

The following notes are provided as highlights to the NGAUS Board of Directors Meeting conducted 10-11 March at the NGAUS in Washington, D.C. In attendance representing Area IV was COL Joe Hargett, MSARNG. More detail will be given at the NGAMS Conference, April 28-30 in Jackson, Mississippi:

Army Services Report

1) The Federal Technician employment status (Title 5 versus Title 32) remains a top priority for the leadership. (20% is the number that seems to be floating through the various committees to be converted)

2) Army Force Structure - The passing of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2017 (NDAA 17) suspended any future cuts to the Army Force Structure. End strength in 2016 was planned to be down to 335,000, however NDAA 17 stabilized it at 343,000, this has passed the US House but currently in staffing by the US Senate. The desires of NGB seems to be that they desire this growth to be utilized as bill payer for the over drive of 18% for BCT/AERF forces as part of the new readiness model. I believe that this methodology is not a balanced approach and requires further analysis. As an example, the 8,000 increase in end strength doesn't equal the 18% over drive for increased personnel readiness across units ABCTs, IBCTS, and SBCTs as well as other unit within the National Guard that will be affected by the enhanced readiness requirements.

3). Strategically, there is some conversations beginning to shift the focus at the DA levels on the Divisions' war-fighting capability. As all are aware, during the last 10 to 15 years, the DA training and resource focus has been on BCT formations. Strategists are starting to look at capabilities and gaps of the Divisions and Corp enablers (i.e. The current gap in Division reconnaissance capabilities). There will be more to follow on these topics.

4) Congressional adds for the budget this year included significant funding that is specifically designed to support counter drug programs.

5). NGREAs- NGB and states must develop a consolidated list of requirements not 54 separate lines of effort. NGB has been focused by NGAUS leadership in this area in order to include the priorities of the TAGs and Governors.

Air Service Report

1) Growth in NDAA17 from 105,500 to 105,700

2) Title 5 issue still a concerning issue

3) The A10 airframe will remain viable as a CAS platform thru FY2030

4) Effective manning initiative includes filling difficult slots for recruiting and competing with civilian airlines. This initiative attempts to reduce the loss in pilot capacity in the ANG. As part of this action it was determined that the recruiting contracts centrally managed at NGB are not effective.

Treasure's Report

Discussed the 4 main areas of revenue for NGAUS

- 1) Building revenues
- 2) Insurance revenues
- 3) Membership revenues
- 4) Conference revenues

In summary all programs are in great shape with expectation to increase revenue in 2018 and beyond due to long term leases on the NGAUS building (i.e. Amtrak, etc)

Overall budget and revenue in great shape for the association.

Board voted to extend 4 service contracts

Exhibition service contract

Magazine advertising contract

Printing contract

USAA service contracts.

Insurance Trust Report- claims are trending downward from 92 in 2012 to 55 in 2016 (disability type claims).

General Conference Report

2017 General Conference in Louisville, Kentucky 6-11 September. It is noteworthy that due to transportation the opening ceremony will be in business casual as we will move to Churchill Downs for the Governor's reception. All states dinner dress code is planned to be Derby casual men- seersucker suits and ladies dress head wear etc. We will have more to follow during the 2017 NGAMS Conference 28-30 April in Jackson, Mississippi.

Other subject updates in included various function area updates included WO, Company Grade and legislative updates.

Company Grade caucus initiative includes working the USERRA protection in order to include "student protection" in the clauses of the law. This is required due to future increased training days, predictable deployment cycles, etc. Currently, USERRA does not provide protection for students in college.

Legislative Updates

Working benefits for 12304b for mobilizing personnel. Attempts are to make the benefits retroactive for service members. This seems to be the largest challenge with getting the benefits changed.

Currently the NGREA budget is planned to receive significant growth as a congressional supplement to the 2017 budget. Concern is generated due to a problematic issue as we will likely receive funding late in FY and have difficulty executing during program year. NGREA should not be used to fund modernization programmed equipment (MTOE). The states provide input to the ARNG to gap in other equipping requirements of the states

to provide the governor capabilities. NGB has fell short managing this program properly for the last 3-5 years according to Congressional staffers.

National Guard Bureau Update provided by:

Gen Joseph Lengyel –Chief of National Guard Bureau, LTG Timothy Kadavy, Director of the Army National Guard and Maj Gen Marc Sasseville on behalf of Lt Gen Scott Rice, Director of the Air National Guard.

Army National Guard – LTG Kadavy

--Expect 3% budget growth in 2018 but no real growth due to inflation and other factors.

--USAR is moving into competition of Guard with tuition assistance. Five states have expanded the state tuition assistance to include the USAR. LTG Kadavy did not know which five states these are.

--Modernization remains a top priority.

Air National Guard- Maj Gen Marc Sasseville

--priority readiness, personnel and training

--symmetric growth with the Air Force (get the correct growth, not just structure, but needed structure

-- civilian credit for military training

-- Pilot shortage and rated crew shortages are problematic and will continue

-- 21st century guardsmen, focus on keeping a strong Traditional guard force

Chief of National Guard Bureau comments

--discussed handouts focusing on vision Fight America's wars

Secure the homeland

Build partners

---Priorities

Ready force

People

Innovation and Agility

Top 5 projects of the CNGB

1- Title 5 conversion

2- Cyber strategy

3- Organizational reform

4- Border Operations

5- Continuing resolution prep

Next Board meeting 12 July 2017 via VTC/ teleconference.

All of the above is a general summary and included much discussion. (Note: COL Hargett will be available to discuss any topics above in detail at the 2017 NGAMS Conference 28-30 April in Jackson, Mississippi.)

Very respectfully,
COL Joe D Hargett
Army Representative, Area IV
NGAUS Board of Directors