistan have left their equipment behind for follow-on units.

These units have no equipment with which to train after de-mobilization, creating a readiness issue for those

units for follow-on missions and detracting from the ability of the states to perform homeland security missions.

The National Guard Bureau does not have funding to move equipment around to allow these units to train, or the equipment may not exist currently.

Required funding levels for equipment replacement must be determined and the equipment purchased to allow units returning from a theater of operations without their equipment to receive enough equipment to provide meaningful training and to support the state homeland security missions.



Lightweight, Air-Mobile, Rapid Deployable, Hard-Wall Shelter

The Army and Air National Guard need a lightweight, self-deployable, hard-wall mobile shelter that will allow the soldier and airmen to perform their duties when operating away from their home station's permanent buildings.

Lessons learned from Operation Iraqi Freedom show that tents did not perform well in the hostile environment of the desert. Conditions such as nighttime cold, dust, and winds exceeding 60 mph affected the performance of standard military tents. The HELAMS (Hard side Expandable Light Air Mobile Shelter) fitted with a HSMWS (High Speed Mobility Wheel Set) will eliminate the climactic problems that come with the use of tents. The HELAMS will allow the troops to operate as they normally do at their home station.

Deployment to Iraq with the HELAMS by the 10th Mountain Division and 82nd Air Assault Division allowed these units to deploy on a C-130 without auxiliary aircraft loading equipment. The HELAMS can be towed with the Army's standard Army "prime mover" and fully erected on site in 30 minutes by three people, and can be helicopter slingable in a minute's notice. Adequate funding should be appropriated in FY05 to procure HELAMS for highly mobilized units.

Procurement of Multipurpose Shelter System

National Guard units are seeing increased combat duty and are being deployed abroad in support of continuing operations on a more frequent basis. Continuing peacekeeping and combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan will continue to be reliant on National Guard units for the foreseeable future. The current shelter systems in use by National Guard units are outdated and no longer meet all mission requirements. There exists a family of combat tested-combat proven shelter systems, the multipurpose Shelter System, which are the most advanced shelter systems currently available, having been developed to meet the stringent requirements of the U.S. Air Force for base operations and troop support and expeditionary medical requirements. The multipurpose Shelter Systems were developed to meet US Army requirements for use at its combat support hospitals. The multipurpose Shelter Systems have been adopted for use by the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Special Operations Command forces as its shelter system of choice for force reception, troop support, medical, command and control and chemical/biological decontamination requirements. British MOD, USAF, and USSOCOM force throughout Southwest Asia supporting OEF and OIF are currently using multipurpose Shelter Systems. Multipurpose Shelter Systems will meet current and future requirements of the National Guard for all mission areas. Procurement of multipurpose Shelter Systems will put the National Guard on equal footing with all U.S. military services and ensure that the National Guard has the best, interoperable shelter system available to fulfill its combat and homeland security missions.

Single Channel Ground Air Radio System (SINCGARS)

One of the Army National Guard's Major shortages that impacts deployments, and one of its top equipping priorities, is the SINCGARS radio. The Army National Guard needs to retire the remaining obsolete VRC-12 series radios. SINCGARS procurement is an area that is dependent on Congressional adds and/or National Guard Reserve Equipment Appropriation funds to fill shortfalls which have recently been successfully used to fund systems for units preparing for OCONUS contingency rotations. Army cascading of the initial model SINCGARS radios is used to fill shortages in divisional systems; but they are not complete systems and the Army National Guard has been dependent on National Guard Reserve Equipment Appropriation discretionary funding to acquire components necessary for total package fielding. As of FY 2003, the Army National Guard is still more than 20,000 systems short to retire the VCR-12 series radios.

Enhanced Position Location Radio System (EPLRS)

Currently, funding is programmed to provide all Army National Guard units in support of the First Digitized or Counter Attack Corps, but, EPLRS is not programmed for the rest of the Army National Guard. The quantity of Enhanced Position Location Radio Systems required to fill an enhanced separate brigade (eSB) is approximately 387 and the divisions require 1640. Currently, there are only two Air Defense Artillery Battalions in the ARNG that are scheduled to receive EPLRS in FY 2003. Without EPLRS, the Avenger units will not be able to operate the Forward Area Air Defense, Command Control and Intelligence system (FAADC21) at full capability. FAADC21 procurement and fielding is ongoing for the Army National Guard, but the EPLRS systems are not programmed for procurement through FY 2007. EANGUS urges the allocation of funds for the procurement of EPLRS.

High Mobility Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV)

The long-term shortage and age of the Army National Guard's tactical wheeled vehicle fleet has been a resource priority for years. The Army National Guard is short approximately 13,265 High Mobility Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV). These vehicles remain the Army National Guard's most significant shortage in the tactical wheeled fleet and one of the biggest problems for mobilizing and deploying units. The requirement for the new M1114 Up-Armored HMMWV has caused a significant shortage problem as ARNG Military Police units have been activated for Homeland Defense and OCONUS operations prior to receiving the vehicle. The Up-Armored HMMWV will not complete fielding to the Army National Guard for several years and is counted on to replace early model HMMWVs and Commercial Utility Cargo Vehicles (CUCV). The Army National Guard fills shortages using the 1980 era CUCV series of vehicles, which was retired by the AC several years ago. The Army does permit the CUCV to be deployed for federal service. This creates significant cross leveling requirements to support the current multiple deployment requirements for the ARNG. Each year the requirement for HMMWVs grows at a faster rate than the ARNG can acquire them under the Army Transformation to a lighter force. The current shortage of HMMWVs is 13,265. EANGUS urges the funds for the purchase of HMMWVs.



M17A2 20-Ton Dump Truck

The Army National Guard M917A2 requirement is for 613 20-Ton Dump Trucks. Currently, over 50 percent of the entire engineer force can be found in the Army National Guard. Modernization of those units lags behind the combat forces, which they support. The Army National Guard's combat engineer force is behind the modernization effort of its fleet of engineering vehicles when compared to its Active Component counterparts. In addition to its combat capability, the Army National Guard Engineer efforts lend critical

support to the homeland defense and Military Support to Civil Authorities. EANGUS urges the allocation of funds for the modernization of its fleet of engineering vehicles.

Heavy Expanded-Mobility Tactical Truck (HEMTT)

The Army Guard is playing an increasingly vital role in providing Combat Service Support (CSS) to the total force. One of the key enablers in this role is the proven HEMTT tactical wheeled vehicle system. The ARNG has a CSS equipment shortage of 940 HEMTT M978 tankers and M984A1 wreckers. Of these shortages, 499 tankers and 249 wreckers are needed for fielding to the ARNG's high priority units. The funding of these critical shortfalls would greatly address the modernization needs of the ARNG's HEMTT fleet. Procurement of additional HEMTTs is on the National Guard Bureau's list of equipment "unfunded requirements" as a high priority and EANGUS urges that Congress provide funding.

M872 34-Ton Semi-Trailer for the Army National Guard

The M872 34-ton, 40 foot semi-trailer, normally towed by the M915 tractor, is required for line haul and local haul of break bulk cargo and containers. Most Army requirements are in line haul medium truck companies. The Army began procuring additional M872's in fiscal year 2003 to support activations of Army National Guard medium truck companies as part of the Army National Guard Division Redesign Study (ADRS) initiative. The trailers funded in the fiscal year 2005 President's Budget are expected to support new activation units. The Army National Guard has a requirement for 539 M872A4 34-Ton Semi-Trailers after the Army fields the projected 1,680 systems through FY07. The system is on the Department of the Army National Guard's FY04 Top 25 Equipment Modernization Shortfall list. EANGUS urges the allocation of funds for the purchase of M872 34-Ton Semi-Trailers.

Night Vision Goggles (NVG)

One of the more significant shortages that creates an equipping issue for deploying Army National Guard units is the PVS-7D Night Vision Goggles (NVG). The PVS-7D is especially in short supply with the divisional and other low priority units which are the units most often used to support rotations and in support of Homeland Defense. The Army National Guard is currently short at least 159,000 PVS-7D and the only programmed Army procurement is for the Army National Guard Stryker Brigade activation in the next eight years. This shortage adversely impacts a unit's ability to train for and conduct night operations. The older systems such as the PVS-5 Night Vision Goggles are used as substitutes for the PVS-7B NVGs but are considered obsolete and inadequate. The Army National Guard continues to rely on Congressional add-ons in the form of National Guard Reserve Equipment Account funds to procure Night Vision Goggles to fill shortages and modernize to meet deployment requirements. Currently there is a shortage of over 100,000. EANGUS urges the allocation of funds for the purchase of Night Vision Goggles.

Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV)

Fielding of these vehicles will modernize the current 2.5 ton and 5 ton fleets for Army National Guard units and eliminate older models already considered obsolete. Current planning projects the Army to begin procurement of the replacement for the FMTV in FY2009/2010 and the Army National Guard to receive cascaded FMTVs and be fully fielded in FMTVs by FY2020. One of the key transport systems in the Army National Guard is the 5 ton tractor and the 22.5 ton trailer. This tractor-trailer combination allows the Army National Guard to accomplish both state and federal missions and helps reduce operating costs of moving supplies. The Army is procuring tractors and trailers to activate 25 additional truck companies in the



Army National Guard between FY2001-2007. There is no planned procurement to fill existing shortages and the Army National Guard will continue to rely on National Guard Reserve Equipment Account discretionary funds to procure tractors and trailers to fill these shortages. The current shortage is \$31,673 FMTVs. EANGUS urges the allocation of funds to fill existing shortages of FMTVs.

Military Tactical Generator Sets

The Army National Guard is a key element of the Total Force and a cornerstone of our national security. The current fielded generator fleet is old and costly with more than 60 percent Army-wide utilizing 1960s technology with a far higher percentage in the National Guard. It is critical to modernize and standardize the generator fleet. Very important is the 2KW Military Tactical Generator set. This diesel engine powered generator set replaces older and more costly and far less reliable systems. Even though more than 1,000 sets have been fielded with the National Guard, a critical need exists to more fully execute the required fielding. The Army National Guard has a requirement for 729 TQG's after the Army fields the projected 9,283 systems through FY07. The system is on the Director Army National Guard's FY04 Top 25 Equipment Modernization Shortfall List. EANGUS urges the allocation of funds for the critical need of Military Tactical Generator Sets.

ARNG Modular General Purpose Tent System and Combat Shelters

The Army and the Marine Corps are currently purchasing a Modular General Purpose Tent System to replace the General Purpose small, medium, and large tent. The tent features the latest technology in materials and fabrication. The Improved Combat Shelter (ICS) is a one-person tent consisting of a shelter body with integral water repellant floor and a separate water repellant camouflage fly. The ICS is lightweight and easily carried. It is designed to replace the current Army shelter half, and can be set up or taken down in less than a minute. EANGUS urges a plus up in the FY05 Defense Budget for the purchase of the Tent System and the Individual Combat Shelter to provide the Army National Guard with tents comparable with those currently being introduced into the Army's inventory.

Replacement of the Army Theater Airlift Aircraft

Currently Army Theater Airlift is being performed by aging aircraft that are commercial variations modified to perform a military mission. Current Army National Guard Theater Airlift is not pressurized and has significant weight and cargo-size limitations.

To meet immediate response requirements, and to provide more cost-effective theater airlift, and have a significantly increased payload capacity, a new aircraft is necessary. Ideally, this airlift aircraft will have modern propulsion systems, digital avionics, and be easy to maintain. The theater airlift aircraft should also be pressurized to permit higher altitude operations that optimize fuel efficiency at increased speed. Theater airlift payload capability should also be sufficient to haul WMD support equipment and vehicles and personnel. This aircraft should also be a production aircraft that does not need operational testing or evaluation. The C-27 is an ideal aircraft for this purpose. The C-27 aircraft has the capability to carry WMD equipment, vehicles and personnel in both the Civil Support Teams in both light and heavy configurations. The C-27 also maximizes the use of Commercial off-the-shelf technology (COTS) and includes state-of-the-art equipment, has modern propulsion systems and a digital avionics suite and has been fully tested and validated.

Army Theater Airlift Aircraft must be modernized to meet the needs of increased OPTEMPO, defense of the homeland and WMD. EANGUS urges selection of the C-27 aircraft to complete this modernization effort, as it meets all current and future requirements of Army and Army National Guard Theater Airlift and is available for immediate procurement.

Air National Guard

C-40C Special Mission Aircraft

The C-22 fleet will be retired in FY2003. This fleet was flown and supported by the 201st Airlift Squadron, DC Air National Guard, Andrews Air Force Base, Md. Therefore, a requirement is left for four 40-70-passenger jets with long range capability for worldwide transportation of USAF, Department of Defense senior officials, foreign dignitaries, and legislative and executive branch members. In the FY 2002 budget, Congress permitted the Department of Defense to ease four Boeing 737 commercial aircraft for the Air Force and the Air National Guard. The military designation for the 737 Boeing Business Jet is the C-40. The replacement of the C-22 began with the delivery of two C-40's in September 2002. An additional delivery was made early in 2003. In order to fulfill the total requirement, one additional C-40C aircraft is required.



Chemically Protected Expeditionary Medical Support 25 Bed Non-WRM Assemblages

The Air National Guard Medical Service requires \$59.5 million to purchase 17 Chemically Protected Expeditionary Medical Support 25 Bed (CP-EMEDS +25) Non-War Reserve Material (WRM) assemblages. The ten FEMA regions have ANG medical personnel already configured to provide CP-EMEDS +25 equivalent capability. One CP-EMEDS+25 assemblage will be placed in each FEMA region. One additional assemblage is required as a mobile training set. These teams and assemblages are capable of responding in support of either a State or Federal response. Each CP-EMEDS+25 costs \$3.5 Million. EANGUS urges the purchase of 17 CP-EMEDS+25 Non-WRM Assemblages.

Bioenvironmental Engineering Nuclear/Biological/Chemical Assemblages

The Air National Guard Medical Service requires \$1.0 million to purchase ten Bioenvironmental Engineering Nuclear/Biological/Chemical (BNBC) assemblages. These assets provide the required material to support ten BNBC Medical Defense Teams. Each FEMA (Federal Emergency Medical Agency) Region has an Air National Guard personnel already trained to provide FFGL1 equivalent capability, but lack available equipment. These non-WRM (War Reserve Material) assemblages will support consequence management of War Reserve Material events through NBC detection, assessment, and countermeasure strategies. These teams are capable of responding in support of either a State or Federal response. Each BNBC assemblage costs \$100,000. EANGUS urges the purchase of ten Bioenvironmental Engineering Nuclear/Biological/Chemical (BNBC) assemblage.

Patient Decontamination Assemblages

The Air National Guard Medical Service Requires an additional \$3.4 Million to purchase 20 Patient Decontamination Assemblages. These assets provide required material to support 20 Patient Decontamination Teams. Each FEMA (Federal Emergency Medical Agency) Region has ANG personnel already trained to provide two FFGLB equivalent capabilities, but lack available equipment. These assemblages will support consequence management of Weapons of Mass Destruction events through expansion of local patient decontamination capability and support to aeromedical evacuation of contaminated casualties. These teams are capable of responding in support of either a State or Federal response. EANGUS urges the Congress of the United States to provide an additional budget amount of \$3.4 million in order to purchase 20 additional Patient Decontamination Assemblages.

Regional Equipment Operators Training Site

The Air National Guard operates the Regional Equipment Operators Training Site at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, on behalf of the total force. This site provides hands-on training for heavy equipment operators (bulldozers, graders, excavators, front end loaders, etc.). This school is the only United States Air Force location that can provide the wartime skills training our forces need. The current equipment at the school is well beyond its economic life. It is a very low priority within Air National Guard and United States Air Force budget lines and the \$12 Million requirement is not currently funded. The lack of new equipment may require the school to terminate courses and leave the Air Force with no viable training alternative for these wartime skills. EANGUS urges the inclusion of \$12 Million requirement in the budget to maintain the equipment necessary at this training site.

Air National Guard Requirements for Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Vehicles

The Air National Guard has over 230 aircraft rescue and fire fighting vehicles that have been in service far beyond their expected life of 12 years. These vehicles, in all cases, are the primary support vehicles for the civilian airports on which they are stationed. The Air National Guard must also have the latest Air rescue fire fighting vehicles in the Air Force inventory for operational and maintenance training of the 1,814 traditional Guard fire fighters to meet wartime readiness requirements. Any loss of assets from the aging, outdated vehicle fleet could lead to serious reductions in critical fire fighting and rescue capabilities for both the military air crews and civilian aircraft they serve as well as significantly degrade the contingency and wartime readiness of Air National Guard fire fighters. In order to begin replacement of these aged trucks; EANGUS urges additional funding in the Department of Defense budget.

C-17 Airlifter

The Air National Guard (ANG) possesses 16 percent of the Total Air Force Strategic Airlift Fleet, including C-141 and C-5 aircraft, and 49 percent of the Total Theater Airlift Force. The ANG has begun receiving its first C-17 Globemaster III aircraft to replace aging C-141 aircraft in one of two ANG C-141 units.



Major shortfalls continue to exist in Total Force airlift capability, especially in the responsive delivery of both heavy and light forces to meet rapid deployment requirements. The case for improved mobility and flexibility provided by the C-17 is stronger than ever. This new aircraft is the only state-of-the-art airlift aircraft with the capability to move forces, to include outsize cargo, over both long range and in-theater missions, thereby meeting the demand for U.S. force projection requirements in support of national defense and foreign policy objectives. Because of its unique capability, the C-17 can operate in both a strategic airlift mode and tactical airlift mode. With new homeland security requirements emerging, the C-17, with its outsize, short field capability, is ideally suited both here at home and abroad for movement of humanitarian equipment, WMD-CST support and its ability to transport large FEMA vans and associated equipment for disaster relief.

The original Air Force Airlift Total Force Plan (ATFP) provided for total procurement of 210 aircraft with the concurrent assignment of 48 C-17s to the Air Reserve Component (ARC). Currently, only eight C-17s out of a total procurement of 180 aircraft are scheduled for an ANG organic unit in Jackson, MS. Air Mobility Command's programmed force structure, based on C-17 production, delivery and basing, does not include any additional C-17s for the ANG, thus restricting the ANG's participation in this vital airlift program.

EANGUS supports an increase in procurement of C-17 Globemaster III aircraft by at least 42 additional aircraft (222 total) at a rate of 15 to 18 aircraft per year, to ensure an adequate airlift force in the future. EANGUS also asks for DoD to program new production C-17 aircraft into the ANG to ensure the ANG remains modern, ready, reliable and relevant, and able to participate more effectively in the Total Force Mission. EANGUS also supports pursuit of a Congressional plus up for at least two C-17s per year for four years to stand-up another C-17 unit.

Re-engining the E-8C Joint STARS Aircraft

The E-8C Joint STARS (Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System) aircraft is a refurbished 707-300-airframe. The aircraft power plant is the original equipment JT3D Engine. Re-engining is a long-standing requirement highlighted in all combat and deployment contingencies. Current engines provide insufficient power for the E-8C to meet all of its contingency requirements (optimum altitude, runway length, time on station). Current engines are the primary cause of maintenance problems and the primary driver of operations and sustainment costs. The Air National Guard will operate the E-8C Joint STARS aircraft through 2030.



The FY 2000 Defense Appropriations Act directed an innovative lease program to re-engine the E8C aircraft. The planned 16-year lease program will provide the war fighter with improved performance quickly with minimum up-front cost and significantly reduced life cycle cost.

The JT8D-219 was chosen as the replacement engine through competitive source selection providing:

1. Best value lease approach for engines and pylons
2. Maximum performance improvements with minimum cost and quickest installation
3. Commercial-off-the-shelf engine, currently in world-wide service

EANGUS urges that funding be supported to re-engine the E-8C Joint STARS aircraft with the JT8D-219 engine.

Other Issues

Military Personnel Appropriation Consolidation

The Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) began an initiative in late December 2002 to consolidate all military pay accounts into the respective services. This would take ten military pay appropriations and transfer them to the four service departments (Navy, Marine, Army and Air Force). The initiative was planned for Congressional action to consolidate in Fiscal Year 2004. The language made it into the National Defense Authorization Act but Congress wisely chose to eliminate it in the final bill.

The initial effect on the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard would be that the Chief, National Guard Bureau, will no longer be the appropriation sponsor for military pay. The expenses of National Guard soldiers and airmen are funded by appropriations for the National Guard. The National Guard Bureau charter, created pursuant to Title 10, United States Code Section 1050, makes the Chief, National Guard Bureau, responsible for the “allocation of federal funds for training the Army and Air National Guard” as well as “planning and administering the budget for the Army National Guard of the United States and the Air National Guard of the United States.” If approved, this proposal would require a change to this law as well as Title 10, United States Code Section 1101, as it pertains to the comptroller aspects.

Combining the Military Personnel accounts would also significantly reduce Congressional oversight of Reserve Component military personnel appropriations as established by Public Law 90-168.

The proposal does not increase the ability to reallocate resources without major changes to Congressional authority to review and approve funding transfers.

EANGUS recommends that future proposals by the Administration to consolidate any National Guard Bureau appropriations at the service department level should continue to be rejected by Congress.

Military Construction

The backlog of unfunded construction has grown to more than \$9.9 billion for the Army National Guard and approximately \$133 billion for the Air National Guard. The available funding is not keeping pace with essential facility modernization, unit conversions or facilities replacement, which are necessary to support the training, personnel and mission equipment requirements of the Army and Air National Guard.

Training and equipment maintenance, both major factors in manpower retention and unit readiness capability, are hampered by the inadequate, unsafe and unhealthy facilities that many units must use.

Adequate and functional training and mission support facilities are required if National Guard units are to attain and maintain high levels of mission readiness. Each additional project adds to the economic health of the community and state in which it is located and increases the readiness of the units housed therein.

Congress must support acceleration of Army and Air National Guard military construction programs to a level

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that will fund all new mission requirements plus a minimum sufficient balance for each Guard component to apply against the current mission backlog in the Army National Guard.

Army National Guard Mobilizations

Historically soldiers join the National Guard for a variety of reasons. One reason is, if mobilized, they will mobilize with soldiers they know and train with. The Guard uses this as a major recruiting tool. During the past major mobilizations requiring large numbers of National Guard soldiers to meet the needs of the Department of the Army, the Guard mobilized at unit level to maintain the tradition of the National Guard, sending soldiers to combat with leaders and unit members they know and have trained with.



During the current mobilization, we are not only breaking unit integrity by using derivative Unit Identification Codes (UICs); we are breaking state integrity. This is causing turmoil among units and within families across the National Guard. In many cases the leadership of the unit (Battalion Level) is left behind. Company level leadership is left with the mission of dealing with Power Project Platform (PPP) personnel who pay minor attention to company grade officers and enlisted personnel.

EANGUS believes that the leadership should only mobilize units from the National Guard and fill the individual unit needs with Individual Ready Reserve soldiers.

National Guard Officer to Become Deputy Commander of Northern Command

Although the United States has made significant strides in countering international terrorism, much remains to be done – particularly at home. More than two years after the specter of international terrorism visited our homeland, we have yet to lay the cornerstone for an effective national-level counter terrorism program – one that applies to all 54 states and territories. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) still is developing national terrorism-mitigation doctrine, the playbook needed to guide the actions of federal, state and local agencies and private-sector organization that would be drawn together in the wake of another major terrorist attack.

Just as important, there is no clearly defined link running from DHS and Northern Command authorities, that would be pivotal in coordination of a national level response to the first responders community that will be on the front lines in the next battle.

In attempting to determine the most appropriate role for the National Guard in homeland security, we have recognized that the National Guard is in a unique position to act as a conduit from federal to state to local levels – its armories are located in communities throughout the nation and its members serve those communities in first responder's roles. We also noted that states' Adjutants General frequently hold executive level civilian positions related to emergency preparedness.

In spite of these considerations, the job of coordination the overall military response to terrorism now largely excludes the Guard. It is suggested that a National Guard officer should fill the Deputy Commander position at Northern Command. Give the Guard a three star general slot – one custom made for the Guard's historical mission.

Placing a National Guard officer in the Deputy Commander position at Northern Command would signal all

citizen soldiers that they share a critical stake in creating an all encompassing coordination and communication network to augment official command-and-control structures.

Uniformed Services Divorce Equity Act

Enacted in 1982, the Uniformed Services Former Spouses Protection Act (USFSPA) was intended to ensure that certain qualifying former spouses of retired military members would receive an equitable share of military retired pay upon divorce. While the original legislation had good intentions, its application has become twisted in the intervening years, leading to numerous inequities. If a service member must serve 20 years to receive a lifetime annuity, so should a former spouse. For former spouses whose marriage overlapped with periods of military service for less than 20 years, entitlement should be limited to the division of retired pay to the number of years the marriage overlapped with the service.

Legislation should be enacted that bases a former spouse's retired pay awards on the service member's grade and years of service at the time of divorce, rather than at retirement, to eliminate "windfall" payments based on the member's subsequent service and promotions. It would establish a two-year limit after divorce for submission of USFSPA claims, and bar division of disability compensation, except for child support.

Creating a Position of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Retiree Veterans Affairs

There are almost one million military retirees drawing retirement entitlements from the Department of Defense. There are several Assistant Secretaries of Defense: Command, Control, Communications, and Intelligence; Legislative Affairs; Public Affairs, and Reserve Affairs. Retiree affairs must be elevated to a proper level of importance within the Department of Defense.

The Department of Defense has continually overlooked retirees in the past. One example is the Department's lack of support for revocation of the concurrent receipt issue that currently denies approximately 437,000 military retirees their earned retired pay. Military retiree entitlements and veterans benefits are two separate issues that need to be managed separately. Military retirees have become disenchanted with career military service. This has negatively impacted recruiting, retention, and national defense.

Military retiree entitlements and veterans benefits are two separate issues that need to be managed separately.

EANGUS urges Congress to enact legislation to authorize an Assistant Secretary of Defense for Retiree Affairs.

The National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance

The United States of America was founded to ensure God-given freedoms and rights. The men and women of the Militia sacrificed, spilled blood, and ultimately gave their lives in defense of these rights. This Militia, 365 years in existence, is the direct forerunner of all existing military service branches represented by and/or in coalition with EANGUS. Action or inaction by EANGUS that would detract from the sacrifices, blood spilled and/or lives given would be a disgrace.

EANGUS resolves never to restrict any of our members from verbalizing or in any method communicating the National Anthem and/or the Pledge of Allegiance. EANGUS will continue to perform and recite both the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance at all official Enlisted Association functions.

EANGUS 2004 Resolutions

Resolutions are adopted each year at the EANGUS National Conference by vote of the general membership through elected and approved delegates. Resolutions adopted remain in effect for two years from date of passage. The following resolutions were adopted during the 33rd Annual EANGUS Conference held in Louisville, Kentucky, in August 2004:

- 04-01 Amendment of Title 10, USC, Which Would Reduce from 60 to 55 the Age at Which a Reserve Component Member May Begin Receiving Retirement Pay
- 04-02 Health Care and Dental Care Benefits Made Permanent for Members of the National Guard and Reserve Component
- 04-03 The Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) for Military Technicians
- 04-04 The Requirement to Provide Funding for Full-time Support Manpower in the Army and Air National Guard
- 04-05 Establishment of an Early or Immediate Annuity Retirement System for Guard and Reserve Members upon Retirement with 20 Years of Service
- 04-06 Providing Homeowners and Renter's Insurance Protection under SCRA
- 04-07 Veterans Status
- 04-08 Veterans Administration (VA) Burial Rights
- 04-09 Basic Allowance for Housing
- 04-10 Buy-back of Title 32 Service Time
- 04-11 Proposed Reduction of Family Separation Allowance
- 04-12 Proposed Reduction of Imminent Danger Pay
- 04-13 Aviation Incentive Pay and Hazardous Duty Pay for Members of the Reserve Components
- 04-14 Student Loan Repayment Program
- 04-15 Information Technology: Soldier Support for Army Mobilization/Demobilization/Family Support
- 04-16 Information Technology for National Guard Advanced Information Technology Services
- 04-17 National Guard Officer to Become Deputy Commander of Northern Command
- 04-18 Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) and Non-Reduction in Pay and Credit Reporting While Serving in the Uniformed Service Of the United States
- 04-19 The Use of 44-day Leave Program During Periods of Declared National Emergencies
- 04-20 Increase in Military Leave for National Guard Technicians Supporting Overseas Operations
- 04-21 Equal Retirement Benefits for Title 32 Active Guard and Reserves
- 04-22 Tiered Resourcing
- 04-23 Civil Support Team Training for the Army National Guard
- 04-24 Retired Member Veterans Home Residency
- 04-25 Survivors Benefit Plan "Widow's Tax"
- 04-26 Military Retirement Pay and Veterans Disability Compensation
- 04-27 Tax Credits for Employers of National Guard Members and for Self-employed Members
- 04-28 Inactive Duty Travel Lodging for Reserve Component Soldiers
- 04-29 Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams Retention and Incentive Pay
- 04-30 Continued Funding for the Army's Rapid Fielding Initiative (RFI) Program
- 04-31 Development of Common Benefits for Operational Missions under Title 32 USC to Ensure Parity for Guard and Reserve Members Regardless of Whether Service Is under Title 10 or Title 32

- 04-33 Air National Guard Requirements for Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Vehicles
- 04-34 Re-engining the E-8C Joint Stars Aircraft
- 04-35 Procurement and Assignment of C-17 Globemaster III Aircraft
- 04-36 Funding of Equipment for Units Returning to Conus Who must Leave Their Equipment in Theater
- 04-37 Procurement of Multipurpose Shelter System
- 04-38 Army National Guard Shortages of HEMTT Recovery Vehicles and Tankers
- 04-39 Procurement of Individual Small Arms Marksmanship Training Systems (LMTS) for the Army and Air National Guard
- 04-40 Combat Arms Training System
- 04-41 Replacement of the Army Theater Airlift Aircraft
- 04-42 The Need to Fully Resource Commercial off the Shelf Surveillance Systems for the National Guard Counterdrug Units and Support Homeland Security Missions

EANGUS 2003 Resolutions

The following resolutions were adopted during the 32nd Annual EANGUS Conference held in Toledo, Ohio, in August 2003:

- 03-01 Army National Guard Mobilizations
- 03-02 Payment for Distance Learning and Advanced Distributed Learning Courses
- 03-03 Inconsistencies in the Pay System for Mobilized National Guard Members
- 03-04 Permanent Change of Station Versus Per Diem Entitlement and Affect of Leave Status
- 03-05 Uniformed Services Divorce Equity Act
- 03-06 Reserve Component Retirement Age Reduction
- 03-07 National Guard Advanced Information Technology Services
- 03-08 Military Personnel Appropriation Consolidation
- 03-09 Dental Coverage for Traditional Guard Members
- 03-10 Credit Rating Protection
- 03-11 The Social Security Offset to Military Retired Pay
- 03-12 Increase in Military Leave for National Guard Technicians
- 03-13 Tax Deductions for Inactive Duty Travel
- 03-14 TRICARE for Life
- 03-15 Technology Needs and Solutions for National Guard Civil Support Missions
- 03-16 Funding for Civil Support Team Training Facility
- 03-17 National Guard Force Protection and Communication Programs
- 03-18 Commercial-off-the-Shelf (COTS) Surveillance Systems for National Guard Counterdrug Units
- 03-19 Army National Guard Military Construction Programs
- 03-20 Air National Guard Military Construction Programs
- 03-21 Lightweight Air-Mobile, Rapid Deployable, Hard-Wall Shelter
- 03-22 Simplified Dividends for Air National Guard Bases from AAFES Operations on those Bases
- 03-23 Single Channel Ground Air Radio System (SINCGARS)
- 03-24 C-40C Special Mission Aircraft
- 03-25 Chemically Protected Expeditionary Medical Support 25-Bed Non-WRM Assemblages
- 03-26 Bioenvironmental Engineering Nuclear/Biological/Chemical Assemblages
- 03-27 Patient Decontamination Assemblages
- 03-28 Regional Equipment Operators Training Site
- 03-29 Fire Vehicle Replacements
- 03-30 C-17 Airlifter
- 03-31 Enhanced Position Location Radio System (EPLRS)
- 03-32 Modernization of the Army National Guard High Mobility Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicle
- 03-33 M17A2 20-Ton Dump Truck
- 03-34 Modernization of the Army National Guard Heavy Expanded-Mobility Tactical Truck
- 03-35 M872 34-Ton Semi-Trailer for the Army National Guard
- 03-36 Night Vision Goggles (NVG)
- 03-37 Procurement Modernization of the Army National Guard Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles
- 03-38 Procurement of Military Tactical Generator Sets
- 03-39 Procurement of ARNG Modular General Purpose Tent System and Combat Shelters

EANGUS 2002 Resolutions

The following resolutions were adopted during the 31st Annual EANGUS Conference held in Niagara Falls, New York, in August 2002, and reaffirmed in August 2004, at the 33rd Annual Conference:

- 02-04 Matching Contributions for the Uniformed Services Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) for Selected Reserve
- 02-05 Appropriation of Full Funding for Disabled Military Retiree Pay in FY 2003 Budget
- 02-06 Creating a Position of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Retiree Veterans Affairs
- 02-09 Inequity in Jump-pay Status
- 02-10 Equitable Personnel Benefits
- 02-11 Tax Credits for Employers of National Guard Members and for Self-employed Members
- 02-20 The National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance

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