Each year when the NGAUS presents its award for valor at the NGAUS General Conference, a few people are slightly surprised that we have one. It is called the Valley Forge Cross. The Valley Forge Cross presented each year at the NGAUS General Conference illustrates the challenge we face with our awards program. It is a challenge not limited to this one award for heroism. However, the number of Valley Forge Crosses given each year and the breadth of activity represented by them illustrate our problem.

A few years ago, we found that merely by having the staff scan National Guard Magazine prior to the meeting of the Awards Committee, we could add several worthy recipients to our list of nominees from the states. Although we send an All States Letter to the field each year soliciting nominations, those responsible for forwarding them sometimes forget a worthy nominee nearly in front of their noses.

The same thing might be said, to only a slightly lesser degree, of other categories of awards we present at the Annual General Conference. These range from the Harry S Truman Award (at the top of the list) down through the Charles M. Dick Medal of Merit (CDMM), the Distinguished Service Medal (DSM), the Patrick Henry Citation, the Meritorious Service Award (MSA) to the National Guard Trophy. The last could use more nominees for all these awards, not because we necessarily want to entertain a cast of thousands for our Recognition Awards Luncheon (PRLA) at the Conference, but because we don’t want to forget or ignore anyone who genuinely deserves to be honored by the NGAUS.

We have added several new categories of awards to our arsenal of honors this year that our new Long Range Planning Committee identified. They fill in some of the gaps we have noticed in recent years, as well as plowing some new ground in areas where we needed to move.

Charles M. Dick Medal of Merit. This award is named after Major General Charles M. Dick, commanding general of the Ohio National Guard in the early years of this century and the sponsor of the two pieces of historic legislation that bear his name from 1903 and 1908. The CDMM will recognize the contributions to the National Guard of elected representatives of the local, state, or national level. Any member of a city council, county board, state legislature or Congress is eligible for nomination.

Patrick Henry Citation. This award is designed to fill in one of the gaps we have identified in our awards program. That our DSM can only be given to an individual serving in government or the military or someone who formerly was in the military. The Patrick Henry Citation provides recognition to an individual who, in a position of great responsibility, distinguishes himself or herself with outstanding and exceptional service to the armed forces of the United States, the National Guard or the NGAUS.

Gearde National Trophy. This award will recognize significant achievements of members of the National Guard or the NGAUS in their civilian endeavors. It will recognize contributions to the advancement of the Guard or the NGAUS.

The NGAUS, based on action by the Executive Council, also launched this past year the Outstanding Graduate Award, recognizing the top 10 percent of graduates of each OCS program in the National Guard.

Here are the awards the NGAUS has given over the past several years and the considerations that go into the criteria for those awards. Individual awards are first; unit awards follow that.

Harry S Truman Award. Recent recipients include former President Ronald Reagan, Representative Gary Condit, and Senator Orrin Hatch. Each recipient should be nominated by a member of Congress. If no member of Congress is available, the recipient's state or local government or any organization designated by the recipient is eligible for nomination.

Features

Applying for Senior Service College

Over the years, more demanding educational requirements have been placed on the Army National Guard with highly competent and dedicated NCOs and officers. But to become a federal recognized unit general officer, a Guaranteed must earn senior service college degrees. Here is how to apply.

GAGETOWN—Canada’s Best Kept Secret

Gagetown Training Center, Canadian Forces Base—Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada, hosts one year training exercise every summer and incidental National Guard training when not in use by Canadian forces. It offers a variety of terrain and training environments.

OPFOR Training at Fort Irwin

National Training Center (NTC) at Fort Irwin, California, has been designed to plan battalions, task force level units on a sophisticated simulated battlefield. Soldiers of A Company, 2/10infa, 1st Brigade Division, Pennsylvania Army National Guard, used the reverse side of this training. They simulated the drill forces.

Arkansas Engineers Support OPFOR

A unit of Company A, 875th Engineer Battalion, Arkansas National Guard spent their annual training supporting the OPFOR in the NTC. The Arkansas Guardsmen used their OCS equipment to dig tank-tighting positions

National Guard Participates in Inauguration 1989

32 members of the National Guard in Alaska, Maryland, Nebraska and the District of Columbia participated in President George H. W. Bush’s Inauguration. The Armed Forces Inaugural Committee also has been planning the executive military support for the three days of