

Maj Gen John L. Matthews, President, NGAUS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THE NGAUS AND STATE ASSOCIATIONS

Over the past five years, the NGAUS leadership has worked hard to improve the National Guard Association of the United States' (NGAUS) relationship with the state associations. We have made some progress, but we believe there remains some confusion about exactly what our relationship is to the state associations.

First, the state associations are not chapters of the NGAUS. This is one major difference between the NGAUS and the other major national military associations. The Association of the United States Army (AUSA), the Air Force Association (AFA), the Reserve Officers Association (ROA) and the Navy League have national networks of local chapters. We do not.

The NGAUS leadership works with state associations in a variety of ways; one of these is the collection of dues. We could not do without state associations in this arena unless we moved to direct collection.

Second, the state associations manage the state delegations' affairs at the NGAUS General Conference. Delegates register by state, travel in state groups, stay in hotels assigned according to state delegations and are seated in the main business sessions by state. State association presidents, executive directors and delegation secretaries are invaluable in the General Conference's operations. Their help would be difficult to duplicate and certainly not economical to replace.

Third, the state association is a major conduit to that state's congressional delegation. The NGAUS leadership has said our grass roots network at the local level makes the national association so effective. Depending on the state, this effort usually is coordinated by the state association leadership.

Fourth, this is the time of year when the NGAUS staff welcomes numerous state delegations to Washington. The state association delegations

combine a visit to Capitol Hill to meet with their congressmen and senators with a visit to the NGAUS. We are then afforded the opportunity to brief them on current issues in the Congress. These state delegation visitors often host a congressional breakfast, a luncheon or an evening reception for their congressional delegations.

In recent months, two examples stand out. The Georgia state association combined its visit with an employer-support boss lift, with a total group of about 250. The Georgians then used this opportunity to honor their senior senator, Sam Nunn, for his dedication and commitment to national defense and the National Guard. Needless to say, this

"The NGAUS works hard at communicating with state associations in two ways: one, when state associations come to the nation's capital and two, when NGAUS officers and staff go out into the states."

created an impressive backdrop for the Georgia reception at the U.S. Capitol. (See our cover story.)

Texas annually hosts a congressional breakfast. This event has outgrown many of the dining facilities on Capitol Hill since it is so well-attended. In addition to the Texas Guard members who attended, this event drew numerous members from the 30-member Texas congressional delegation, many staffers and representatives of the defense industry from Texas. This is also the time when the National Guard Association of Texas legislative task force members get with their district's congressional representative, either directly or through the member's home office.

Finally, the NGAUS works hard at communicating with state associations in two other ways. One is when

a state association comes to Washington, D.C.; we strongly encourage each delegation to schedule time at the National Guard Memorial. We provide a legislative briefing that includes a short list of priorities, which can be articulated to members of Congress.

Besides the state associations coming to us, we also send speakers to state association conventions when asked. Just this past year, the NGAUS officers and staff spoke at the Alabama, District of Columbia, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, South Carolina, Tennessee and West Virginia National Guard association conferences.

This is all done because the NGAUS Legislative Action Plan is a bottom-up driven document, not the other way around. The Legislative Action Plan, which we produce each winter, begins at the local level where Guard members submit resolutions to the NGAUS General Conference. We constantly tell Guard members that the best way to get an issue before the national audience is to write such a resolution and propose it to a state association's convention. You will have to work hard to convince your friends and colleagues that it belongs in the NGAUS Resolutions Committee at the General Conference. This whole process reaffirms that individual NGAUS members can be effective if they are committed and determined.

As we look forward to the future, we will improve on our progress by uniting the efforts of the state associations and the NGAUS, which will ultimately form one relationship where all Association members take an active role in cooperative NGAUS and state association programs.

We strongly encourage everyone to dig in and become involved in promoting state and national issues that benefit the National Guard as a whole. We are committed to this in Washington.

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COVER:

Senator Sam Nunn, the senior senator from Georgia and chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, continues his commitment to the National Guard. "We get the best dollars that we spend in the Guard and Reserve." Photo, Maj J.M. Beall. Design, Johnson Design Group.

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The Legal Precedent of the Guard 16

As the 21st century looms, the American people must look to the U.S. Constitution as the guiding document for the future and the legal precedent for the existence and use of the Guard. MG Bruce Jacobs (ret.) discusses our legality in this Militia nation.

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Senator Sam Nunn, the senior senator from Georgia, was honored by the Georgia National Guard Association and the NGAUS for his lifelong commitment to the National Guard and a strong national defense.

Telling the Guard Story from the States 28

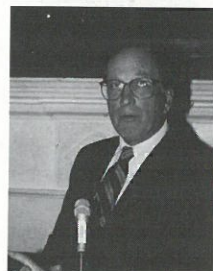
To many non-Guard members, the relationship between the NGAUS and the 54 state associations is peculiar since the state associations are not chapters or posts of the national association. However, the interface between the state and national associations is just the right amount. Here's how it works.

NYC Draft Riot Brought the Guard Out 32

Even though it is being discussed today in the form of state compacts, National Guard elements from the various states were called up to perform military duty in a neighboring state when needed. The New York City draft riots demonstrate how Guard units traveled from state to state to respond to national emergencies.

Is the Guard the Clausewitz Trinity? 36

For the first time in NATIONAL GUARD Magazine, we are running *Guest Opinion*. Many times, letters from the field and return fires do not adequately address the needs to address brief thought pieces for the NGAUS magazine. LTC Bill Doll, a national security fellow at the JFK School of Government, is our first writer.



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