

Maj Gen John L. Matthews, President, NGAUS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR A SECURE NATIONAL DEFENSE

It is difficult to believe, but another year is coming to a close. The end of a year is the time we reflect on what we have accomplished, and plan what we want to achieve in the coming year. General Ensslin's column on page 12 reviews some of our major accomplishments this year. So, before we sit down at the kitchen table with our staffs to discuss what we want to achieve next year, it is only appropriate that we review the purpose and objectives of the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS).

Although outlined in our By-laws, I believe this is the time to fully explain what our Association is pledged to do.

"The purpose of the National Guard Association of the United States shall be to promote the national security of the United States of America." Therefore, it is only appropriate that we find ourselves in many discussions and debates about the proper force mix, structure, equipment and personnel benefits issues. Because it all boils down to a strong national defense that best ensures the security of the United States.

To accomplish this purpose, our By-laws outlines five objectives.

The first is: "Educating the public with regard to the role of the Army and Air National Guard in national security and national defense." The National Guard is a unique organization, and we must continue to tell about the Guard's dual capabilities, its history and its accomplishments, so that citizens in our communities, states, legislatures, the media, the active services, industry and Congress will give their strong support. The NGAUS objectives are not possible without that understanding.

Our second objective is to make "... the requirements of the Army and Air National Guard known to the Office of the Secretary of Defense; the Departments of the Army and Air Force; the National Guard Bureau; other appropriate military, governmental and congressional agencies; and to the public, in order to enhance the proficiency and military posture of the national defense through a strong, well-trained and ready National Guard and to ensure that the

Army and Air National Guard are fostered and improved as the nation's first line of defense in support of the active establishment."

This is the core objective that your Association headquarters staff works toward in Washington. General Ensslin and his staff members are in constant contact with National Guard Bureau personnel. Frequently, they meet with Army and Air Force leadership in meetings, such as the "off-site" meeting with senior Army leadership. They interact with the military associations in Washington on scores of military issues. They also interface with the secretary of Defense's office and, more specifically, the assistant secretary of Defense for reserve affairs.

Most importantly, the Washington staff works with members of Congress and their staff members to provide that united representation before Congress. This only contributes to an understanding of what the National Guard requires to be well-trained and ready to meet its federal mission, and to respond to governors for the domestic mission.

"Working with, encouraging and assisting the National Guard associations of the states in projecting the image and purpose of the National Guard to the American public," is our third objective. It always comes as a surprise when people discover that state associations are independent entities and not chapters. Yet, we recognize that to achieve our objectives, we must work together to cultivate the grass roots support of the Guard. Alone, that challenge is daunting; yet, working together, we make great strides.

The fourth objective is to maintain "... in conjunction with the Historical Society of the Militia and National Guard, a library of books, periodicals and other publications of special interest to the National Guard, along with a gallery of significant art, artifacts and memorabilia operated by the Historical Society, to be open to the public without charge, in the interest of fostering and improving public appreciation of the history, traditions and contributions of the militia and National Guard."

Those who have had an opportunity to visit the National Guard Memorial have seen the Library of the National Guard, the Minuteman Statue, the Medal of Honor Gallery and the future location of the Museum of the National Guard. The Minuteman Trust, our fundraising vehicle, is close to making the museum a reality. We want our facilities to be the premier resource and educational center on the militia and National Guard. It is our duty to capture this history; if not us, then who else will do it?

The fifth, and last, objective of our By-laws charges us with, "Encouraging membership in the Army and Air National Guard and promoting the rights and benefits of members and former members of the National Guard." In this objective, the membership sees the roots of the Retiree Task Force, the Company Grade Committee and other internal efforts to ensure our members receive equitable personal benefits, and the states to share in the military's recruiting and retention benefits that are so necessary to keeping a strong force.

From these objectives spring the Association's activities that are undertaken throughout the year. Some endeavors include editorial boards with major national newspapers; the resolutions process; the *Legislative Action Plan*; the General Conference; symposiums; addressing state association conferences; testifying before Congress; NGAUS fact sheets and white papers; and last, but not least, this magazine.

As we look to 1994, we must focus on three areas. The first is membership. The closer we are to 100 percent, the more capable we are at achieving all our objectives. The second focus must be on maximizing the use of the National Guard. We, as a nation, must return to our militia roots, because it is here that properly equipped and committed citizen-soldiers can do their part in reducing the nation's fiscal problems. Third, we can ill afford the continued erosion of national defense funding. This is a message we have to relay.

As we wish you a Happy New Year, we are committed to these objectives and to you, our membership.

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FEATURES

Keep Your Guard Up 14

For the first time in recent memory, the secretary of Defense, Les Aspin, attended the NGAUS General Conference. He was there to reassure National Guard members that they will continue as a key element and full partner in the first line of defense for national security. He discussed his Bottom-Up Review and its impact on the National Guard.

The President's Annual Report 21

Upon his election to office, Maj Gen John L. Matthews, president of the National Guard Association of the United States, made several commitments to the NGAUS membership that will move the Association into the 21st century. His annual report to the 115th General Conference is reprinted here to enable members to track the improvements and successes of the Association.

Army and Air Guard Directions 40

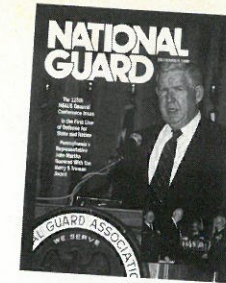
During the Army and Air National Guard Separate Sessions at the General Conference, Maj Gen John L. France, NGAUS vice president for Air, and Maj Gen Philip Killey discussed pressing Air National Guard issues. MG Jack Ryan, then NGAUS vice president for Army, hosted the new Army Guard director, MG John D'Araujo, at the Army Session.

And the Award Winners Are.... 42

This year, the National Guard Association of the United States award recipients received their medals and plaques during various portions of the General Conference's business sessions. The top Army Guard unit recipient was the 116th Infantry, Virginia Army National Guard, and the top Air Guard unit was the 133d Airlift Wing, Minnesota Air National Guard.

New and Old Members Are Priorities 46

The Retiree Caucus and the Company Grade Caucus again attended to the business of the Association by hearing from the Association and DoD leadership. Both elements of the NGAUS declared their membership was crucial to the Association's ability to best represent the Guard on Capitol Hill, in the Pentagon and to the American people.



COVER:

At the 115th NGAUS General Conference, Rep. John Murtha of Pennsylvania was awarded the Harry S Truman Award, the Association's highest award. He was nominated by Keystone State Guard members. Photos, Maj Jean Marie Beall. Cover, Howard Design and Illustration.

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PUBLICATION STAFF

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

CPT Victor Dubina (ret.)
Director of Communications

CPT Pamela A. Kane
Executive Editor

Ms. Belinda L. Reilly
Production Manager

2LT Carol Thompson
Editorial Assistant/Writer

MAJ R. Glenn Ross (ret.)
Advertising Sales

Ms. M. Catherine Privat, CPA
Controller

Howard Design & Illustration

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