



MG Ansel M. Stroud Jr., President, NGAUS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FULL MEMBERSHIP: AN URGENT NGAUS PRIORITY

Maximum participation by members is a key to the success of any vital organization. This is no less true of the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) than any other group.

When I was elected your president in Nashville last fall, my top priority was restoring the level of membership to the maximum levels we have been accustomed to in the past, and from which we have slipped in the last five years.

One of the steps I have taken to address our membership problem, which will be discussed in more detail below, is to appoint LTG Emmett H. Walker Jr. (ret.), former chief of the National Guard Bureau, to head a special Committee on Membership. General Walker and his committee members will look into the causes of our membership decline since 1983 and some solutions for the problem.

It probably should be no surprise that this membership decline from the NGAUS' historic levels of 97 to 98 percent of all Guard officers each year over many years to 74 percent in 1986 began with some unwanted attention to certain membership-recruitment practices at that time. Let me only say that NGAUS then—and we continue this today—operates through the chain of command. NGAUS is an organization of individual members. We do not have chapters. State associations are not chapters of NGAUS; they are separate legal entities, although we work closely with most state associations and want to cooperate fully with all of them.

In years gone by, particularly before state associations achieved the effectiveness they have in recent years, the NGAUS asked adjutants general to collect dues on behalf of the national association. In a period like the 1950s, membership in one's professional or trade organization was considered the norm rather than the exception.

Virtually all Guard officers belonged to the NGAUS, just as bankers belonged to the American Bankers Association, lawyers to the American Bar Association, doctors to the American Medical Association, etc.

Guard officers felt a strong professional requirement to support the organization that represented them in Washington. Of course, this was a period when it was very clear to nearly any Guard officer what the NGAUS, under the presidency of the legendary MG Ellard A. Walsh, had done to save and reconstitute the National Guard as the nation's Militia after World War II in the face of an attempt to do away with the Guard as a federal reserve.

"My top priority during my two-year presidency is restoring membership to maximum levels."

What call do we have on the average Guard officer's loyalty today? Obviously, that is a question more officers than we would wish are asking. One of the goals of my presidency will be to answer that question effectively. We believe we have an answer that is easily understood.

For example, we were instrumental, along with the Enlisted Association, in the enactment last year of year-round commissary shopping for drilling Guardsmen any 14 days of the year. This is a troop benefit that should be easy for any junior officer to understand, not only for himself, but also to relate to his troops.

Many of the issues the NGAUS addresses routinely on Capitol Hill are not benefits that find their way into a Guardsman's wallet, but are combat-

readiness enhancers such as equipment procurement or more resources for unit training. Thus, when a new battalion of M-1 or M-60A3 tanks shows up in the motor pool, the company-level Guard officer may not think "NGAUS." But he should. And when an Air Guard squadron begins its conversion to F-15s or F-16s, pilots may not think "NGAUS." But they should.

That is because the tank battalion got its new tanks as a result of the continued full procurement of M-1s for the Total Army. And the Air Guard is getting large numbers of F-16s in a substantial part because of the NGAUS' continued insistence on additional fighter procurement.

How does this translate into 100 percent membership? In today's environment, our best tool for convincing Guard officers who otherwise might be reluctant to pay their dues is to tell them what we are doing for them. Long gone are the days when we could insist on NGAUS membership as a condition of membership in the National Guard. Of course, we can continue to hope that most Guardsmen will feel that way.

We pay a painful penalty when we don't achieve our membership potential—a financial penalty. At year-end we had failed to collect \$158,000 in dues, a sum that would have gone a long way to balancing our budget in 1986.

Beginning next month, we will be publishing membership statistics by state. I congratulate these 100-percent states: Georgia, Mississippi, New Jersey, Oklahoma and South Carolina. We hope the publication of this membership information will be enlightening to the membership and an incentive to Guard leaders everywhere to do their utmost to support the NGAUS and the services we provide to you at the national level. We can't do our job without your full support.

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FEATURES

Patriots of the Pacific

The Guam National Guard is the youngest and smallest member of the National Guard and it is building a tradition based on pride and patriotism. Although faced with problems inherent to its location and size, the Guam National Guard is steadily improving its record.

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Air Guard at William Tell '86

Air National Guard units from Oregon, North Dakota and New York participated in the William Tell '86 competition. The North Dakota unit took top honors in the F-4 competition. On the other side of the coin, the Florida and New Jersey Air National Guards were the "keepers of the drone."

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The Tax Reform Act of 1986

The new tax law is the most revolutionary tax legislation produced in the past 30 years. It is important to know and understand its sweeping changes so as to take full advantage over the next several years in which it is implemented.

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Battling the Cold

Learning to fight in cold weather is a complicated and necessary task. Lessons learned by the 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment during recent winter training are valuable for future training and fighting.

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Operation Haylift

During the summer of 1986, Southeastern farmers were hit with one of the worst droughts in history. In an effort to help, farmers from the Northeast and Midwest donated hay, and Guardsmen were called out to help transport and load hay for the stricken farmers.

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COVER:

An F-4 from the 142d Fighter Interceptor Group, Oregon Air National Guard, gets ready for takeoff during the 1986 William Tell competition. The Portland based unit claimed the F-4 "Top Gun." Photo, LTC Don Borowski. Design, Johnson Design Group.

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