



MG Charles M. Kiefner, President, NGAUS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THE EMERGING IMPLICATIONS FOR 100% NGAUS MEMBERSHIP

After a couple of false starts, the 110th NGAUS General Conference in San Antonio last September adopted an amendment to the Association's Bylaws that changes the way delegate strength is computed. This change already has attracted the undivided attention of many states; several have sought "an exception" from the new requirement for this year.

We took up this matter at the NGAUS Executive Council meeting of December 10, but quickly concluded that the Council has no authority to grant any relief because the specific provision being objected to by some states is now written into the Bylaws. This can only be changed by the General Conference. Thus, paid membership as of December 31, 1988, will be utilized as the basis for delegate allocation for the 111th General Conference in Detroit this September.

Before addressing how all this will play in Detroit, it seems fair to begin at the beginning to explain our current situation with membership, where we have been in recent years and where I hope we are headed. Prior to about 1980, the NGAUS routinely stated in testimony and in other forums that the Association represented nearly 100 percent of the officers of the Army and Air National Guard. In those days, this was an absolute fact. Membership dues were collected through the chain of command, with command emphasis beginning at the top from the various adjutants general down through commanders to lieutenants.

In those days, it was not unusual for a company commander to be told he should consider paying for any lieutenants he had who resisted paying their NGAUS dues. Usually, he did if he couldn't persuade a recalcitrant junior to see the light. In even earlier times, when annual training pay was in cash, officers going through the pay line at field training sites were stopped at a "NGAUS collection sta-

tion" and produced their dues forthwith with the comment from the S-1 that if they hoped to be a member of this fine organization this time next year, they should pay up.

Obviously, we do not utilize these techniques for dues collection these days. We have become more persuasive on the merits of what the NGAUS does on the state and national level. State associations are active with state issues. We have become more efficient in assisting the dues collection process by explaining what has been done in recent times to benefit the Guard and Guardsmen.

In the early 1980s, we saw the effective end of any form of command emphasis on our dues collection with a series of allegations suggesting coercion in a few states. Although the actual suggestions of pressure involved only a handful of individuals, the series of episodes had a profound effect on dues collection in some states. Some states hover down around the 50 percent figure, while others routinely exceed 100 percent.

Leaders in states where membership is low face the problem of explaining to dues payers why they should continue to pay their dues when nearly half the other Guard officers in their state do not pay and suffer no penalty. This is a problem for which there is no ready solution.

At least, there wasn't any solution until the Bylaws were changed in San Antonio. Previously, delegate strength at the General Conference was based on the total National Guard strength in a given state as of June 30 of the year of the Conference. This policy had been adopted because the NGAUS historically represented the

needs of the entire National Guard. The NGAUS, at age 111, is by far the oldest military association on both the national level and in the states.

The new delegate-allocation process is far more appropriate and will better serve the Association as we move into the 1990s. That is because it will more accurately reflect the effort of the individual states to support the NGAUS at the national level. Representation will be based on participation. States that maintain full paid membership will have optimum voting strength at the General Conference.

What are the implications for this diminution of delegate strength for a state? That depends. When there is a closely contested election, it could mean a state's influence is diminished if it doesn't have nearly full membership. Delegate strength is a key factor in any roll call of the states when that occurs at a main business session of the Conference. Such a roll call could occur on such matters as proposed changes in the membership basis to the Association coming from our special Committee on Membership. We won't have election of officers in 1989, but that will occur again in 1990—and states will want to be fully represented when that occurs. I'm sure.

Full membership from all states is our goal. In addition to fairness, it is important to note that closing the gap between the current 80 percent level and full paid membership will provide a very important dues income to the Association. This money is critical to our providing the services to members that you indicate you want. This new Bylaw is just one technique for achieving that goal.

And finally, we again will be able to say we speak for all the officers of the National Guard.

National Guard

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FEATURES

Today's Black Guard Leadership 14

There are five black generals in today's National Guard, Air and Army. NATIONAL GUARD Magazine talks with these leaders about their careers and what they see for the future of blacks in the National Guard.

1607-1865: The Ups and Downs 18

The role of black Militiamen during this period of time in U.S. history had its ups and downs. They apparently were good enough to fight during times of war but during peace went unwanted, even in most Northern states. Even those free blacks that volunteered to wear Confederate grey during the Civil War were turned away.

1965-World War I: The Forgotten Years 24

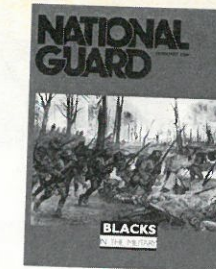
After the Civil War many black units, as well as their white counterparts, were disbanded. This provided many states with the opportunity to exclude blacks from their state militias in years to come.

World War II: Reaching Toward Desegregation 30

In the years before World War II, the National Guard saw a sharp decline in black participation because of state laws. The Selective Service Act of 1940 required that military training and service should be shared by young men of all races, with no color discrimination. This opened the door, albeit a crack, for total integration in the armed forces.

Senior Air Commanders Conference 34

The Senior Air Commanders Conference, conducted this fall in Louisville, Kentucky, was the debut for Brig Gen Philip G. Killey, the new Air Guard director. Budget cuts and force readiness were the central topics of discussion.

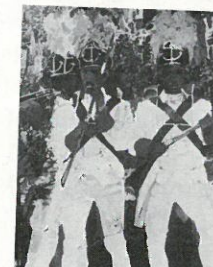
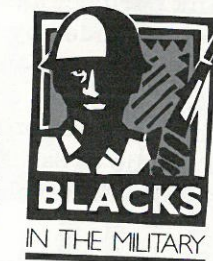


COVER:

This issue highlights the accomplishments and contributions of black National Guardsmen. The "Hell Fighters from Harlem," by H. Charles McBarron, part of the National Guard Heritage Series, depicts the 369th Infantry, battling in the Meuse-Argonne campaign during World War I. Design, Johnson Design Group, Inc.

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