**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Major General William E. Ingram (Ret.), President, NGAUS

WITH the 1985 session of Congress fast approaching, Guardsmen across the Nation are just now getting their annual share of the money that Congress accords to the Nation's military history and the lawmakers are getting ready to turn that annual effort into a realism that will benefit our men and women in uniform around the world. This year, the amount of money that Congress is expected to provide for the National Guard will be $1.5 billion, a decrease of $200 million from last year.

The proposal to eliminate BAO (Basic Allowance for Subsistence) as a way to reduce the budget of the Department of Defense is a real concern for Guardsmen. The basic idea is to question whether such a housing allowance should be paid because a Guardsman is on active duty and presumably already has a house or other living arrangements that have been paid for by his basic pay. Further, in AT status, this housing allowance is usually provided because the Guard member is on active service. In AT status, Guardsmen are usually provided housing by their employer. It is only in the case of volunteer housing allowance that the Guard member is on active service. In AT status, Guardsmen are usually provided housing by their employer. It is only in the case of volunteer housing allowance that the Guard member is on active service.

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In the future, in order to do so, the IRS is apparent that Congress didn't know that it was raising BAO faster. In some cases, at basic pay, there is a real reason why Congress acted as it did, however.

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