

President's Message

Maj Gen John L. Matthews, President, NGAUS

Changing the NGAUS Membership Year

Before the General Conference in Boston will be a proposal to change the NGAUS membership. The proposal is to align the membership year with the calendar year. This proposal has merit and should be approved.

During the past several years, many discussions have ensued over the need to make the membership year and the fiscal year the same. Last year in Biloxi, Brig Gen Ken Ross, chairman of the Membership Committee, took this issue to the state associations and to the floor, where it was narrowly defeated, primarily due to a perception that insufficient notice or explanation of the proposal was given. Because this issue is important, and because there were misunderstandings, the Membership Committee is once again proposing the change. This past January, the National Guard Association Executive Directors Association was briefed on the proposed change, and in-depth discussions followed.

Why should the membership year be changed? The committee's research indicated that there is confusion among many of our members as to the period of time for which their dues were paid. With the membership year beginning July 1, and with different procedures used in collecting dues by the many state associations, it is no wonder that some didn't know for which year they are paying. You could be paying in early 1994 for member year "1995." A calendar year would eliminate this confusion.

Membership dues make up approximately one-third of the Association's revenues. When this money is received is important to the operations of the Association. Currently, with our membership year beginning in July, most revenue is not received until the July time frame. But with our fiscal year beginning in January, instead of banking money, and being proactive with the cash flow, we are being reactive. Additionally, our outside auditors find it difficult to conduct the audit process when the Association's fiscal year and membership year are six months apart. The audits are critical because, not only is NGAUS audited, but also the Insurance Trust, the Historical Society and the Building Corporation. A calendar year would alleviate our auditors concerns.

"Moving to a calendar year would make it easier to determine delegates for the General Conference. Instead of waiting for final numbers for a membership year that ends in June for a September or October Conference, numbers and verification of delegates can be done much earlier and much easier."

Moving to a calendar year would also make it easier to determine delegates for the General Conference. Instead of waiting for final numbers for a membership year that ends in June for a September or October Conference, numbers and verification of delegates can be done much earlier and much easier. A change in calendar year also will make it easier to use prior National Guard Bureau fiscal year strength numbers to determine the basis for NGAUS member strength.

While there are pluses to making the change, we recognize that this will generate considerable work on the part of state associations to adapt to this change. The change will require a dues transition process. The Membership Committee has recommended a plan that would establish a January to December membership year beginning January 1, 1997. In order to convert from the current membership year, we would ask the state associations to collect transition period dues. The recommended transition period would cover the 18-month period from July 1, 1995, to December 31, 1996.

In asking for this change, there are some important considerations. First, there is no increase in NGAUS dues. Second, the state associations can determine their own schedule for collection of transition dues. Third, the universal completion date for the transition will be December 31, 1996. By then, everyone's dues will have been paid for membership (calendar) year 1997. Fourth, the NGAUS By-laws must be changed at the Boston Conference.

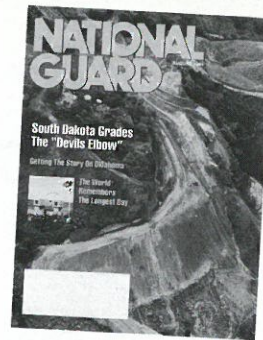
The Membership Committee has distributed to the state association presidents and executive directors background material on the proposed change, and a plan as to how the transition will occur. This transition plan calls for a pro rata collection of dues, in other words, for a period of 18 months. The recommended transition is for the states to collect the 18-month dues over a nine-month period (from July 1, 1995, to March 31, 1996). This will help NGAUS manage its cash flow during the transition period.

During the transition period, each state will have the latitude to manage the dues processing, collection and vouchering to the NGAUS, and the NGAUS Membership Department will work closely with the states to make the transition as smooth as possible. The end result will make for a smoother running membership process and make for smoother NGAUS operations.

Changing the NGAUS membership year to the calendar year should occur.

NATIONAL GUARD

August 1994 Volume XLVIII, Number 8



Cover:

National Guard members nationwide participated in TASK FORCE RUSHMORE, a road-building and medical care exercise in Panama. Coordinated by the South Dakota National Guard, approximately U.S. 5,400 soldiers took part in this mission. Inset: U.S. veterans take part in celebrations commemorating the Normandy invasion and the liberation of France. Cover, Dennis and Sackett Design.

Departments

President's Message	2
Views From the Field	4
Washington Tie-Lines	8
Capital Focus	16
Leading Edge	38
Posting the Guard	40
Notebook	42

Publication Staff

MG Robert F. Ensslin Jr. (ret.)
Publisher

Victor Dubina
Director of Communications

Pamela A. Kane
Executive Editor

Belinda L. Reilly
Production Manager

Christopher J. Anderson
Editorial Assistant/Writer

R. Glenn Ross
Advertising Sales

M. Catherine Privat, CPA
Controller

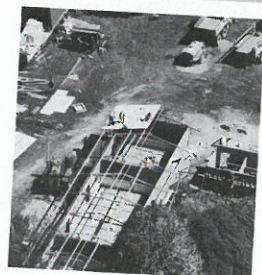
Dennis and Sackett Design
Artwork

NATIONAL GUARD, August 1994. The NATIONAL GUARD Magazine (ISSN 0163-3945) is published monthly, by the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS), with editorial and advertising offices at One Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. Telephone (202) 789-0031. FAX: (202) 682-9358. Second-class postage paid at Washington, D.C., and at additional mailing offices. Copyright 1994 by the National Guard Association of the U.S. All rights reserved. All members of the NGAUS receive NATIONAL GUARD Magazine: \$8 of the membership dues are allocated to a magazine subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are \$20 per year. The bulk subscription rate for orders of 100 issues or more continues to be \$10 per issue. The editor welcomes original articles bearing on national defense, with emphasis on application to or implications for the National Guard. Postmaster: Send Form 3579 to NATIONAL GUARD, One Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.

Features

South Dakota Tackles the Devil's Elbow 18

TASK FORCE RUSHMORE was a six-month engineer and medical exercise of massive proportions in Panama. This exercise was coordinated and commanded by South Dakota Guard members. Besides building 27 kilometers of a farm-to-market road, engineers also renovated schools and medical facilities. Approximately 5,400 U.S. troops were involved in this training mission.



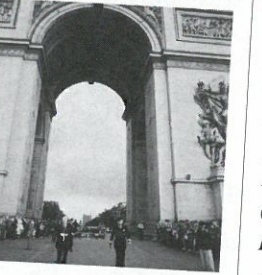
Ceremonies Commemorate D-Day 50th 22

Ceremonies commemorating the 50th anniversary of the beach landings in Normandy, France, marked the beginnings of year-long ceremonies that will be conducted throughout France. June 6, 1944, signaled the beginning of the end of German domination in Europe and the end of World War II. Many U.S. veterans made the journey back to relive old memories and accept the accolades they so well deserve from the world.



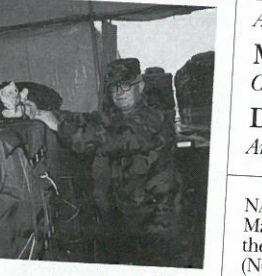
The Dash to Liberate Paris, 1944 28

When the Allies were victorious in the brutal battles for the liberation of Paris, the objective became the liberation of Paris. The "Essex Troop" Cavalry Group, New Jersey National Guard, was the vanguard to the French 2d Armored Division (Deuxieme Division Blindée) and the U.S. 4th Infantry Division. This is the first part in a two-part series.



Oklahoma Media Gets Firsthand Look 32

The Oklahoma Air National Guard recently set out to inform the public. So, the 137th Airlift Wing flew a group of 10, including journalist David Walters, on one of its missions to Bosnia. The purpose of this mission was to increase public awareness of the National Guard's role in national defense and humanitarian missions.



The Nation Under God 36

The relationship between God and country is interwoven in the fabric of this nation. Although not specifically stated, it is alluded to throughout the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. What is the responsibility of the military itself, as an institution, and individual soldiers in upholding and following

