



MG Ansel M. Stroud Jr., President, NGAUS

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO HELP THE NGAUS AWARDS PROGRAM

It often is said that a little piece of cloth means more than a promotion or a pay raise when presented for the right reasons in the right way. So it is too, on a somewhat higher plain, with the NGAUS awards program.

Commanders have found that when they aggressively push an awards program, they reap bountiful rewards in the morale of their soldiers and airmen. The award of the Army/Air Force Achievement Medal at the unit level, or the Commendation Medal or Meritorious Service Medal at somewhat higher levels, can go a long way in securing the continued professional services of our officers and enlisted personnel.

In past years, we have heard some murmuring about the NGAUS Awards Program. Most of this murmuring we would take as intramural griping. But in addressing it, we would only make the point that for the NGAUS Awards Committee to make broad and intelligent choices about the recipients of the Association's various awards, we need your help. The best source of ideas for awardees comes from our members—from the field. Too often, we have a distinct shortage of such proposals.

The NGAUS awards normally are presented at an awards luncheon at the General Conference. This President's Recognition Awards Luncheon (PRAL) provides a forum for the presentation of both unit awards and individual awards.

Unit awards generally are selected outside the Association itself. We depend heavily on the National Guard Bureau and the active services for these selections. For example, the Spaatz Trophy for the best Air Guard flying unit is selected by the Air Directorate. The Walter Kerwin Award for the best Army Guard battalion is selected through a complicated process involving state headquarters, the con-

tinental U.S. armies (CONUSA) and the Bureau.

This is not to say, however, that we don't urge Guardsmen and commanders to aspire to these unit awards. Certainly, the winning of the Kerwin Award, as an example, should be the pinnacle of an Army Guard commander's career because it means he and his organization have succeeded in attaining full personnel strength, high levels of MOS qualification, an effective maintenance and safety program and other factors that make a unit stand out as superior.

**We depend on the members in the field for nominations to make the NGAUS Awards Program the best it can be.**

The place where individual Guardsmen and commanders in the states can help the NGAUS the most with our awards program is in the nomination of persons for the three main categories of individual awards. From the top, these are the Distinguished Service Medal (DSM), the Meritorious Service Award (MSA) and the Valley Forge Cross.

Even for the DSM, don't assume that your national leadership is all-wise in the selection of such recipients. True, we have some ideas about Guard and other military leaders who should receive this award. But the NGAUS Awards Committee would welcome nominations from the states.

To be consider for award of the DSM, the nominee must have distinguished himself as particularly outstanding in service to the United States, any of the armed forces, in-

cluding the National Guard, or to the National Guard Association of the United States, while holding a position of great responsibility. The awardee will have offered exceptionally outstanding contributions over an extended period of time.

The Meritorious Service Award is given for somewhat less lengthy outstanding performance of duty. It is designed more for a single accomplishment. The award also can be given for accomplishments on a sustained basis. Personal dedication and self-sacrifice are major factors in the selection process.

The Valley Forge Cross is an award for heroism. The NGAUS particularly solicits nominations from individuals and the states for this award, because we cannot possibly know, at the national level, all the heart-warming stories and incidents when National Guardsmen are involved in rescue and other lifesaving acts.

The readings of the citations for award of the Valley Forge Cross at our PRAL frequently can be very emotional occasions as the courageous and risky acts of our Guardsmen heroes are explained.

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The NGAUS awards program can only be as good and as complete as you our members make it. We solicit nominations for these awards and encourage commanders to make a greater effort to win the unit awards. There are no quotas on the individual awards. We would much rather have a surplus of nominations, and the opportunity to recognize a large number of people, than to make this particularly selective process. We also are sure there are many more outstanding records of performance that have been recognizing in any individual year recently. Let's hear from you.

National Guard, May 1988

# NATIONAL GUARD

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## FEATURES

**The MP Mission at FUERTES CAMINOS '88 14**  
While the Task Force 111 engineers of the West Virginia Army National Guard build a road, security was provided under the command and control of the 260th Military Police Brigade, District of Columbia Army National Guard. While the DCARNG MPs worked on the road network, the DCANG "vertical" engineers were constructing buildings at Palmerola AB, Honduras.



**The Best Kept Secret in Central America 20**  
One Air Guardsman, who also is a professional television newsman by trade, relates his experiences and beliefs of what the National Guard is doing in Honduras. He believes the mission is being overlooked by the political controversy surrounding the location.



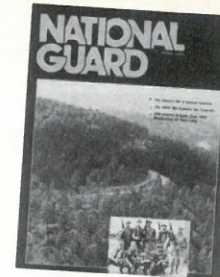
**Georgia's Equipment Train-Up Program 24**  
Since the Georgia Army National Guard's 48th Infantry Brigade began receiving M-2/M-3 Fighting Vehicles and M-1 Abrams tanks, it has almost completed a train-up program for all its maintenance personnel. The innovative program has MOS qualified more than 50 mechanics to work on its equipment.



**Twenty Years After: The '68 Mobilization 26**  
Not common knowledge, two National Guard separate brigades were mobilized during the Vietnam War as replacement and training elements. The 29th Infantry Brigade (Sep), Hawaii Army National Guard, was one that compiled an indepth after-action review. This review explains why the Guard operates the way it does today.



**The 109th TAG Explores New Horizons 34**  
The 109th Tactical Airlift Group, New York Air National Guard, assumed a new mission recently that takes them to the end of the Earth—the South Pole to be exact. This means the unit covers the Arctic and Antarctic regions unlike any other flying unit in the Total Force today.



## COVER:

The road-building project in Honduras is now in its third year. The engineers from the West Virginia Army National Guard continue to improve the constructed road. The "infantry" MPs provide security throughout the exercise, FUERTES CAMINOS '88. Photos, 2LT Raphael G. Peart. Design, Johnson Design Group.

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