We Can Work Together for a Better National Guard

For my part, I want you to know that I’m looking forward to spending more “face time” in Washington, D.C., where we’re headquartered. And I will have the Association headquarters staff beside me when I make those appearances. I also plan to carry the Guard banner high as I get more closely involved in the Officer Corps process between the Department of the Army and the Army National Guard. Since it was first presupposed to the Association at our annual Conference in Hawaii, it has proven effective in getting agreements on end-strength into the 21st century for the Army Guard with which both the Congress and Congress can live. There are still issues, however, that remain unresolved. We must be prepared for some tough negotiations with the Army in the not so distant future.

Similarly, I will work hard to establish the same kind of interface with the Air Force. Like for all the same reasons, we have already reached common ground on a number of issues, but on other matters, however, there’s still much to be done. The experience and leadership at the NGAUS can and should be a part of that.

We also need to look at ways to improve internal communications between the NGAUS and our members. As America’s computer technologies continue to build an information superhighway to take us into the 21st century, we must develop innovative approaches to better connect with our members. Let me hear from you. And let me hear from you... often.

To sum up, we have an obligation to maintain our position as the preeminent advocate and lobbyist for the National Guard. This requires a clear and effective strategy to ensure that the Guard is not only a viable option in the future, but also that it remains a critical part of our national defense. Let’s work together to make this happen.