

February 2010



## *Presidentially Speaking*

**Lieutenant Colonel Tamhra Hutchins-Frye**  
**President**

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Our state conference is fast approaching. We will be utilizing the Embassy Suites and Hammons Convention Center in Rogers, Arkansas, again this year. The inclusive dates for the consolidated events are April 7<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup>. This includes travel days. Your elected association officers and members of the NGAA staff have been working diligently with the officers and members of the Enlisted Association toward making this the best conference ever.

As you may have heard, we are consolidating the Adjutant General's leadership conference with a joint NGAA and EAANG state conference. Major General Wofford's aim is to reduce the number of weekends that members of the Arkansas National Guard are separated from their families to perform their military duties. Committees have been working hard to coordinate these conferences into a three-day event that will accomplish all aspects of the different conferences, provide the Guard members and their families with informative meetings, and allow time for the family as well.

With the increase of officers, enlisted and their families attending the conferences, we anticipate as many as fifty exhibitor and corporate attendees. This should provide many interesting products and services offered by our business friends. We encourage everybody to visit the exhibits during the conferences.

Additionally, this year's *Partners in Patriotism* golf tournament is scheduled on Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, at Shadow Valley Country Club in Rogers. Be watching the NGAA website for more information concerning the joint NGAA/EAANG conference and the NGAA golf tournament.

We hope to see you in Rogers.

## *Official Call – NGAA/EAANG General Conference 2010*

The National Guard Association of Arkansas and Enlisted Association of the Arkansas National Guard Joint Conference will convene April 9-11, 2010, in Rogers, Arkansas, at the Embassy Suites Northwest Arkansas and John Q. Hammons Convention Center. This is a time for important information to be shared, new officers to be elected, and impressive speakers heard. Make plans now to join the fun and fellowship and take care of business. The fun begins on Friday evening in the several hospitality suites hosted by the various National Guard units. Saturday promises to be a full day beginning with the joint business session and auxiliary meetings of spouses in the morning. Then, at noon, a complimentary buffet luncheon at the Embassy Suites will be provided for all conferees and their guests. On Saturday evening, the formal military banquet is the highlight of the conference with the ever impressive parade of commanders/command sergeant majors/command chiefs and offerings of excellent food and drink.

Everyone is encouraged to visit the conference exhibition hall where both local and national vendors will offer new and exciting displays throughout the conference.

For the golfers, the NGAA *Partners in Patriotism* golf tournament is scheduled on Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, at the Shadow Valley Country Club in Rogers. Thanks to the very generous sponsorship of NGAA Headline and Platinum corporate members, this annual golf tournament has grown into an event of ever increasing premier quality in recent years.

Additional information, to include the conference registration form, golf tournament registration form and ANGAA membership form is available at this website (go to [Home/What's New](#) and click on [2010 NGAA/EAANG Joint Conference](#)).

# *Minutes – NGAA Board of Directors Meeting*

## *January 5, 2010*

### **Guests/NGAA Staff**

Col Bill Stanton, Director of Staff, Arkansas Air National Guard  
LTC James Treece, Legislative Committee Chair  
Maj Tammy Culley, Company Grade Officer/OPD Coordinator  
MAJ Erica Ingram, Co Gr Officer of the Year Awards Comm Co-Chair  
Maj Tina Lipscomb, Conference Parade of Cdrs-CSMs-  
Cmd Chiefs/Sergeant at Arms Committee Co-Chair  
Maj (Ret) James Lamb, NGAA staff  
Mrs. Kimberly Winston, NGAA staff  
Mrs. Judy Shere, NGAA staff

### **Joint NGAA/EAANG Conference**

Selected members of the EAANG were present prior to the call to order of the NGAA board of directors meeting for a discussion about the April National Guard leadership event and joint NGAA/EAANG conference. Items discussed included the fact that the contract for the site of the National Guard portion of the April meetings is not yet firm and could be Fort Smith or Rogers. The NGAA golf tournament will be held Wednesday, 7 April, or Friday, 9 April; and exhibitors will set up on either Thursday or Friday, 8 or 9 April. A presidents' reception will be held on Friday evening, 9 April, for corporate members, exhibitors and committee chairpersons. Committee chairs will be assigned vendors to host and will be asked to escort them to the hospitality suites, etc., following the reception. There will be one registration fee for the joint conference, and conferees will be required to have their name badges for admission to all conference areas and activities. An approximately two-hour joint business session will start the day on Saturday morning, 10 April, after which the two associations will break to separate sessions. A luncheon for all conference attendees will be served at noon on Saturday, and then the EAANG business session will have a working lunch or reconvene after lunch for a short time. The military banquet is scheduled on Saturday evening.

A committee chair/co-chair list was reviewed and some changes were made to that. Chairpersons will be asked to provide a status report concerning their areas of responsibility at a committee chairperson meeting scheduled at 5:00 p.m., 2 February, in the NGAA conference room. Hopefully, the contract for the military portion of the April events will be firm by that time.

*(Following the above discussion, the EAANG personnel adjourned to a separate meeting and the NGAA board of directors meeting was called to order.)*

### **Call to Order**

President Hutchins-Frye called the meeting to order, and a quorum was verified. Guests were recognized and welcomed.

### **Old Business**

Minutes of the 6 October 2009 board meeting were reviewed. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes as written.

Everyone was reminded that the NGAA/EAANG scholarship application and the call for resolutions are now available on the NGAA website. Deadline for receipt is 15 February for scholarship applications and 1 March for draft resolutions. Major Regina Allen, Scholarships Committee Co-Chair, said this year's scholarship application was revised to streamline the information requested on the form. She is working on forming a committee of Army/Air NG personnel to review the applications after 15 February. Concerning the call for resolutions, LTC Jim Treece encouraged members to contact the Resolutions Committee with their ideas and issues. That group will assist in getting those ideas in the proper format for consideration as a resolution. This process applies to ideas that are to be worked through state government as well as federal issues.

### **New Business**

#### Legislative Update, LTC Jim Treece

The FY10 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) was signed into law on 29 October 2009. Highlights of the act include the following issues supported and worked by NGAUS:

- TRICARE eligibility for "Gray Area" retirees
- Modification of matching fund requirements for the National Guard Youth Challenge Program from 60/40 to 75/25
- Federal/State funding match
- Stop loss special pay for reserve component members held in a stop-loss situation between 1 October 2009 and 30 June 2011
- 3.4% increase in basic pay for military members

The resolutions adopted by NGAUS at the September 2009 conference have been consolidated into the FY11 NGAUS Legislative Objectives Action Plan. A copy of the document is available for download from the NGAUS website ([www.ngaus.org](http://www.ngaus.org)) under the heading NGAUS in Washington with a link titled Legislative Objectives FY11.

The adjutant general's Legislative Actions Committee met today (5 January) to finalize plans for next month's congressional breakfast hosted at NGAUS headquarters in Washington, DC. This annual breakfast among the adjutant general, several commanders and staff members, and the Arkansas Congressional delegation and their staffers is the preferred method of exchanging information on the specific needs of the Arkansas Guard. NGAA helps support this process through financial assistance. TAG's approved legislative objectives for this meeting include:

- Increase in full-time manning
- C-130 FTU mission for the 189th AW
- Employer tax credit

- T32 eligibility for post 9/11 GI Bill
- Increase to medical force structure in the Guard
- Technician eligibility for TRICARE Reserve Select
- OIF/OEF early retirement provision from the 2008 NDAA
  - Modify to make it retroactive to 9-11-2001
  - Modify language to remove the fiscal year restriction contained in the current statute
- Youth Challenge funding formula (2010 NDAA changes Federal match to 75%. Verifying that the accompanying appropriations bill fully funds the new requirement.)
- Earlier retirement for all Guard members using a formula of one year of earlier retirement eligibility for every two years served over 20 (NGAUS favored position)

The next meeting of the adjutant general's Legislative Actions Committee is scheduled on 24 March 2010, and the agenda will be to nominate and prioritize issues for TAG to present to the 2011 General Session of the Arkansas State Legislature. If anyone personally knows any of the state legislators who might help with our issues, please let LTC Treece know.

#### Board Representative Actions

Board members were asked to approve the following board representative changes:

MAJ Matthew Anderson to fill the unexpired term of MAJ Jason Duvall representing 1-114<sup>th</sup> S&S (through April 2010)

MAJ Shawn Keeter to fill the unexpired term of LTC Timothy Taylor representing 77<sup>th</sup> Avn Bn (through April 2010)

1LT John Chase to fill the unexpired term of CPT Dwayne Page representing 2-142 FA (through April 2011)

CPT Anthony Goins to fill the unexpired term of MAJ David Moore representing 87<sup>th</sup> Trp Cmd (through April 2011)

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

#### 100 Percent Unit Membership Recognition

The following units were recognized as having 100 percent membership for 2010: 1-206 Field Artillery, 1-142 Field Artillery, and 2-142 Field Artillery.

#### Finance and Insurance, Maj (Ret) James Lamb

Finance and insurance reports as of 30 November 2009 were presented. There were no questions and a motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the reports.

Major Lamb introduced Kimberly Winston as the newest NGAA staff member. Mrs. Winston fills the insurance and programs coordinator position. Major Lamb now holds the position of budget and accounting manager for the association. He noted that the NGAA insurance staff has received permission from the Medical Command to attend the Physical Health Assessments (PHA) to review/update NGAA insurance coverage with the

soldiers attending those events. Questioned as to how soldiers know to see NGAA at PHA's, Major Lamb said NGAA is on the checklist at Camp Robinson PHA's and will ask Fort Chaffee for their support. He will also ask for the support of commanders to have their troops see the NGAA insurance staff at PHA's. Finally, he is trying to get more visibility in the Air Guard.

#### Membership

President Hutchins-Frye asked the representatives of the 100 percent membership units how they accomplished that. Responses included the importance of command emphasis and explaining what NGAA does for its members and the Arkansas National Guard. It was suggested that once that culture is established in a unit, it is not difficult to collect dues. JFHQ representative Major Regina Allen said that JFHQ officers do not respond to her requests to pay their dues. They want to pay on line and some want a bill sent to them in the mail. Command emphasis has not worked. She asked that NGAA relook the establishment of an electronic payment method or at mailing bills. LTC Moix said he has investigated the "Pay Pal" method for dues payment but because of the extensive additional information needed on each officer (address updates, rank changes, etc.), it is cost prohibitive. He added that the association had also mailed bills in past years but the outdated database (addresses/ranks, etc.) proved an unsatisfactory and costly method, and the board of directors voted several years ago to change to the current method of unit representatives collecting dues. It was suggested that unit representatives update their unit roster of officers with NGAA on a regular and ongoing basis. Following more discussion that included providing a credit card machine for use during unit drills and more talk about electronic payments, LTC Moix said he is quite willing to hear from anybody that has a solution. President Hutchins-Frye asked if anyone would like to form a committee to look at electronic payment method. Major Allen and two or three others volunteered to do that.

#### 2010 Conference Update, Lt Col Hutchins-Frye

The joint conference will be conducted basically on the same schedule of events as last year's NGAA conference. Name badges will be required for admittance to all conference activities. Exhibitors will be registered and provided with name badges. Estimated attendance at the joint business session is 600. The banquet will include the parade of commanders/command sergeant majors/command chiefs and presentation of enlisted awards. The banquet entertainment committee is looking at two entertainers: Mike Rayburn, who performed last year and Buzz Sutherland. Everybody was invited to "Google" those two entertainers and provide feedback as to which one they would like to have. The cost for either one is about the same as was paid last year. She hopes to have

some committee reports from last year's conference available at the February committee chairpersons meeting to help in planning this year's events. Questioned about whether a conference theme has been established, the response was that there is no overall conference theme; however, most of the unit hospitality suites will have a theme.

**Next Meeting(s)**

Committee chairpersons will meet at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, 2 February 2010, in the NGAA conference room. Committee meetings are also scheduled on 2 March and 30 March (same time and place). Reminders

will be sent approximately one week prior to the meeting dates.

The next scheduled board of directors meeting is Tuesday, 1 June 2010, 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***

***132nd General Conference and Exhibition***

***August 21 to 23, 2010 (Show Dates: 20-23)***

***Austin Convention Center***

***Austin, Texas***

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

***Hosted by the Texas National Guard***

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# IMPORTANT REMINDERS

## ***Membership***

NGAA/NGAUS 2010 membership renewals are due and payable. The cut-off date to qualify your unit for a 100 percent membership award at state conference is 15 February 2010. Your membership renewal is still very important even after the 100 percent unit cutoff date since our 2010 NGAUS delegation count depends on the number of state association renewals.

We continue to accept membership payments, and everyone is urged to pay as soon as possible. You can pay by phone and use your credit card by calling the association office at 501-758-6422.

Thank you again for your support of your association.

## ***NGAA/EAANG Scholarships 2010-2011***

The closing date for submission of 2010-2011 NGAA/EAANG scholarship applications is February 15, 2010. The scholarship committee is in the process of reviewing the applications submitted. Scholarship recipients will be determined and notified in the March-April timeframe.

The \$500 scholarships may be used for any and all college expenses. Thirty scholarships will be awarded to members of the National Guard Association of Arkansas, members of the Enlisted Association of the Arkansas National Guard and dependents of current, retired or deceased members of NGAA/EAANG.

## ***Company Grade Officer Award Program***

Brigadier General Richard Swan, co-chairman of the NGAA Company Grade Officer Awards Committee recently sent a letter to commanders of battalions, squadrons, higher headquarters and separate units of the Arkansas National Guard. The letter outlines the criteria for the NGAA Company Grade Officer Award and asks for nominations no later than March 5, 2010. The committee is especially interested in receiving a large number of nominations of our deserving company grade officers for the 2009 awards.

If you have questions or need additional information concerning this program, you may contact Major Erica Ingram, Committee Co-Chair, [erica.ingram@us.army.mil](mailto:erica.ingram@us.army.mil), phone number (501) 212-4060, or the NGAA office at (501) 758-6422/1-800-522-1617.

## ***Election Time ....***

The terms of NGAA board of directors' representatives for the units listed below will expire in April. Individuals nominated to fill the positions will be confirmed during the business session at the general conference in April. Commanders of the units listed are asked to nominate an individual to represent their unit for the next two years or request the current representative remain for a new two-year term.

189 <sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing	Hq, 233 <sup>rd</sup> RTI	39 <sup>th</sup> BSB
184 <sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron	77 <sup>th</sup> Avn Bde	39 <sup>th</sup> BTB
JFHQ	1-114 <sup>th</sup> S&S	1-151 <sup>st</sup> Cav
NGMTC	25 <sup>th</sup> ROC	1-142 <sup>nd</sup> FA
Fort Chaffee MTC	39 <sup>th</sup> BCT	217 <sup>th</sup> BSB

The nominee must be a current annual member or life member of NGAA. The duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to, attending regular and special board meetings and performing any and all duties imposed by the articles of incorporation or the association bylaws.

Thank you for your continued support of your association. We encourage unit members to recommend potential nominees for these positions to their commanders. With the help of our current and newly appointed board members, we look forward to a progressive and exciting future for your organization.

## *New Partners in Patriotism*

We are pleased to welcome two new organizations to our corporate member family as our *Partners in Patriotism*:

**Laser Shot, Inc.**, is the global leader in firearm and force option training solutions. Innovative products incorporate the latest technologies in developing accurate, dependable, and effective use of firearms by military, law enforcement, and other public safety professionals. Laser Shot training solutions are employed by thousands of military and law enforcement agencies around the world everyday. Unique solutions enable progressive training from realistic laser-based engagements to ultra-realistic live-fire exercises. As the designer and producer of the training software, hardware, and shooting ranges, Laser Shot can fill any agency's firearm training needs. Laser Shot systems are extremely reliable and require little or no maintenance. However, a full professional technical support team is always ready to assist...24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Laser Shot will be participating in the NGAA/EAANG Conference exhibits show in Rogers, April 9-10, 2010. Be sure to stop by their booth! And, you can visit their website at [www.lasershot.com](http://www.lasershot.com).

**ADS, Inc.**, is intensely focused on providing timely and cost effective operational products, tactical gear, and logistics services solutions its clients need to increase their operational effectiveness, complete their missions, and make this world a safer place. ADS has developed procedures that shorten the "logistics pipeline" to provide rapid response and the best possible pricing to its customers worldwide. They provide [tactical equipment](#) and [logistics services solutions](#) to all [DOD and federal agencies](#) in support of homeland defense and homeland security. ADS also specializes in working with defense and security contractors as well as protective services organizations. No matter what uniform you wear, ADS mission is to provide the specialized equipment and related services needed to complete the mission at home, in theater, or around the globe. ADS may also participate in the conference exhibits show in April. Their website is [www.adstactical.com](http://www.adstactical.com)

## *NGAA Gets New Board Representatives*

The association recently welcomed two new unit representatives to the NGAA board of directors:

- Major Matthew Anderson now represents the 1-114<sup>th</sup> Security & Support
- Major Shawn Keeter is 77<sup>th</sup> Aviation Battalion representative
- Captain Anthony Goins is representative for 87<sup>th</sup> Troop Command
- First Lieutenant John Chase is 2-142<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery representative

## *NGAA Corporate Members*

### **Headline Corporate Member**

Engineering Environmental Management, Inc.  
Coca Cola Bottling Company of Arkansas  
Pepsi Americas

### **Platinum Corporate Member**

Aflac Insurance  
Nabholz Construction Corporation  
Recovery Management, Inc.

### **Gold Corporate Member**

Arkansas National Guard MWR  
DRS Technologies  
Laser Shot, Inc.

### **Corporate Member**

ADS, Inc.  
Embassy Suites Northwest Arkansas  
Humana Military Healthcare Services, Inc.  
Old Mill Wines and Spirits

**National Guard Association of Arkansas, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 663, North Little Rock, Arkansas  
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[www.ngaa.org](http://www.ngaa.org)

### **Coming Events**

NGAA Trusts Board Meeting, 4:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, February 18, 2010  
NGAA Office, Bldg 8100, Camp Robinson

NGAA Board of Directors Meeting, 5:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, June 1, 2010  
NGAA Office, Bldg 8100, Camp Robinson

NGAA/EAANG Joint Conference  
April 9-11, 2010  
Embassy Suites Northwest Arkansas  
Rogers, Arkansas