NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO HELP THE NGUSA AWARDS PROGRAM

I t often is said that a little piece of cloth means more than a promotion or a salary increase. At the NGUSA Awards Program, it means the right.

Commanders have found that when they aggressively push an awards program, there are often fewer rewards in the struggle 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, means somewhat higher, but it is the same long way, or the more honored professional services of our officers and enlisted personnel.

In past years, we have heard some murmuring about the NGUSA Awards Program. Most of this murmuring would be on the nature of the efforts. In addressing it, we would only make the point that there was something to be gained by those who worked on the awards program.

The NGUSA awards normally are presented at an awards luncheon at the General Conference. This President's Recognition Awards Luncheon (PRAAL) is 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 Spaht Trophy for the best Air Guard flying unit is selected by the Air Director. 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 qualifica-
tion, 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 NGUSA Awards Program the best it can be.

The place where individual Guardsmen and commanders in the states can help the NGUSA 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-in in the selection of such recipients. True, we have some ideas about Guard and other military leaders who should receive this award. But the NGUSA Awards Committee would welcome nominations from the states.

To be considered for award status, 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 award will be offered exceptionally for outstanding contributions over an extended period of time.

The Meritorious Service Award is as you might expect that inmates' using outstanding performance of duty, designed for more for a single accomplishment. The award also may 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 NGUSA 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 Guard members are involved in rescue and other lifesaving acts.

The readings of the citations or award of the Valley Forge Cross, our PRARL, frequently can be very personal occasions as the courage and the sacrifice of our Guardsmen or women are explained.

The NGUSA awards program not only be as good as and as complete as we know it is, we desire nominations for these awards. We encourage commanders to pass the word on the unit awards.

There are no quotas on the individual awards. We would make no surplus nominations, but we hope to see nominations that make sense. We owe it to the men and women who serve and sacrifice for our country to recognize those who have served.

The 1998 Membership

The 1998 National Guard Association's National Guard separate brigades for the Army included the 39th Infantry Brigade (Sep), Hawaii. The National Guard Association was one that compiled an impressive after.

This review explains why the Guard operates the way it does today.

The 100th TAG Explores New Horizons

The National Guard Association (NGA) has been exploring new ways to help its members. This year, the organization is focusing on exploring new ways to reach out to its members.

The NGA has announced a new initiative designed to bring the organization closer to its members. This initiative, named "The 100th TAG Explores New Horizons," is designed to help the organization better understand the needs and interests of its members.

The initiative includes a series of educational events, workshops, and webinars aimed at providing members with the tools and resources they need to make the most of their membership in the NGA.

In addition to providing educational resources, the initiative also includes a series of member surveys designed to gather feedback from members on how they would like to see the organization grow and evolve.

Through this initiative, the NGA hopes to strengthen its relationships with members and to better serve the needs of the organization.

NGA National Guard Association

The National Guard Association (NGA) is a national organization that represents the interests of the National Guard and its members. The organization was founded in 1885 and is dedicated to promoting the interests of the National Guard and its members.

The NGA is a membership organization that represents the interests of the National Guard and its members. The organization is governed by a Board of Directors elected by the membership and is managed by a professional staff.

NGA Mission

The mission of the National Guard Association is to promote the interests of the National Guard and its members. The organization works to ensure that the National Guard remains a vital and effective part of the U.S. military and to provide opportunities for the professional development of its members.

NGA Programs

The National Guard Association operates a number of programs and initiatives designed to support the National Guard and its members. These programs include:

1. Business Enterprise Program: This program provides resources to National Guard members who are also business owners and entrepreneurs.

2. Professional Development: The NGA offers a range of professional development opportunities for National Guard members, including training and education programs.

3. Advocacy: The NGA advocates for the interests of the National Guard and its members at the federal, state, and local levels.

4. Member Services: The NGA provides a range of services to its members, including legal assistance, health insurance, and education opportunities.

Through these programs and initiatives, the National Guard Association works to ensure that the National Guard remains a vital and effective part of the U.S. military and to provide opportunities for the professional development of its members.