

# NGAA News

## *Presidentially Speaking.....*



A brief introduction for the members who do not know me ..... I am Mike Culley and I currently serve as 189<sup>th</sup> Operations Group executive officer and C-130 instructor navigator. My career started as an airman basic in 1988 with the 137<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port in the Oklahoma Air National Guard, followed by eight years as a C-130 loadmaster. In 2000, I was given the opportunity to commission as a navigator and deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom following that training. We deployed to Oman, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Uzbekistan. I came to the Arkansas Air National Guard in 2005 where I have instructed all levels of training, been assigned to the command post, standardization and evaluation, and other positions within the Wing. Now, I am truly honored to represent the men and women of the Arkansas National Guard as the NGAA president this year. My wife, Lieutenant Colonel Tammy Culley,

serves as 189<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing deputy mission support group commander. We have three great daughters, a cool son, and three awesome grandchildren.

I want to thank Lieutenant Colonel Damon Cluck for his leadership as NGAA president this last year. His vision of what this organization can be in the future has paid great dividends for each of us. There will be more news coming out about the formation of the National Guard Association of Arkansas Endowment which will attract more corporate partners and ensure a long lasting future for our organization. Colonel Cluck's knowledge and leadership was invaluable in establishing this endowment, and I look forward to his mentorship over the next year while he serves as association past president on the NGAA executive board.

Right around the corner is the 135<sup>th</sup> National Guard Association of the United States General Conference and Exhibition, September 20<sup>th</sup> through 23<sup>rd</sup>, in Honolulu, Hawaii. We will be staying right on the beach at the Waikiki Sheraton with a beautiful view of the Pacific Ocean. The hotel is top notch and offers many amenities ... you can walk to the beach from the hotel, get a massage, and enjoy the beautiful swimming pool and great food choices. Our hospitality suite will be up and running with plenty of food, drinks and fellowship. It will even remain open on September 24<sup>th</sup>, so you can hang out with friends while you wait for your flight home that day. Once again, we will be attending the SEC Hospitality Night at the Hard Rock Café just a few short blocks from our hotel. That will be a great time to call the Hogs at this huge attraction because everybody knows where the best party is!! Another bonus of attending this great conference is the States Dinner where this year we get to wear our best Hawaiian themed shirts and/or dresses instead of mess dress. It doesn't get any better than that!! If it isn't working out for you to be in Hawaii this year, we urge you to plan to join us in the windy city of Chicago where the NGAUS Conference is scheduled next year. That may be a great time to escape the heat and humidity of Arkansas.

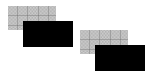
We all are aware of the current issues facing the Arkansas National Guard, obviously the budget and sequestration being at the forefront of our daily lives. This action has deeply affected each and every one of us. Early this month, our technician workforce began furlough actions that are scheduled to continue through September. This affects not only our technician force, but also our customers, full-time military members and ultimately, our readiness. We are already beginning to see the effects on training due to travel restrictions and decreased budgets. Our readiness across the nation is in jeopardy, and I have no doubt that the lack of training on both the Army and Air side will have a lasting effect for months or even years throughout our ranks.

What I would highlight, however, is not the doom and gloom of sequestration, but that we belong to a professional organization that exists to help each one of us. It is imperative now more than ever that we continue to maintain our 100 percent membership status in NGAA, NGAUS, and EANGUS. It is because of these professional organizations that we can still write success stories in the National Guard, and more specifically, the Arkansas National Guard. There have been legislative updates and "Write your Congress" campaigns to ask Congress to exempt military technicians from the sequestration actions; and through much political debate, the days were cut from an original twenty-two down to eleven. I understand that is of little consolation to those taking the brunt of the cuts, but NGAUS & EANGUS continue to fight this fight and work for you and me every day. They are our voice on Capitol Hill, and they continue to fight the battle for us. That allows us to work and prepare for our state and federal missions to the best of our ability each and every day. But this also requires us to do our part by taking the time to let our elected officials know what we need to execute our missions. Talk to your appointed NGAA board of directors representatives; let the National Guard Association of Arkansas hear your voice and stay connected to NGAUS by signing up for its updates. Submit proposed resolutions any time you identify a resource or idea the Guard needs. You may end up improving the entire National Guard, and not just the Arkansas Guard.

We have seen NGAUS work to overturn personnel and aircraft cuts in the Air National Guard, the Army National Guard now stands at 90 percent equipment-on-hand levels, and GI Bill 2.0 now recognizes Title 32 members. Locally, the 188<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing in Fort Smith is transitioning to the new remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) mission instead of closing its doors after our elected officials fought a hard battle for our state; and the 189<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing at Little Rock Air Force Base is growing by taking on a bigger footprint in legacy training with the addition of students and aircraft. NGAA will continue to push for legislation to be passed in the next Arkansas general session that would exempt taxes on the pay for our retired members and a military pay exemption for all military members of the Arkansas National Guard on their state incomes.

Now is the time for each one of us to become an activist for the Arkansas National Guard. Nobody else will do it for us; we need to be the ones who stand with a united voice to move our state to the forefront of our military. We have had a great run as a 100 percent membership state, and we cannot rest when it comes to our membership. Now more than ever we need to take the time to explain to each officer and enlisted member the importance of how strong our voice can be when we stand together. Every junior officer should be encouraged to consider a lifetime membership. If you are planning a career with the Guard, you will be making a lifetime investment in yourself right from the start. Join NGAA and NGAUS --- be involved, it is **your** Guard!!

*Major Michael P. Culley*  
*Association President*



# NGAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2013-2014

Unit representatives on the National Guard Association of Arkansas Board of Directors for 2013-2014 are listed below. Contact your unit representative with issues you wish to present to the board.

Major Michael Culley, President  
Lieutenant Colonel Erica Ingram, First Vice President  
Major Gerald Robinson, Second Vice President  
Lieutenant Colonel Damon Cluck, Past President  
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Kenneth Moix, Executive Director

## **Member**

Captain Seana Warner  
Major Fred Lee  
Major Douglas Smutnick  
Lieutenant Colonel Tammy Culley  
Major Toby Morrow  
CW4 Arthur K. Troy  
Captain Felicia Rowe  
Lieutenant Colonel Rodney Orick  
Captain Michael Speight  
Major Tommy Smith  
Major James Hall  
First Lieutenant Scotty Parker  
First Lieutenant Christopher Hart  
Major Kevin Truslow  
Major Marden Hueter  
Major Edward Terry  
First Lieutenant Uneeda Blackwell  
Captain Paul Davis  
Major Brook Ellis  
Captain Andrew Graham  
Captain Charles Prewitt  
Captain Reese Walker  
Major David Grant  
Major James Nolley  
Captain David Cox  
Captain Justin Ferguson  
Captain Candice Coleman  
Captain Thomas Edwards  
Captain Jason Montgomery  
Major Jerod Burns  
Colonel (Ret) Bill Stanton

## **Representing**

Headquarters, Arkansas Air National Guard  
188<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing  
184<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron  
189<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing  
154<sup>th</sup> Training Squadron  
Joint Force Headquarters  
Medical Command  
Installation Support Unit  
Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center  
National Guard Marksmanship Training Center  
233<sup>rd</sup> Regional Training Institute  
77<sup>th</sup> Aviation Brigade  
1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 114<sup>th</sup> Aviation  
777<sup>th</sup> Aviation Support Battalion  
87<sup>th</sup> Troop Command  
25<sup>th</sup> Rear Operations Center  
871<sup>st</sup> Troop Command  
875<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion  
142<sup>nd</sup> Fires Brigade  
1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 142<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery  
2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 142<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery  
217<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion  
Headquarters, 39<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team  
39<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion  
39<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Training Battalion  
1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 151<sup>st</sup> Cavalry  
1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 153<sup>rd</sup> Infantry  
2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 153<sup>rd</sup> Infantry  
1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 206<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery  
Title 10 Officers  
Retiree Representative

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# Minutes – NGAA Board of Directors Meeting

June 4, 2013

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## **Absentees**

LTC (Ret) Kenneth Moix, Executive Director  
Maj Gerald Robinson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
1LT Uneeda Blackwell (871 Trp Cmd)  
MAJ Jerod Burns (Title 10)  
CPT Candice Coleman (1-153 Inf)  
Lt Col Tammy Culley (189 AW) (TDY)  
1LT Paul Davis (875 Engr Bn)(AT)  
CPT Thomas Edwards (2-153 Inf)  
1LT Christopher Hart (1-114Avn)(Deployed)  
MAJ Marden Hueter (87 Trp Cmd)(AT)  
Maj Toby Morrow (154 Tng Sqdn)  
MAJ James Nolley (39 BSB) (TDY)  
1LT Scotty Parker (77 TAB)  
CPT Charles Prewitt (2-142 FA)  
MAJ Tommy Smith (NGMTC)  
CPT Michael Speight (CMTC)  
MAJ Edward Terry (25 ROC)(AT)  
CW4 Arthur Troy (JFHQ) (TDY)  
MAJ Kevin Truslow (777 ASB) (AT)  
CPT Reese Walker (217 BSB)(TDY)

## **Guests/NGAA Staff**

COL Rick Oxner, Director of Staff, Air, OTAG  
COL James Treece, DCSen, OTAG  
LTC Vixen James, CMTC  
CPT Brian Ellis, 217 BSB  
CPT Clint Leonard, 2-153 Inf  
CPT Nick Price, 777 ASB  
James Lamb, NGAA staff  
Wanda Thomen, NGAA staff  
Bob Morgan, NGAA staff  
Judy Shere, NGAA staff

Proper notice of this meeting was given prior to the meeting.

## **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m., and a quorum was verified. Guests were recognized and welcomed.

## **Old Business**

The minutes of the 8 January 2013 board meeting were reviewed. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes as written.

## **New Business**

### **Board Representative Action**

Representatives were asked to approve the following board representative change:

CPT Jason Montgomery to fill the unexpired term of CPT Jeffrey Harrington representing 1-206<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery through April 2015.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the appointment.

#### NGAA Trusts Board Recommendation, COL James Treece

NGAA trusts board president, Colonel James Treece, reported a position vacancy on that board due to Colonel Tamhra Hutchins-Frye's deployment to Afghanistan that caused her to resign from the board. The trusts board met earlier this evening and nominated Lieutenant Colonel Damon Cluck to fill her unexpired position. He asked for approval of this appointment by the NGAA board of directors. A motion was made, seconded and approved to appoint Lieutenant Colonel Cluck to fill the vacant position.

#### Legislative Report, COL James Treece

Colonel Treece distributed a summary report of state legislation affecting military and veterans' affairs from the recently concluded session of the Arkansas General Assembly. Several laws were enacted that may affect service members, veterans and their families. He discussed and called attention to four of the acts as being of particular importance to Guard members: (1) increase to the income tax exemption on military service pay, (2) tuition waivers for National Guard members, (3) amendment to the Guard Tuition Incentive Program (GTIP), and (4) lifetime hunting and fishing licenses for some disabled veterans. Questioned about one bill the General Assembly did not address, that of a proposal to gradually increase the state income tax exemption on retired military pay to a maximum of \$40,000 by 2017, Colonel Treece responded that we've got to refine the strategy on this and try again. Most states have this in place. One thing we've got to do is make legislators realize that moving to Arkansas is financially prohibitive for retirees because Arkansas does not offer this. Major Culley suggested that this kind of information needs to be taken back to the unit personnel.

#### Finance Report, James Lamb

The finance report as of 30 April 2013 was presented for approval. There were no questions, and a motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the report as presented.

#### Insurance Report, Wanda Thomen

There are 5852 policies in force at this time, and death claims in the amount of \$20,000 have been paid during the 2013-2014 insurance year as of this date.

#### 2014 Budget, James Lamb

The proposed 2014 budget was presented for approval. It was noted that since no new AFLAC policies are offered through NGAA, there will be a significant drop as renewal commissions are much smaller than commissions from first year policies. The AFLAC policies now in force will be maintained. Questioned as to why the 2013 state conference income was budgeted at \$29K and the actual income was \$17K, it was explained that conference attendance was down in 2013 because of an exercise that caused an approximate 150 member drop in attendance. Attendance should be back up again in 2014.

Major Culley asked for a motion to approve the 2014 budget as presented. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the 2014 budget.

#### Bank Resolutions and Transfer of Taxable Funds, James Lamb

The board was asked to consider approval of bank resolutions for the upcoming year. A motion was made to allow association staff members to coordinate any necessary bank signature card changes generated by changes of staff members and/or elected officers. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve this action.

NGAA requested authority to transfer taxable monies into the association set aside non-taxable account if such funds are identified by the auditor. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve this action.

Mr. Lamb asked for approval to transfer funds up to \$2500 per line item from one line item to another when deemed necessary. For example, in the past year \$2500 was moved from Equipment/Furniture Purchase to Printing and Photocopy. This is not a request for additional money, just a request to move funds from one line item to another to match expenses. Discussion resulted in a motion that the NGAA office manager be allowed reprogramming authority between accounts up to \$2500 with the consent of the NGAA executive director with all actions to be presented at each board meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

#### NGAUS Conference, Maj Culley

The 2013 NGAUS Conference will be held in Hawaii. Details concerning the conference and the registration form are available at the NGAA website ([www.ngaa.org](http://www.ngaa.org)). The events include a Diamond Head hike, golf tournament, governor's reception, hospitality night, states dinner, and much more. The attire for all events is casual. The suspense date to guarantee a room in the Sheraton Waikiki with the Arkansas delegation is 5 July. Everyone was urged to share this information with their unit personnel and encourage them to attend the conference. Call the NGAA office if you have questions.

### 2014 State Conference, LTC Ingram

Next year's conference is scheduled 11-13 April 2014 at the Springdale Holiday Inn and Northwest Arkansas Convention Center, Springdale, Arkansas. Maj Culley asked for everyone's comments about this year's conference so plans can be made accordingly for next year.

### 2015 State Conference Site and Date, Maj Culley

An information sheet listing possible locations for the 2015 conference was distributed to board representatives. The sheet included comparisons of costs for lodging rooms, meeting rooms, convention center usage, etc. The sites included Fort Smith, Hot Springs, Springdale, and Rogers. Little Rock has nothing available on the dates requested. The proposed date for the conference is 17-19 April 2015. Maj Culley asked board representatives to share this information with their units and come prepared to discuss and firm up the site and date for the 2015 conference at the next meeting in August.

### NGAA Trusts, Maj Culley

Maj Culley said an initiative is underway for a 501(c)(3) endowment to allow the association more flexibility to do more with what is available to us, do more for our members, and work with the legislature on issues that affect us as Guard members. Maj Cully asked LTC Cluck to discuss the status of this project.

LTC Cluck discussed plans for the establishment of the NGAA Endowment, Inc. and provided background information about how the project has evolved. He said the funds within NGAA Trust #1 are nearing \$1 million, and under the current structure, options on what can be done with that are very limited. Thus, a strategic planning committee comprised of the NGAA executive committee and selected NGAA past presidents met to begin planning for establishment of a separate 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Legal counsel was brought in to advise in the matter. By-laws and articles of incorporation have been developed, and on 5 April 2013 the National Guard Association of Arkansas Endowment, Inc., was incorporated and the initial directors determined. The 501(c)(3) organization is a pure charity, and funds placed therein will be much more flexible than the current trusts allow. The ultimate goal is to dissolve NGAA Trusts #1 and #2 and donate those funds to the endowment. LTC Cluck noted that a lot of time and legal fees have been involved in this process to do it right. It involves the same amount of money that is in the trusts already. Other donations will be accepted by the endowment for charitable, scientific and educational purposes with the donors imposing the use of the funds.

Following more discussion, LTC Cluck concluded by saying the endowment board will manage the funds. The individuals comprising the NGAA trusts board will manage the endowment along with the NGAA executive director. This group is comprised of five NGAA and three EAANG members: the NGAA president, EAANG president, NGAA executive director, three NGAA at large members, and two EAANG at large members. The trusts board met earlier this evening and approved the by-laws and agreed on these directors. The by-laws state that directors of the endowment will be approved by the NGAA board of directors.

Maj Culley observed that the strategic planning committee has worked diligently on this vision, adding that nothing will be done until approved by this board of directors. Today, he said, we are asking for approval of the initial directors of the endowment corporation. The slate is:

COL James Treece – President  
SGM (Ret) Edwin Lyons – Vice President  
SMSgt Michael Lenahan – Secretary/Treasurer  
LTC (Ret) Kenneth Moix (NGAA Executive Director)  
Maj Michael Culley (NGAA President)  
MSG Jennifer Broach (EAANG President)  
LTC Russel Betts  
LTC Damon Cluck

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the slate of directors presented for the initial directors of the NGAA Endowment, Inc. Maj Culley said a copy of the mission, goals, etc., will be provided to board representatives at a later date.

### Other Discussion

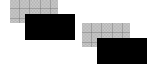
Maj Culley asked the board representatives to discuss corporate membership with their unit officers. Find out if anyone has a relationship with businesses or corporations that may be interested in becoming a corporate member in NGAA. Provide that contact information to the NGAA elected officers/staff, and we will meet with them to explain how our program works.

### **Next Meeting**

The next scheduled board of directors meeting is Tuesday, 13 August 2013, in the NGAA conference room. Dinner will be served at 5:00 p.m., and the meeting will start at 5:45 p.m. A reminder will be sent prior to the meeting date.

### **Adjournment**

There was no further business, and the meeting adjourned.



### **PLAN TO ATTEND**

## ***National Guard Association of the United States***

### ***135th General Conference and Exhibition***

***September 20 - 23, 2013  
Hawaii Convention Center  
Honolulu, Hawaii***

***Program: [www.ngaus.org](http://www.ngaus.org)***

***Hosted by the Hawaii National Guard***

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*135<sup>th</sup> General Conference and Exhibition .....*  
*National Guard Association of the United States.....*

The 135<sup>th</sup> NGAUS Conference is less than 75 days away! There is still time to register and make airline travel arrangements to join the Arkansas delegation in Honolulu, Hawaii, September 20<sup>th</sup> through 23<sup>rd</sup> for an unforgettable experience in our 50<sup>th</sup> state. NGAUS has partnered with American Airlines to provide conference attendees a 10 percent discount for flight reservations during the period September 14<sup>th</sup> through 27<sup>th</sup>. You can access fares and apply the discount by going to [www.aa.com](http://www.aa.com) to book your flight. Enter 9293BL in the promotion code box and your discount will be calculated automatically. This special discount is valid for any applicable published fares listed for American Airlines, American Eagle and American Connection.

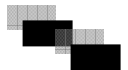
The NGAUS event planners and the Hawaii National Guard have some amazing activities lined up. The Arkansas delegation will be housed in the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel, and as usual, NGAA will host a hospitality suite for our group starting on Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, throughout the conference. The NGAUS golf tournament on Friday morning, September 20<sup>th</sup>, kicks off the conference and will be over in plenty of time to attend the Governor's Reception that evening in the Hawaii Convention Center. A hike up the famous Diamond Head Mountain is on the agenda early Saturday morning for the sports enthusiasts.

The first of three business sessions begins at noon on Saturday, and we want to have a large turnout to represent Arkansas in the Parade of States at that meeting. The business sessions will feature guest speakers from the Pentagon and Congress. Later that day the company grade and warrant officers will enjoy a mixer in the Luau Garden of the Hale Koa Hotel.

On Sunday, the spouses and guests will be treated to a luncheon in the Waikiki Ballroom in the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel. The second business session will convene during the day, and Sunday evening's schedule includes the annual conference Hospitality Night. In recent years, the SEC states have joined together to host a combined event on Hospitality Night, and this year is no exception with the Honolulu Hard Rock Café as the setting for a great night of fun and games. Plus, there will be numerous other hospitality events at locations throughout the city.

Monday brings the third and final business session, and the States Dinner that evening in the convention center will join all the states together for a delicious meal and some great entertainment. The dress for the States Dinner is island attire ... no mess dress uniforms! The business session uniform, however, is short sleeve Class B.

Finally, another amazing highlight that runs throughout the conference is the largest defense industry trade show that caters to the National Guard where the latest products and services are showcased. Everybody will want to spend some time there!





## *Meet Captain Seana Warner .....*



Elected in April to represent Headquarters, Arkansas Air National Guard on the NGAA board of directors, Captain Seana Warner is not new to NGAA activities and has in fact been a strong and active supporter of the association for several years. She is a regular attendee at state conferences and attended her first NGAUS general conference in 2007 where she “learned and saw firsthand the amazing things that organization does for the National Guard”.

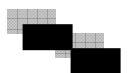
Captain Warner enlisted in the Arkansas Air National Guard in November 2004 and was assigned to the 189<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group. On returning from basic and technical training, she completed two MPA tours with the active duty wing at the Little Rock Air Force Base and in June 2006 graduated from the Academy of Military Science at McGhee-Tyson ANGB in Tennessee. Once commissioned, she served as officer in charge of customer support, education and training, and services within the 189<sup>th</sup> Force Support Squadron, Arkansas ANG. Then, in September 2010, Captain Warner gained full time Active Guard Reserve status as wing executive staff officer for the 189<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing. She currently serves as technician branch manager in the Human Resources Office at Camp Robinson. Prior to her full time AGR status, she was a government contractor with Lockheed Martin.

Her NGAA/NGAUS involvement includes serving on the NGAA/EAANG Scholarships Committee for the past three years, participant in the officer professional development (OPD) program at the NGAUS Conference in 2007 and 2011; and as previously mentioned, she currently represents Headquarters, Arkansas Air National Guard on the NGAA board of directors. She served as the Area IV-Air representative for the company grade committee on the NGAUS board of directors from 2007 to 2011, and in 2010 was asked to serve a three-year term as company grade representative on the NGAUS awards committee. She says one of the most rewarding and fun roles she has had since becoming involved is serving as coordinator for the company grade OPD attendees at the national conference. It has given her an opportunity to share her knowledge and passion for the associations, and it is her hope that the company grade officers who attend the state and national conferences will go back to their units and share what they saw and learned.

On a personal note, Captain Warner enjoys watching and playing sports and doing anything that involves being with friends and family. She likes attending various classes and workshops just to enrich and expand her knowledge.

Captain Warner is the daughter of Douglas and Lilly Warner. She has two sisters, Michelle Rainbolt and Nostancia Berry, and niece Baily (5) and nephew Karston (2). She lives in Sherwood, Arkansas.

NGAA is fortunate indeed to have young officers like Captain Seana Warner who have a strong commitment to being a part of the success story of the organization.



## **New Corporate Members**

NGAA recently welcomed three new *Partners in Patriotism* to its corporate member family:

### **AM GENERAL**

AM General is a world leader in the design, engineering, production and technical and parts support of military and special purpose vehicles. Its corporate offices are located in South Bend, Indiana, and its production facilities which are among the most cutting-edge on earth are located eight miles away in Mishawaka, Indiana. AM General's commitment to quality begins and ends with the customer, and its goal is to constantly increase the level of customer satisfaction in the products and services it provides. To achieve this goal, they have a Total Quality Management philosophy based on these elements ..... Be people oriented – Be dedicated to excellence – Strive for continuous improvement – Achieve total customer satisfaction – Be personally involved.

Visit their website at [www.amgeneral.com](http://www.amgeneral.com).

### **EYE SAFETY SYSTEMS (ESS), INC.**

Eye Safety Systems makes the toughest eyewear in the world for military personnel, first responders and other everyday heroes. Their protective eyewear provides superior fit, form and function for use on or off duty. ESS is the sole authorized issuer of eyewear to the US Marine Corps and is a leading or sole authorized supplier to each of the other branches of the US Department of Defense and is trusted by military personnel and other protectors in more than 100 nations. They specialize in military sunglasses, eyeshields, goggles, face protection, and eye protection for law enforcement, firefighting, shooting sports, and much more.

Visit the website at [www.esseyepro.com](http://www.esseyepro.com)

### **LITEFIGHTER SYSTEMS**

LiteFighter systems manufactures and markets two great products to the military – the LiteFighter shelter system (unique one person tent) and the Olympus deployment bag (rolling duffle bag). These are both quality “taking care of the soldier/airman” products and are popular items with the National Guard.

Information on the shelter system and deployment bag can be found at websites [www.litefighter.com](http://www.litefighter.com) and [www.olympusbag.com](http://www.olympusbag.com).

## **DOD Extends Current Contract for Nation's Largest Voluntary Dental Program**

Delta Dental of California announced today that the TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) of the Department of Defense has extended the current TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) contract – which runs from October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013 – to continue through December 31, 2013.

The contract extension brings no change in premiums or scope of benefits. In addition, enrollees in the enhanced program will receive an additional \$300 annual maximum for 2013, and those in the basic program will receive an additional \$250. The deductible for 2013 will not be increased.

Delta Dental also will serve as administrator of the new five-year TRDP contract which will begin January 1, 2014. Additional information on the new contract will be available within the next several months at [trdp.org](http://trdp.org).

The TRDP, authorized by Congress as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 1997, offers affordable dental benefits as a voluntary option to the nation's 5 million-plus uniformed services retirees and their family members. With current enrollment of more than 1.3 million, the TRDP is the nation's largest voluntary, all-enrollee-paid dental programs.

The TRDP will continue as a worldwide, combined fee-for-service/preferred provider program that offers enrollees access to any licensed dentist in all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Canada and overseas.

..... TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) Press Clip

## *NGAA Corporate Members*

### Headline Corporate Member

HDR Environmental, Operations & Construction, Inc.  
Coca Cola Enterprises of Arkansas  
PepsiCo Foodservice

### Platinum Corporate Member

Nabholz Construction Services

### Gold Corporate Member

Arkansas National Guard MWR  
Ben E. Keith Company  
DRS Technologies  
W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc.

### Corporate Member

AM General, LLC  
Arkansas Blue Cross & Blue Shield  
Arkansas Federal Credit Union  
BAE Systems, Land & Armaments  
The Boeing Company  
DHS Systems LLC (DRASH)  
EADS North America  
Eye Safety Systems (ESS), Inc.  
Fort Smith Arkansas Convention Group  
Hog Wild Wines and Spirits, Inc.  
Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center, NW Arkansas  
Humana Military Healthcare Services  
Litefighter Systems  
Metova  
Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation  
Perkins Technical Services, Inc.  
Tyson Foods, Inc.  
University of Phoenix  
Verizon Wireless

## *NGAA Goals*

- Provide services to members
- Promote legislative actions to benefit members and improve the capabilities of the Arkansas National Guard
- Establish and maintain a cooperative relationship with like organizations
- Maintain long term financial stability
- Preserve the history of NGAA
- Educate federal, state and local communities on the National Guard story
- Improve the communication flow to membership regarding NGAA and its programs

**National Guard Association of Arkansas**  
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### Coming Events

NGAA Trusts Board Meeting, 4:00 p.m.  
NGAA Board of Directors Meeting, 5:00 p.m.  
13 August 2013  
NGAA Office, Building 8100, Camp Robinson

135<sup>th</sup> NGAUS General Conference & Exhibition  
20-23 September 2013  
Honolulu, Hawaii