

**THE ENLISTED ASSOCIATION
OF THE
NATIONAL GUARD
OF THE
UNITED STATES**



**LEGISLATIVE GOALS
2009**

November 1, 2008

SUBJECT: EANGUS LEGISLATIVE ACTION PLAN

Attached is the 2009 Legislative Action Plan of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS). This document is intended to outline the goals, objectives and legislative action for the 2009 Congressional year and to provide background information on the Association.

The basis of the EANGUS Legislative Plan is the resolution process which culminates in a legislative slate approved by the membership in Conference each calendar year. From these resolutions come the issues that EANGUS will pursue in Congress. We understand that these issues must comply with the realities of timing, budget limitations, world events, and applicability to established Armed Forces multi-year planning documents. Therefore, the Conference delegates determine which issues are the most important to achieve during the current Congressional session.

At times, to support an initiative, we will ask the membership of EANGUS and its close affiliate, the EANGUS Auxiliary, to contact their Senators and Representatives at the "grassroots" level to explain our position and get their support. The EANGUS priority action vehicle, "The CALL," solicits grassroots support for a particular legislative initiative that requires immediate attention and action by the association membership. Grassroots support is the foundation of successful legislative action. The response of the total EANGUS family cannot be overemphasized.

Issues that affect the military lives of the enlisted members of the Total Force are of great concern to the Congress since EANGUS represents a sizable segment of the population of the Army and Air Force. We are willing and able to articulate and pinpoint conditions that are detrimental to volunteer military service and we will serve to simplify Congressional decisions in molding and maintaining an efficient Reserve military capability through combat readiness.

Working for America's Best!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael P. Cline". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MSG Michael P. Cline, USA (Ret)
Executive Director

WHO WE ARE

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) is an organization comprised of enlisted men and women of the Army and Air National Guard and their supporters, who have banded together to pursue mutual goals in support of the National Guard and the national defense.

HOW WE BEGAN

EANGUS was conceived in 1970 by a group of Senior Non-Commissioned Officers interested in expanding the role of enlisted personnel on National Guard issues. The group met in South Dakota to consider ways and means to make the National Guard a more potent arm of our national defense by improving the status, welfare and professionalism of the enlisted soldier and airman. Aggressive effort resulted in the charter of 23 states into a National Association in September 1972. Today, the Association represents over 414,000 soldiers and airmen in all 54 states and territories and the National Guard Bureau, their families, and retirees. There is also a very active Auxiliary.

EANGUS NATIONAL AUXILIARY

The EANGUS Auxiliary was conceived at a meeting of forty-four interested spouses of enlisted National Guard members in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1973. A year later, on October 1, 1974, the Auxiliary was formally organized in Biloxi, Mississippi. The Auxiliary is the mainstay in our grassroots program, and has done yeoman's work in obtaining meaningful benefits for members of the National Guard. They proudly justify their motto, **"Side by side, we stand with pride."**

OUR PURPOSE

EANGUS is dedicated to the principles of providing an adequate national defense and promoting the status, welfare and professionalism of the men and women of the Army and Air National Guard. The Association is non-profit, and does not engage in partisan politics, nor support any candidate for political office.

OUR OBJECTIVES

EANGUS pursues the goal of providing quality, motivated, professional soldiers and airmen and non-commissioned officers to the National Guard. To accomplish this, EANGUS fully supports:

- Adequate manpower staffing – Military Technician, Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) and traditional drill status positions to perform assigned State and Federal missions
- Adequate pay and allowances
- Adequate health, medical, family and death entitlements
- Incentive benefits designed to attract and retain quality personnel in the National Guard
- Improved entitlements for retired members of the National Guard
- First line equipment and weapons systems for the National Guard

EANGUS PUBLICATIONS

EANGUS distributes various publications throughout the year. Some of these are periodicals designed to keep the membership informed on issues of interest to the Association and the National Guard, an annual Conference Program and an annual Conference Report. Others include “The Call” for grassroots support on legislative issues, recruiting information, benefits issues, legislative updates, and “The New Patriot,” a quarterly publication.

EANGUS NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

The National Headquarters of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) is located at 3133 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia 22305-2640. Our telephone number is 1-800-234-EANG (3264) or (703) 519-3846. Our fax number is (703) 519-3849. Our internet address is <http://www.eangus.org>, and our general email address is eangus@eangus.org.

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EANGUS TREASURER

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MSG (Ret) Michael P. Cline

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AUXILIARY RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Mrs. Shirley Bogdan
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SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

S-128 Capitol Building

Washington D.C. 20510

<http://appropriations.senate.gov>

JURISDICTION: (1) Appropriation of the revenue for the support of the Government, except as provided in Senate Rule XXV(e) (2) Rescission of appropriations contained in appropriation acts (see 1 USC 105) (3) The amount of new spending authority described in sec. 401(c) (2) (A) and (B) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 which is to be effective for a fiscal year (4) New spending authority described in sec. 401(c) (2)(C) of the 1974 Congressional Budget Act provided in bills and resolutions referred to the committee under sec. 401(b)(2) of that act (but subject to the provisions of sec. 401(b)(3)).

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Ranking Minority Member: Thad Cochran (R-MS)

Staff Director: Charles E. Kieffer

Minority Staff Director: Bruce M. Evans

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEFENSE

SD-119 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Washington D.C. 20510

<http://appropriations.senate.gov/defense.cfm>

JURISDICTION: (1) Department of Defense—Military: Departments of Army, Navy including Marine Corps, Air Force, and Office of Secretary of Defense (2) Advanced Research Projects Agency (3) Central Intelligence Agency (4) Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System (5) Defense Agencies (a) Defense Conversion Commission (b) Defense Finance and Accounting Service (c) Defense Intelligence Agency (d) Defense Investigative Service (e) Defense Logistics Agency (f) Defense Mapping Agency (g) Defense Security and Cooperation Agency (h) Missile Defense Agency (6) National Guard and Reserve Components (7) North Atlantic Treaty Organization (8) National Reconnaissance Office (9) National Security Agency (10) Overseas Dependents Education (11) Uniformed Services University of the Health Services (12) U.S. Court of Military Appeals.

COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP



Chairman: Daniel K. Inouye (D-HI)

Ranking Minority Member: Ted Stevens (R-AK)

Staff Director: Charles J. Houy

Minority Staff Director: Sid Ashworth

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

SR-228 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington D.C. 20510-6050

<http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

JURISDICTION: (1) Aeronautical and space activities peculiar to or primarily associated with the development of weapons systems or military operations (2) The common defense (3) The Department of Defense, the Department of the Army, the Department of the Navy, and the Department of the Air Force, generally (4) Maintenance and operation of the Panama Canal, including administration, sanitation, and government of the Canal Zone (5) Military research and development (6) National security aspects of nuclear energy (7) Naval petroleum reserves, except those in Alaska (8) Pay, promotion, retirement, and other benefits and privileges of members of the Armed Forces, including overseas education of civilian and military dependents (9) Selective Service System (10) Strategic and critical materials necessary for the common defense. In addition, the committee is mandated to study and review, on a comprehensive basis, matters relating to the common defense policy of the United States to report them from time to time.

COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP



Chairman: Carl Levin (D-MI)

Ranking Minority Member: John McCain (R-AZ)

Staff Director: Richard D. DeBobes

Minority Staff Director: Michael V. Kostiw

SENATE ARMED SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

SR-228 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington D.C. 20510-6050

<http://armed-services.senate.gov/scmembrs.htm#subp>

JURISDICTION: (1) Policies and end strengths for military and civilian personnel; military health care; compensation; force structure; Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR); Professional Military Education (PME); military nominations; DODDS/Section 6 schools; Civil-military programs; POW/MIA issues; family housing policy; Armed Forces Retirement Home; budget accounts for military personnel; military retirement; Defense Health Care including procurement; O&M related to personnel and health care; DOD offices of USD Personnel and Readiness; ASD Reserve Affairs; ASD Health Affairs; ASD Force Management and Personnel; agencies of Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA); Army and Air Force Exchange System; Navy Exchange; USMC Exchange; Uniformed Services University of Health Services (USUHS); Armed Forces Retirement Home.

COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP



Chairman: Ben Nelson (D-NE)

Ranking Minority Member: Lindsey Graham (R-SC)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

SR-412 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington D.C. 20510-6050

<http://veterans.senate.gov/public/>

JURISDICTION: (1) Veterans' measures generally (2) Pensions of all wars of the U.S., general and special (3) Life insurance issued by the Government on account of service in the Armed Forces (4) Compensation of veterans (5) Vocational rehabilitation and education of veterans (6) Veterans' hospitals, medical care and treatment of veterans (7) Servicemen's civil relief (8) Readjustment of servicemen to civil life (9) National cemeteries.

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

H-218 Capitol Building
Washington D.C. 20515-6015
<http://appropriations.house.gov/>

JURISDICTION: (1) Appropriation of the revenue for the support of the Government (2) Rescission of appropriations contained in appropriation acts (3) Transfers of unexpended balances (4) The amount of new spending authority described in the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 which is to be effective for a fiscal year, including bills and resolutions reported by other committees which provide new spending authority and are referred to the committee under clause 4a of House Rule X. The committee shall include separate headings for “Rescissions” and “Transfers of Unexpended Balances” in any bill or resolution as reported from the committee under its jurisdiction specified in subparagraph 2 or 3 of House Rule X, with all proposed rescissions and proposed transfers listed therein; and to include a separate section with respect to such rescissions or transfers in the accompanying committee report. In addition to its jurisdiction under the preceding provisions of this paragraph, the committee has the fiscal oversight function provided for in clause 2b3 of House Rule X, and the budget hearing function provided for in clause 4a.

COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP



Chairman: David R. Obey (D-WI)
Ranking Minority Member: Jerry Lewis (R-CA)

Staff Director: Rob Nabors

Minority Staff Director: Jeffrey Shockey

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEFENSE

H-149 Capitol Building
Washington D.C. 20515-6018
http://appropriations.house.gov/Subcommittees/sub_def.shtml

JURISDICTION: (1) Department of Defense—Military: Departments of Army, Navy including Marine Corps, Air Force (2) Office of Secretary of Defense, and Defense Agencies except Department of Defense-related accounts and programs under the Subcommittee on Military Quality of Life and Veterans’ Affairs and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) (3) Central Intelligence Agency (4) Intelligence Community Staff.

COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP



Chairman: John P. Murtha, Jr. (D-PA)
Ranking Minority Member: C.W. Bill Young (R-FL)

Staff Director: Paul Juola

Minority Staff Director: Tom McLemore

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

2120 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington D.C. 20515-6035

<http://www.house.gov/hasc/>

JURISDICTION: (1) Ammunition depots; forts; arsenals; Army, Navy, and Air Force reservations and establishments (2) Common defense generally (3) Conservation, development, and use of naval petroleum and oil shale reserves (4) The Department of Defense generally, including the Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force generally (5) Interoceanic canals, generally, including measure relating to the maintenance, operation, and administration of interoceanic canals (6) Merchant Marine Academy, and the State Maritime Academies (7) Military applications of nuclear energy (8) Tactical intelligence and intelligence related activities of the Department of Defense (9) National security aspects of merchant marine, including financial assistance for the construction and operation of vessels, the maintenance of the U.S. shipbuilding and ship repair industrial base, cabotage, cargo preference and merchant marine officers and seamen as these matters relate to the national security (10) pay, promotion, retirement, and other benefits and privileges of members of the armed forces (11) Scientific research and development in support of the armed services (12) Selective Service (13) Size and composition of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force (14) Soldiers' and sailors' homes (15) Strategic and critical materials necessary for the common defense (16) In addition, the committee has the special oversight function provided for in clause 3(a) with respect to international arms control and disarmament, and military dependents' education.

COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP



Chairman: Ike Skelton (D-MO)

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Minority Staff Director: Robert L. Simmons II

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY PERSONNEL

2120 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington D.C. 20515-6035

<http://www.house.gov/hasc/>

JURISDICTION: Responsible for military personnel policy, reserve component integration and employment issues, military health care, military education and POW/MIA issues. In addition, the subcommittee will be responsible for Morale, Welfare and Recreation issues and programs.

COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP



Chairman: Susan A. Davis (D-CA)

Ranking Minority Member: John M. McHugh (R-NY)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
335 Cannon House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515-6335
<http://veterans.house.gov/>

JURISDICTION: (1) Veterans' measures generally (2) Cemeteries of the United States in which veterans of any war or conflict are or may be buried, whether in the United States or abroad, except cemeteries administered by the Secretary of the Interior (3) Compensation, vocational rehabilitation and education of veterans (4) Life insurance issued by the Government on account of service in the Armed Forces (5) Pensions of all the wars of the United States, general and special (6) Compensation for service-related disability (7) Readjustment of servicemen to civil life (8) Servicemen's civil relief (9) Veterans' hospitals, medical care, and treatment of veterans.

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Staff Director: Malcom A. Shorter
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<http://stevebuyer.house.gov/ReserveCaucus/ngrcmembers.html>

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Bart Stupak (D-MI)
John Sullivan (R-OK)

Ellen Tauscher (D-CA)
Gene Taylor (D-MS)
Lee Terry (R-NE)
Bennie Thompson (D-MS)
Todd Tiahrt (R-KS)
Patrick Tiberi (R-OH)
John Tierney (D-MA)
Tom Udall (D-NM)
Fred Upton (R-MI)
Greg Walden (R-OR)
James Walsh (R-NY)
Zach Wamp (R-TN)
Henry Waxman (D-CA)
Dave Weldon (R-FL)
Ed Whitfield (R-KY)
Roger Wicker (R-MS)
Heather Wilson (R-NM)
Joe Wilson (R-SC)
David Wu (D-OR)
Donald Young (R-AK)

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-01

Pertaining to: INEQUITIES OF THE MILITARY PAY RAISES FOR ACTIVE SERVING MILITARY MEMBERS AND THE COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS (COLA) FOR RETIRED MILITARY MEMBERS

The active duty pay increase for military members is 3.5% in 2008. The Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) increase for retirees is 2.3% for 2008. This pay inequity, over a period of years, will create a downturn in the living style of retired members that have given their country the best 20 plus years of their life. The mid-term to career Soldier or Airmen, assessing whether a military career should be in their future, may look at disparities like this in a negative manner.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-02

Pertaining to: SERVICEMEMBERS' GROUP LIFE INSURANCE (SGLI) vs. VETERANS' GROUP LIFE INSURANCE FOR RETIREES

Members of the military are covered by Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, SGLI while they are in active service. Upon retirement after satisfactory completion of at least twenty (20) years of honorable service, SGLI stops and the service member no longer has life insurance. Military members may have up to \$400,000 life insurance policy known as SGLI. SGLI coverage ceases upon the service member's retirement. The service member is offered the opportunity to convert his SGLI to Veterans' Group Life Insurance, VGLI. VGLI is renewable term life insurance and as such has a premium which must be paid for by the retiring service member. The premium can be substantial. The irony is the service member will be getting paid less and is expected to pay for his own life insurance. We urge the Department of Defense and the Congress of the United States to offer a retiring service member with twenty (20) years of service a \$100,000 paid life insurance policy. For each additional two (2) years of service, \$10,000 would be added to the benefit, with a maximum of \$150,000 for thirty (30) years of service. The retired service member continues to be eligible to purchase \$100,000 term life insurance from SGLI at the same rate offered to military members and is allowed to purchase VGLI for any additional life insurance needs he or she might have.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-03

Pertaining to: THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (FERS) FOR MILITARY TECHNICIANS

Under this system military technicians will not receive a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) until they are 62. Current laws and regulations require separation from the military between the ages of 50 and 60 for military technicians, due to the dual status requirement. Other federal employees that are considered "Special Groups" such as firefighters, law enforcement officers and air traffic controllers all receive an annual COLA regardless of age. This policy puts military technician at a disadvantage when being compared to other federal employees. FERS was developed after Public Law 98-21 provided that federal employees hired after December 31, 1983 be covered by Social Security. Social Security would therefore be a substantial part of retirement. In order to encourage employees to work until age 62 the benefit is increased by 10% for employees who retire at or after that age. One problem however is that not all employees can stay employed until age 62. Therefore "Special Groups" were identified. These employees, primarily firefighters, law enforcement officers, air traffic controllers & military technicians all qualify for an unreduced annuity at an earlier age than the regular retiree. All except the military technician get a higher annuity benefit, which they pay for. They also get a COLA on their benefit, regardless of age. We need to change the current policy regarding COLAs for military technician so that they are the same as the other "Special Groups".

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-04

Pertaining to: EMPLOYERS HIRING RETIRED CIVILIAN WORKERS TO REPLACE A NATIONAL GUARD OR RESERVE MEMBER DURING DEPLOYMENTS WITHOUT PENALTY TO SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

Social Security recipients receive a smaller benefit if they work too much, yet many employers would love to temporarily hire one of the company's retirees to fill in for a Guard or Reserve member who has been

called to active duty. Due to the high number of mobilizations, employers of National Guard and Reserve members are asked to sacrifice more and more. Many employers have difficulty finding temporary replacement employees during the deployment of their National Guard or Reserve employee's deployment. Employers spend a lot of money training new employees to replace National Guard and Reserve members for a maximum of 12-18 months. Employers are willing to bring back retired personnel from their organizations to fill these positions without having to re-train them. Unfortunately, due to the Social Security regulations, many retired employees cannot work full-time for the employer because their Social Security will be penalized. A workable situation would be amending the Social Security regulations to allow retired personnel filling positions of National Guard and Reserve members during their deployments to not be penalized for exceeding a certain income.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-05

Pertaining to: INCREASING THE LEVEL OF DEFENSE SPENDING AS A PERCENTAGE OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

Defense spending, as a percentage of gross domestic product, is lower than at any other time in our country's time at war. It must increase to replace all the worn out equipment from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Although recent defense budgets have risen to well over \$600 billion dollars, the high operations tempo of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, combined with increasing costs to replace worn-out or aging equipment, is taking its toll on readiness. The Commission of the National Guard and Reserves (CNGR) echoed this same message in their March 1, 2007 Report to Congress, indicating that 88 percent of Army National Guard units and 45 percent of Air National Guard units are so poorly equipped that they are rated "not ready" to deploy. Our Armed Forces are being asked to do more with less. DOD leaders are forced to propose higher risk cost saving measures such as opposing medical or other personnel benefits, consolidating maintenance functions, or postponing recapitalization and modernization programs due to limited funding. The root of this predicament is the level of funding dedicated to the defense budget expressed as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Presently, it is approximately 3.8 percent. According to a recent *Backgrounder* report by the Heritage Foundation - Defense FY 2008 Budget Analysis: Four Percent for Freedom, the defense budget is programmed to go even lower, to 3.2 percent of GDP by FY 2012! In time of war, the defense budget has historically been much higher; 1991 Gulf War – 4.6 percent, 1968 Vietnam War – 9.8 percent, 1953 Korean War – 11.7 percent, and over 34 percent during World War II. Additionally, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Michael Mullen, has expressed deep concerns that the counterinsurgency missions in Iraq and Afghanistan have so consumed the military that the Army and Marine Corps may be unprepared for a high-intensity war against a major adversary. He has recommended that 4 percent of GDP be the absolute floor of the defense budget.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-06

Pertaining to: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REQUIREMENT FOR MEDICAL AND DENTAL READINESS

The Department of Defense (DOD) requires all members of the National Guard to be medically ready as a condition for deployment. Currently, DOD requires all members to receive an annual dental examination. However, DOD provides no dental coverage for the traditional Guard member who is forced to pay the costs of meeting this directive. Dental deficiencies were a common reason for assignment of non-deployable ratings at mobilization sites during 2003 and 2004. This forced affected units either to deploy with less than 100 percent of their personnel or to provide soldiers from other units to back-fill for the disqualified members. DOD has found dental deficiencies throughout the entire reserve component are the cause of a significant amount of lost duty time. Seventy percent of dental emergencies in the National Guard were preventable by examination and treatment prior to mobilization. We recommend Congress support authorization and appropriations for programs that will:

- Provide all members of the National Guard one year prior to deployment with coverage under TRICARE Prime that will include all medical and dental procedures necessary to bring the member into compliance for deployment

- Provide all members with an Annual Dental Examination (ADE) at no cost to the member, or in the alternative,
- Provide stipends for dental insurance premiums and reimbursement of out of pocket expenses for dental care costs incurred by National Guard members for dental readiness procedures performed one year prior to deployment.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-07

Pertaining to: PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES TO SUPPORT ALL NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE COMPONENT SERVICE MEMBERS RETURNING FROM DEPLOYMENT

Our Nation faces a serious challenge as our troops return from deployment and war. After bravely risking their lives, these heroes often return to strained relationships, broken homes, depression, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and the lingering effects from Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). The response these individuals and their families receive from a grateful nation should be to ensure that they have the support they need to live productive and successful lives. In many states, Veterans Administration (VA) facilities are available to readily support the active component population concentrated within relatively small geographic areas. However, the National Guard in respective states has deployed multiple units to support Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) whose returning veterans in rural areas do not have ready access to VA facilities and assistance. All of our veterans in need require and deserve ready access to the VA to address TBI and the psychological effects of combat such as PTSD, suicidal thoughts, and tendency to other inappropriate behavior regardless of their physical location, home of record or service component. The need for adequate community based behavioral health care for our veterans is urgent. The Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA) reported on November 15, 2007 that based upon Post Deployment Health Reassessment (PDHRA) screenings performed through May 2007 indicated that 42.4 percent of all Reserve Component veterans of OIF required mental health treatment. We recommend that Congress provide funding and authority for:

- The Department of Veterans Affairs in collaboration with local behavioral health service providers, veterans and their families to develop a needs analysis to determine current requirements for mental health resources to adequately support all Reserve component service members returning from deployment
- The Department of Veterans Affairs, in collaboration with local health care providers, to provide adequate community based mental health care for Reserve component veterans.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-08

Pertaining to: THE MEDICAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT IN THE NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES

Current methods of tracking medical information of deployed National Guard members are unsatisfactory. The electronic record keeping system used by the National Guard is not interoperable with either the Armed Forces Health Longitudinal Technology Application (AHLTA) system by the Department of Defense or the Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VISTA) system employed by the Veterans Administration. If a member is a casualty on the battlefield, tracking the medical treatment and the location of the medical facility after deployment is essential but extremely challenging under the current medical information management system. A medical information management system with a self-contained wireless capability is needed that will track medical information on all members from when they are called to active duty through the time they are demobilized and seek medical care as members or veterans. We recommend Congress provide the authorization and appropriation of funding for the procurement and implementation of a Medical Information Management System (MIMS) that can be used to manage medical information on deployed National Guard and Reserve service members with self-contained wireless capability that will establish access and integration compatibility among National Guard, Department of Defense, Veterans Administration, and civilian health care providers to ensure continuity of care for members.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-09

Pertaining to: CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM TRAINING FOR THE NATIONAL GUARD

The Weapons of Mass Destruction - Civil Support Teams (WMD-CST) were established to provide support to civil authorities in the event of an incident involving a weapon of mass destruction or similar terrorist event. These National Guard teams provide the Department of Defense unique expertise and capabilities to assist governors in preparing for and responding to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) incidents as part of a state's emergency response structure. Each team consists of 22 highly-skilled, full-time National Guard members who are federally resourced, trained, and exercised to employ federally approved CBRNE response doctrine. The WMD-CST mission includes identifying agents and substances, assessing current and projected consequences, advising on response measures, and assisting with requests for additional military support. In order to sustain and improve the high level of initial training required for the WMD-CSTs, a comprehensive recurrent training program must focus on individual and collective training with regard to interagency operations and battle staff skills. This training improves the essential aspects of civil-military interoperability and mission planning. Deployments in response to the attacks of September 11, 2001 and those since have validated the requirement for an effective situational training exercise program. The Civil Support Team Training (CSTT) program is aimed at providing the National Guard's Civil Support Teams with that training. We recommend Congress authorize and appropriate funding directed to be used to field the Civil Support Team Trainer (CSTT) program, simulations based training program for the Weapon of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Teams (WMD-CST), and to expand the scenario database.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-10

Pertaining to: RELATING TO THE EQUITABLE TREATMENT OF DUAL-STATUS MILITARY TECHNICIANS

Most military technicians are considered "dual-status" personnel who must retain membership in the Air or Army National Guard in their State in order to maintain full-time civilian employment as a military technician. The Technician Act of 1969 disqualified these dual-status technicians from many of the benefits fellow Guardsmen received, including equal overtime compensation, enlistment and reenlistment bonuses, and student loan repayment programs. Additionally, under current law, if a member of the National Guard becomes a military technician within six months of receiving an enlistment or reenlistment bonus, the Department of Defense can, and often does, require the technician to *repay* the bonus. Because a Dual Status Military Technician may not be able to use his/her compensatory time off due to the nature of his/her position during this time of increased OPTEMPO, many Dual Status Technicians are working additional hours without any compensation as they lose their compensatory time because of time limits imposed on use of that time.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-11

Pertaining to: AMENDING THE UNITED STATES CODE TO PROVIDE FOR THE BURIAL OF PARENTS OF A SINGLE MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES OR VETERAN IN A NATIONAL VETERAN'S CEMETERY

Currently a soldier who is eligible for burial in a National Cemetery may be buried with his or her spouse and their dependents in the same plot. However, soldiers without a spouse or dependents must be buried alone. We request the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Congress pursue legislation providing parents of single members of the Armed Forces or Veterans eligibility for burial with the member.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-12

Pertaining to: THE ISSUING OF IBA AND SAPI PLATES TO NON-BCT UNITS TRAINING FOR DEPLOYMENT TO OIF/OEF

Currently, non-BCT units in the Ready Cycle for deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom do not have IBA and SAPI Plates to properly train the 37 Warrior Tasks and 11 Battle Drills as required by current Pre-Mobilization doctrine. This is due to lack of funding

and the industrial base to provide adequate sets of IBA and SAPI to these units. These units have the same requirements for pre-deployment training as the Brigade Combat Teams getting ready to deploy. Soldiers need the opportunity to have body armor properly fitted and issued to them to train with to meet the Army's Training Doctrine, "Train as you Fight." In today's current operations, all Soldiers should have issued to them IBA and SAPI.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-13

Pertaining to: SPACE-A TRAVEL PRIVILEGES FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES

Currently when a retired military member is qualified for Space-A travel, their dependent spouse may travel with them (accompanied travel). If the retired military member passes away, then the dependent (surviving) spouse can no longer use the Space-A benefit (unaccompanied travel not allowed). Since the surviving spouse served alongside the military member throughout their career, it seems inequitable that this benefit be discontinued. The spouse served through activations, deployments, and many of the other hardships and responsibilities of staying back to maintain the home and family. The financial impact to continue this benefit would be minimal due to the average age of the recipients. The surviving spouse will still have to comply with all Space-A standards, such as carrying their own luggage, climbing stairs unassisted, and being financially responsible during their travel. We urge the Department of Defense to continue to provide Space-A travel benefits for surviving spouses (unaccompanied) provided they have not remarried a person who would not qualify for Space-A travel.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-14

Pertaining to: CONGRESSIONAL INTENT RELATING TO QUALIFIED MILITARY BUGLERS IN A RETIRED STATUS

Qualified Military Buglers in a Retired Status are seeking clarification of Congressional intent and priority of their use in relationship to Title 10 US Code, Chapter 75, Section 1491. The sounding of "Taps" by a Military Bugler to lay a fallen Veteran to rest dates back to 1862 when it was composed on the Civil War Battlefield. It has been used ever since as the final honor from our Grateful Nation. Many veterans, service members and family members, as well as a group referred to as Qualified Military Buglers in Retired Status (QMBIRS) are often appalled and offended by any priority procedure that does not actively place qualified buglers ahead of electronic alternatives. Retired buglers often have been overlooked in the implementation of this law. This current law implies that a live bugler is preferred to play "Taps" but does not set a priority for the use of a QMBIRS, thus overlooking qualified individuals who can play this final honor for our deceased veterans. These expert, retired military musicians should be solicited, funded and used to defray the critical shortage of military buglers for this purpose. Qualified Military Buglers in Retired Status (QMBIRS) should be able to volunteer their services through the area Casualty Officers and Funeral Honors Coordinators in the areas in which they are available to perform funeral honors. Therefore, we:

1. Urge the Congress of the United States to amend Section 1491 (b) (2) to set priority standards for the use of QMBIRS whenever available prior to using any recording to sound "Taps". Suggested language as follows (underlined):(2) At least two members of the funeral honors detail for a veteran's funeral shall be members of the armed forces (other than members in a retired status), at least one of whom shall be a member of the armed force of which the veteran was a member. The remainder of the detail may consist of members of the armed force (including members in a retired status), or members of veterans organizations or other organizations approved for purposes of this section under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense. Military buglers (including members in a retired status) are preferred for the playing of "Taps." Each active regular or reserve member of the armed forces in the detail shall wear the uniform of the member's armed force while serving in the detail.
2. Urge Congress to clarify the intent of the use of QMBIRS and to clarify the uniform requirements identified in the last sentence of subsection (b) (2).
3. Encourage the National Guard Bureau to solicit those QMBIRS members available for military funeral honors duty to capitalize on this valuable source of military buglers.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 07-01

Pertaining to: FULL TIME MANNING FOR THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Nationwide, the Army National Guard has a shortfall in full-time manning. While the other Reserve Components are manned at substantially higher percentages of their requirements, the Army National Guard (ARNG) is manned at approximately 58%. While engaged in current battles worldwide, the Army National Guard continues to prepare for future missions. The vision of a more responsive force capable of full spectrum dominance to meet threats whenever and wherever they arise is a reality for the National Guard. The foundation of the reality remains people, readiness, and modernization to support assigned missions. The National Guard Association of the United States and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States have worked with Congress to affect an Army National Guard full-time manning ramp to 71 percent over a ten-year period (by 2012). The United States Army validated the ramp and began its funding in FY 2003, and continued funding through FY2005, by adding 723 Title 32 AGRs and 487 military technicians to Army National Guard end strengths. The National Guard Association of the United States and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States believe there is a requirement to reach the 71 percent full-time manning level by 2010 versus the current target of 2012. This increase will help unit readiness.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 07-02

Pertaining to: INEQUITABLE TREATMENT OF GUARD AND RESERVE PERSONNEL WHILE IN A TEMPORARY DUTY STATUS

Any reservist who attends a service school (technical training, Professional Military Education (PME)) that is in excess of 139 days duration is forced, under current Joint Federal Travel Regulations (JFTR), to accomplish the training in a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) status rather than a Temporary Duty (TDY) status. Specifically, it means the affected member is entitled only to moving expenses rather than Per Diem (temporary lodging and meals). This regulation discriminates against Guard and Reserve members as virtually all are maintaining a residence at/near home station while attending training. The individuals are not permanently moving (they are returning upon course completion), yet they are classified as such for the purpose of limiting their entitlements. The bottom line is the member is funding his/her own lodging and meal costs at what is essentially a long duration TDY which creates an obvious adverse affect on sustaining the home environment while away. This regulation negatively impacts the capability of the Guard and Reserve to attract members to highly complex career fields simply based on course duration and according lack of temporary duty status, which in-turn prohibits payment of living expense.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 07-03

Pertaining to: TAX CREDITS FOR EMPLOYERS OF NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS AND FOR SELF-EMPLOYED MEMBERS

An estimated 41 percent of mobilized National Guard members face a reduction in pay while on active duty. Some employers have made up the difference in pay, and some have gone above and beyond, continuing to pay full salaries to mobilized employees. But most employers, especially those self-employed, cannot afford to offer such generous benefits. Employers should not be expected to bear the increased financial burdens that increased National Guard deployments place on them. Offering tax credits to both employers and self-employed Guard members would reward these patriotic Americans and perhaps inspire greater generosity toward all members of the Guard in the workplace.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 07-04

Pertaining to: AMENDING TITLE 10, USC, WHICH WOULD REDUCE FROM 60 TO 55 THE AGE AT WHICH A RESERVE COMPONENT MEMBER MAY BEGIN RECEIVING RETIREMENT PAY

When the age limit for receipt of retired pay by National Guard members was set decades ago, the National Guard was not relied upon the way it is today. The use of the National Guard in the last two and a half years has marked the largest sustained call-up since World War II. In 2005, the National Guard and the Reserve make up approximately 50% of the United States troops in Iraq. Current law states that

a retired reserve component member will begin to draw military retired pay upon reaching 60 years of age. This means a National Guard member who joins the service after high school and retires after 30 years of service, still must wait twelve years before drawing a pension. In contrast, an active component member who joins at the same time and serves the same amount of years receives a pension immediately upon retirement. Reducing the age from 60 to 55 will be a big step in mitigating this disparity. It is believed by the national associations that a more equitable retirement program will aid greatly in recruiting and retaining members in the National Guard. Under current law, the retirement age for a reserve component member to collect retirement pay is 60 regardless of number of years served. A proposed solution to current law that would also encourage longer service would be a formula to base eligibility for receipt of retired pay on years of service with the age to draw retirement pay reduced one year for every two years of service beyond twenty years. If an individual were to serve for 22 years, then that individual would be eligible for retirement benefits at age 59, and so on.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 07-05

Pertaining to: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REQUIREMENT FOR ANNUAL DENTAL EXAMINATIONS

Currently, the Department of Defense (DoD) requires all members of the National Guard to receive an annual dental examination. However, there is no dental coverage for this requirement for the traditional Guard member. A large number of National Guard members do not have private dental coverage and are forced to pay 100 percent of the costs for what is essentially a DoD directive. During 2003 and 2004 when a National Guard unit reported to mobilization sites and its members were evaluated, a common reason for being rated non-deployable was dental problems. That same unit was forced to either deploy with less than 100 percent of its personnel, or the National Guard was forced to pull soldiers from other units to back-fill missing members. DoD has found dental readiness problems throughout the entire Reserve Component -- readiness problems resulting in significant amounts of lost duty time. For the National Guard specifically, 70% of dental "emergencies" were found to be preventable by examination and treatment prior to mobilization.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 07-06

Pertaining to: LOCATING C-130 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT TRAINING AT THE 189TH AIRLIFT WING, AR ANG, LITTLE ROCK AFB, ARKANSAS

Foreign countries that fly the C-130 aircraft require training slots at a C-130 schoolhouse for their crewmembers. These countries are increasingly having difficulty obtaining enough slots at the active duty C-130 schoolhouse located at Little Rock AFB. There are limited active duty instructors available to provide ongoing training. The current active duty instructors would be more effectively utilized performing their operational mission as compared to assigning them to a non-mobility training mission. Every time a foreign student is instructed it takes away a slot in training that could have been used for an American crewmember. Due to the difficulty of obtaining training quotas these foreign countries are now looking at other options from other countries to receive the training required. These foreign countries are willing to pay the entire cost of training for their members. Training all foreign students would require approximately 1750 hours of flight time using three to four E model C-130s. The 189th Airlift Wing, Arkansas Air National Guard currently performs the C-130 instructor school mission. This unit has been a Formal Training Unit and has been in the C-130 schoolhouse mission since 1986. The reputation of the 189th as a schoolhouse is exceptional. Currently the 189th executes 5000 hours per year on eight funded and two unfunded C-130E aircraft. The additional 1750 hours to fly foreign students could be easily included in the mission requiring minimum increases in aircraft and full time personnel. All infrastructure required to perform the mission is in place. The unit has access to multiple low level training routes and two local drop zones. The local community is extremely supportive of the military. The 189th has extensive experience training foreign students and prior to the Instructor School mission, the 189th performed initial qualification training for C-130 students. The 189th has the most experienced C-130 instructor force in the country.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 07-07

Pertaining to: CURRENT HEALTH CARE AND DENTAL CARE BENEFITS MADE PERMANENT FOR MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE COMPONENT

With the National Guard and Reserve Component now serving throughout the world while facing constantly changing threats in which international terrorism takes countless forms and can strike in many places with little warning, ensuring that our troops have the best available access to quality healthcare is a top priority. More than 150,000 Army and Air Guard members were mobilized and deployed to missions in support of this effort in the largest Guard call-up since the Korean War. The National Guard and Reserve Component have to maintain the same readiness standards as their active duty counterparts now serving in contingencies on a regular and more frequent basis. While the Department of Defense requires an annual dental examination, there is no dental coverage for National Guard and Reserve forces, meaning that Soldiers and Airmen must pay for this on their own. A provision of affordable health care and dental care for National Guard and Reservists and their families this would provide a significant new recruiting and retention incentive. In addition, such coverage would provide employers with some relief from high cost, employers sponsored health and dental plans. Recognizing the benefit of healthcare for the National Guard and Reserve Component the Congress of the United States enacted the recent Emergency Supplement Appropriations Act and the Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 in which authorizes a one-year test program granting TRICARE health care benefits for a test program for eligible National Guard and Reserve Component and their families. Those benefits include:

- * Medical and Dental screening and care in advance of mobilization with no charge.
- * Coverage for Members not eligible for employer provided coverage and those who are unemployed.
- * Transitional health care benefits to deactivated personnel after contingency call-up, other involuntary separations and separations following retention in support contingency mission to 180 days.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 07-08

Pertaining to: TRICARE COVERAGE FOR 'GREY-AREA' RETIREES OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE

The TRICARE coverage for National Guard and Reserve members includes only "Selected Reserve". The coverage does not include "Grey Area" Retirees at any Tier. "Grey Area" retirees have served faithfully and honorably for twenty years or more, qualifying for retired pay at age sixty, but have not attained age sixty. Some reservists may spend ten or twelve years in this status without full benefits, and are often left out of legislative language. The National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2006 contained language providing TRICARE coverage for all members of the National Guard and Reserve and their families in a three-tiered system of premiums. The National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2007 provided for a single level of premium contribution set at 28 percent of the TRICARE premium determined by DoD. Unfortunately, neither of these pieces of legislation provided for the "Grey Area" retirees.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 07-09

Pertaining to: EMPOWERMENT OF THE NATIONAL GUARD

The end of the Cold War and the subsequent downsizing of our active forces brought with it an unexpected transformation of our armed forces. With the support of Congress, an infusion of modern equipment, coupled with better training and increased integration of Active and Reserve Components to perform global peacekeeping missions, the vision of Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird in the early 1970's of a "Total Force" was becoming a reality. However, the unanticipated attacks of September 11, 2001 and resulting Global War on Terror (GWOT), have stretched our armed forces to the limit and effectively transformed the Reserve Component from a strategic reserve to an operational force. Eventually, the high cost of prosecuting the war and depleting levels of equipment caused the Pentagon to rethink defense strategy and funding priorities. Subsequently, the 2005 Base Realignment and

Closure (BRAC) enacted into law the removal of aircraft from eighteen Air National Guard (ANG) facilities, and the 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) recommended that six brigade combat teams (BCT) be converted to support missions and that the end-strength of the Army National Guard (ARNG) be reduced by 17,000 positions. At issue was the fact that neither document was produced with substantive input by the National Guard Bureau (NGB), adjutants general or governors. Since both documents were a continuation of the Pentagon's long-standing method of doing business without National Guard leaders being "in the huddle", Senator's Kit Bond (R-MO) and Patrick Leahy (D-VT), co-chairs of the Senate National Guard Caucus introduced the National Defense Enhancement and National Guard Empowerment Act of 2006 (S. 2658). This bold initiative proposed to give the National Guard a stronger voice within the Pentagon and enhance its ability to respond to emergencies at home and abroad. Representative's Tom Davis (R-VA) and Gene Taylor (D-MS) followed suit by introducing an identical bill (H.R. 5200). Key provisions of the original legislation would elevate the Chief, National Guard Bureau (NGB) billet from lieutenant general to general, establish NGB as a joint activity of the Department of Defense (DOD), provide a seat on the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) for the Chief-NGB, require the deputy commander of United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) be a National Guard officer, and direct that NGB identify gaps between federal and state capabilities to prepare for and respond to emergencies. Although the original legislation was later amended (S.A. 4271) to eliminate several of the provisions, the FY2007 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) referred the issue to the Commission of the National Guard and Reserves for recommendations with a report back date of 1 March 2007. Understanding the importance of a strong National Guard to our nation's security, Senator's Bond and Leahy reintroduced the National Guard Empowerment Act of 2007 to the 110th Congress, which, among other proposals, expands the original legislation by proposing that duty as an adjutant general is considered "joint", and that Reserve officers be considered to fill active component lieutenant general positions.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 07-10

Pertaining to: THE FUTURE OF THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD

The National Guard is the oldest military institution in the United States of America. Since its founding in 1607, the National Guard has remained a community-based force. The units of the Army and the Air National Guard (ANG) are composed of service members who serve the nation both at times of emergency at home and at war overseas. The National Guard has participated in every major U.S. military operation from the Revolutionary War to the present day Operations Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. The National Guard is an extremely cost effective force that consumes only four percent of the total Department of Defense budget. The Air National Guard with 106,800 men and women provide 49 percent of the Total Air Force's airlift capability, 45 percent of all in-flight refueling capability, 75 percent of all domestic combat air patrols in support of the Global War on Terrorism, 100 percent of the CONUS Air Defense, 95 percent of the Air Force Engineering and Installation capability, and 63 percent of the Air Traffic Control capability.

It is critical that the Air National Guard remain relevant and reliable in order to ensure the accomplishment of current and future missions. Key decisions are currently being made by the leadership in the Department of Defense and the Department of the Air Force without the full and equitable participation of the Air National Guard. In addition, such decisions do not include the Governors or the Adjutants General who command Air Guard units in their state role.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 07-11

Pertaining to: SIMPLIFIED DIVIDENDS FOR AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASES FROM ARMY AND AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE OPERATIONS ON THOSE BASES

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) stores located on Air Force bases provide simplified dividends to those bases annually based upon a percentage of the profit made at the base store to support Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) activities. Because the Air National Guard is not authorized MWR funding, it does not receive simplified dividends at rates comparable to active duty bases. Air Force Services Agency is using antiquated and uneven formulas to provide very limited funding to Air National Guard bases. With high operations tempo (OPTEMPO), Air National Guard base commanders could use these additional funds for quality of life and MWR activities on their bases.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 07-12

Pertaining to: ADEQUATE FUNDING TO RESOURCE ENHANCED SECURITY REQUIREMENTS DIRECTED BY CHIEF OF STAFF U.S. AIR FORCE

The Chief of Staff of the Air Force directed enhanced installations security procedures following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. These directed security procedures necessitated an increase in manning to comply with revised installation requirements. Rather than increasing permanent full-time authorizations, a program called Air Reserve Component Volunteers (ARCV) was created, allowing ARC Security Forces to augment permanent security forces at both active duty installations and National Guard installations. At the onset, this program was funded by the active component through FY05 and for approximately the first half of FY06. A Department of Air Force decision in 3Q FY06 state that funding of these positions at Air National Guard (ANG) bases was an ANG cost and therefore the active component would no longer resource those security requirements that pertained to ANG assets. As a result, the ANG funded the balance of FY06. However, the ANG can no longer fund this program, and the program has been terminated within the ANG as of the end of FY06. Conversely, the active component continues to fund ARC volunteers augmenting active duty bases. The volunteers augmenting security at Active Duty bases include traditional Guardsmen who willingly accept this duty. The irony is that traditional Guardsmen are augmenting security forces at active duty bases while ANG bases can no longer fund these same personnel to meet security measures as directed by Chief of Staff Air Force. Concurrently, the pool of available manpower at ANG bases to support security requirements is decreasing as the ANG continues to deploy personnel in record numbers to support the Global War on Terror, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 07-13

Pertaining to: DEFINITION AND ALLOCATION OF MISSIONS AND RESOURCES IN SUPPORT OF 21ST CENTURY NATIONAL GUARD MISSIONS

While deployed worldwide, the Army and Air National Guard continue to prepare for future missions. The vision of a more responsive force consisting of ground and air units capable of full spectrum dominance to meet threats whenever and wherever they arise is now more relevant than ever. The foundation of this vision remains people, readiness, and modernization to support assigned missions.

Although the active and reserve components have complementary missions, they remain in competition for the allocation of limited funding to support force structure, readiness, and modernization. Allocation of missions and responsibilities to the National Guard provides justification for the allocation of resources necessary to maintain its ability to support federal and state missions.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 07-14

Pertaining to: COMPENSATION AND INCENTIVE PAY TO MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD

Although members of the National Guard and Reserve maintain the same readiness standards as their active duty counterparts serving in worldwide operations, incentives to join and serve in the reserve components significantly lag behind those of the active force. Inequities in benefits between the active and reserve forces create an appearance of unfairness in the treatment of members of the reserve components. National Guard and Reserve members should receive the same compensation as the active forces for their service.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 07-15

Pertaining to: CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT FOR NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

In the current high tempo environment, our National Guard members and their families face potential peril. It is estimated that one-third of National Guard members who are released from active duty become unemployed or end up working in jobs that provide lower pay than what they had been receiving prior to deployment. Other Guard members returning to civilian life have been adversely affected by layoffs and business failures that occurred after deployment. Guard members and their families need the reassurance of having a viable career after deployment.

Military service has value in the civilian marketplace. Businesses diligently seek a high quality, drug free, dependable, educated, ethnically diverse, and trainable workforce like that found in the military. However, the network does not exist between the businesses and those who are serving.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 07-16

Pertaining to: DEFINITION OF 'VETERAN' TO INCLUDE ALL NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS WITH 20 YEARS OR MORE OF SERVICE AND ALL DUAL STATUS MILITARY TECHNICIANS SERVING DURING DEFINED TIMES OF WAR

Today's National Guardsmen are called to action more than ever before and have become an operational force since Sept. 11, 2001, responding to the war effort and natural disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes and wildfires. Today's Guardsmen are deployed in nearly every part of the world in war fighting and peacekeeping missions. Yet there are those who, for various reasons, may never deploy, but still maintain their physical and mental fitness for potential deployments, and who work on a daily basis to support the war effort. Many traditional Guardsmen who don't deploy, will put in 20, 30, 40 or more years in the service of their state and nation and yet are not entitled to some of the same benefits that other soldiers, airmen, sailors and Marines receive after only serving, in some cases, two years.

Dual status military technicians are also required to maintain their physical and mental fitness while working side-by-side with their Active Guard Reserve (AGR) counterparts supporting the soldiers and airmen of the National Guard and the warfighting effort. Many times these 20-year or more Guardsmen and the dual status military technicians are not eligible for federal or state benefits because they do not fall into the definition of "Veteran."

The federal definition of veteran includes members of the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Air Force, the commissioned officers of the Public Health Service, Environmental Sciences Services Administration or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, including its predecessor the Coast and Geodetic Survey or the crew of a merchant vessel during the Second World War and qualified with respect to such service as members of the group known as the "American Merchant Marine in ocean-going service during the period of armed conflict, December 7, 1941 to August 15, 1945," who served on active duty during a time of war. Many unarmed, uniformed services as noted above, receive benefits as "Veterans" of the Armed Forces, while traditional National Guardsmen with more than 20 years of service and dual status military technicians do not.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 07-17

Pertaining to: SUPPORT OF FORCE STRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT ISSUES ENDORSED BY THE NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES (NGAUS) AND THE ADJUTANTS' GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES (AGAUS) THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE EANGUS PURPOSE AND GOALS

Multiple force structure, mission and equipment issues are of interest to our membership. EANGUS is unable to address the multitude of these issues and must focus on "people" issues in support of our enlisted force. EANGUS continues to pledge support to those NGAUS and/or AGAUS initiatives that contribute to the accomplishment of the EANGUS purpose and goals.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 07-19

Pertaining to: EMPLOYMENT PROTECTION FOR THE FAMILY OF WOUNDED SERVICE MEMBERS

More and more Soldiers and Airmen are being wounded in action as a result of the war on terrorism; many of these wounds sustained loss of limb or extended medical care and rehabilitation. For the welfare of the service member's rehabilitation, family members are forced to use all of their vacation/sick leave from their place of employment to assist in the care of the Soldier. In many cases family members exhaust all rights under the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and are terminated from their place of employment.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 07-20

Pertaining to: INCREASE IN FAMILY SERVICEMEMBERS GROUP LIFE INSURANCE (FSGLI) BENEFIT

Family Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (FSGLI) is a program that covers spouse and children of a military member. Currently, the FSGLI covers \$10,000 on dependent children of the service member. Today's cost of a funeral may exceed the amount that is now issued by the FSGLI coverage policy.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 06-02

Pertaining to: DEFINITION AND ALLOCATION OF MISSIONS AND RESOURCES IN SUPPORT OF 21ST CENTURY NATIONAL GUARD WARTIME MISSIONS

While engaged in current battles worldwide, the Army and Air National Guard continue to prepare for future missions. The vision of a more responsive force consisting of ground and air units capable of full spectrum dominance to meet threats whenever and wherever they arise is now more relevant than ever. The foundation of this vision remains people, readiness, and modernization to support assigned missions. The active and reserve components have complementary missions yet remain in competition for allocation of limited funding to support force structure, readiness, and modernization. Allocation of missions and responsibilities provides justification for additional resources to maintain relevancy of the National Guard, and supports Army and Air National Guard Federal and State missions. EANGUS urges Congress to provide increased funding and modernization to the National Guard to support training and authorized equipment for wartime missions in the Global War on Terrorism.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 06-03

Pertaining to: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: SOLDIER SUPPORT FOR ARMY MOBILIZATION/DEMOBILIZATION

Mobilization processing of Army National Guard soldiers takes an extensive amount of time both deploying and returning. Enhanced information technology (IT) could lessen the time and insure accurate military personnel records. Family readiness could be improved by expanding the use of IT for families while the soldier or airman is deployed. Under current processes, a significant amount of time is required at the mobilization station to update Army computer systems and ensure individual readiness (equipment, training, medical, etc). The need to eliminate or reduce time spent at mobilization stations is critical to national security and can be accomplished by linking and enhancing existing computer systems and modifying software systems to create a 'virtual mobilization station' at Joint Force Headquarters-State locations. At demobilization (resetting the force), there is a lack of automated capability to update and transfer information back to the reserve component automation systems, such as awards, promotions, and the like. This deficiency has caused hardships for National Guard units, soldiers, and families. EANGUS urges NGB, Departments of the Army and Air Force, and Congress to support continued funding for development of home station or JFHQ mobilization software and integration packages.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 06-04

Pertaining to: FORCE MANAGEMENT TOOLS FOR THE NATIONAL GUARD

Today's National Guard is changing in response to our nation's call. The structure of the force that is engaging in military operations around the world in places such as Bosnia, the Sinai, Afghanistan, and Iraq require up-to-date policies and procedures. As our country calls on the Guard to engage in exercises along side their active duty counterparts, we must also give those soldiers and airmen the force management tools they need to sustain a high level of readiness. Operational tempo has placed considerable strain on those personnel and their families, along with an unanticipated, yet well-executed role in the Global War on Terror. Meanwhile, those Guard members serving in a traditional role back home are tasked with the responsibilities to their units and fellow Guardsmen beyond what they envisioned when joining the Guard. EANGUS urges Congress to support authorization and appropriation for National Guard force management tools that include, but are not limited to, the following: removing the congressional established "ceiling" on non-dual status technicians in order to maintain readiness as a result of mobilizations and deployments, accommodate returning soldiers and airmen who are being demobilized with disabling injuries, and return OWCP recipients to work from the permanent long-term OWCP rolls. Also, EANGUS urges Congress to develop and implement a policy to shorten deployment lengths for members of the Army National Guard. Also, EANGUS urges Congress to provide provisions and retention of legal, parental, and/or custodial rights and protection of a soldier or airman, who is single or becomes single while performing military service, whether CONUS or OCONUS.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 06-05

Pertaining to: EQUITABLE TREATMENT OF ALL NATIONAL GUARD RETIREES AND VETERANS

National Guard military technicians face additional requirements the typical Civil Service employee does not. Therefore, when they are forced to retire due to military constraints their retirement annuity is impacted negatively. National Guard Active Guard Reserve (AGR) retirees face different treatment than their active duty counterparts. Traditional National Guard members also suffer inequities when their benefits are compared to their Active Duty counterparts. Use of the National Guard in the last five years has marked the largest sustained call-up of reserve components since World War II. The treatment of our National Guard retirees and veterans is the most powerful recruiting tool the Army and Air National Guard have. A man or woman who considers joining the Guard will look to those who have 'been through the system' to get a true picture of what lies ahead, and influences their decision to serve. EANGUS urges NGB, the Departments of the Army and Air Force, and Congress to support the authorization and appropriation of programs for the men and women of the National Guard who have sacrificed and served honorably. Those programs should include, but are not limited to, the following: Immediately apply cost-of-living allowance indexing for Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) annuitants who are forced to retire before the age of 62 due to loss of military reserve affiliation. Also, EANGUS urges for immediate payment of Concurrent Receipt of Disability Pay (CRDP) and Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC) to career status Guard/Reserve component members who are 100 percent disabled to include the 100 percent Individual Unemployables (IU). Also, EANGUS urges for changing the Civil Service Retirement System to allow military technicians to retire after attaining 20 years of service and reaching age 50 or 27 years of federal technician service at any age without suffering the penalty of a two percent reduction per year for each year under age 55. Further, EANGUS urges for providing eligibility to National Guard retired members for federal retired annuity payments residency in state veteran's homes and that they not be required to pay more than 50 percent of the allowed VA rates. Also, EANGUS urges for equal burial rights and veterans status for National Guard and reserve members who have successfully completed their military service obligation. Finally, EANGUS urges for an increase in the burial plot allowance to \$500.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 06-07

Pertaining to: NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE COMPONENT HOMEOWNERS AND RENTERS INSURANCE PROTECTIONS

Commercial renter and homeowner insurance policies provide limited, and in some cases, no coverage to a single service member if damage is sustained if the service member is deployed. Although deployments cause a myriad of problems for service members, single service members have the added risk of possible lack of coverage on their casualty insurance should something happen while they are deployed and not occupying their primary residence. EANGUS urges Congress to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) to provide protections to deployed reserve component members that would prevent commercial insurance companies from penalizing any member for damage to the home or apartment if the home or apartment is vacant or unoccupied for a period of time due to deployment.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 06-08

Pertaining to: SPACE AVAILABLE TRAVEL OVERSEAS FOR ALL GUARDSMEN AND RESERVISTS

Space Available (Space A) travel guidelines place unnecessary restrictions on the use of Space A travel by reserve component members. The use of Space A travel by active component members is not equitable with their reserve component counterparts. Allowing National Guard and Reserve members, regardless of status, to travel Space A will improve retention for the reserves without increasing costs, and will have little impact on the active duty usage. Current military space available travel limitations, in DOD Directive 4515.13-R permits travel only to and from Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, and Guam. Members of the reserve components have been assigned world-wide in critical missions in recent years, in a near-equal status with active component forces. Members of the active component and retirees of both active and reserve components have no restrictions on OCONUS space

available travel. EANGUS urges DOD and Congress to rewrite DOD Directive 4515.13-R and eliminate specific location restrictions on OCONUS space available travel by members of the reserve components.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 06-09

Pertaining to: FEDERAL EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT CREDIT FOR TITLE 32 MILITARY DUTY PERFORMED PRIOR TO BECOMING A FEDERAL EMPLOYEE

The Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) do not allow retirement credit for Title 32 military duty performed by a National Guard member prior to becoming a CSRS or FERS employee. However, military duty performed under Title 10 by a reservist prior to becoming a CSRS or FERS employee is eligible to be included as service for retirement credit. The issue is the different way in which civil service retirement laws and rules treat reserve military service versus National Guard military service performed prior to becoming a civil service employee. Under CSRS and FERS, military members who enter civil service following active duty service can make deposits for that military service to get credit toward their civil service pensions. This applies to active duty and reservists as their duty is performed under the authority of Title 10. However, for the most part, it does not apply to National Guard members as their active duty service is typically performed under the authority of Title 32. Generally, most National Guard orders are issued under Title 32, USC, which is considered by the Office of Personnel Management as state duty, even though the Guardsman was taking part in war-fighting training, not state emergency response activities. The only time that can be counted by National Guardsmen when making a military deposit into CSRS or FERS is when orders are issued under the authority of Title 10 USC. Guardsmen and reservists can perform identical active duty (such as PLDC, BNCO, ANCO) and the reservist will be able to make a deposit to their retirement pension and the Guardsman will not, simply due to the authority of the orders. There is no distinction made between Title 32 and Title 10 service when it comes to credit toward a military retirement pension. EANGUS urges Congress to revise Title 5, USC, to provide military service performed under the authority of Title 32 USC be treated equally to that duty performed under the authority of Title 10 USC for the purposes of making deposits towards a civil service retirement pension under CSRS or FERS.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 06-10

Pertaining to: DECISION MAKING PROCESS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE REGARDING THE FUTURE OF THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD (ANG)

Recent force structure actions by the Air Force, supported by the Department of Defense, have severely impacted several units of the Air National Guard. However, in almost all instances, there was no coordination with the leadership of the Air National Guard of the states prior to taking the unilateral action. The Air National Guard, with over 106,800 men and women, provide 49 percent of the Air Force airlift capability, 45 percent of all in-flight refueling capability, 75 percent of all domestic combat air patrols in support of the Global War on Terror, 100 percent of the CONUS air defense capability, 95 percent of the Air Force Engineering and Installation capability, and 63 percent of the air traffic control capability. It is critical that the Air National Guard remain relevant and reliable in order to ensure the accomplishment of current and future missions. But key decisions are being made by the leaders of the Department of Defense and Air Force without the full and equitable participation of the Air National Guard leaders. In addition, such decisions do not include the Governors of the states nor The Adjutants General who command Air National Guard units in their state role. EANGUS urges the Department of the Air Force, the Department of Defense, and Congress to espouse the militia-based concept which connects the Air Force to communities dispersed throughout the nation, providing agile and quick responses to varied threats. Further, EANGUS urges for the maintenance of a baseline force for Homeland Defense which includes civil engineering, medical, security forces, and air sovereignty/air defense. Also, EANGUS urges for retention of ANG flying missions to nurture and sustain direct connectivity with America's communities while supporting the expeditionary Air Force cost effectively. Also, EANGUS urges for a continuous dialogue involving the Air Force, NGB, the Air National Guard, The Adjutants General, and Governors as threats evolve and new missions emerge. Further, EANGUS urges for participation in the process called Quadrennial Defense Review, Future Total Force, threat analysis, and other similar strategy sessions. Also, EANGUS urges for proper representation in the Department of the Air Force and Office of the

Secretary of Defense corporate decision-making processes, particularly in the conduct of studies and actions that directly impact ANG missions, resourcing, and funding.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 06-12

Pertaining to: DUAL STATUS TECHNICIAN REENLISTMENT BONUSES

Over 49,000 National Guardsmen serve as Military Technicians, referred to in the law as Dual Status Technicians. As a requirement of the civil service position they hold, they must also remain a member of the Selected Reserve in good status. When these military technicians are mobilized, they are ordered to active duty under the authority of Titles 10 or 32 for operational support. A benefit that has been an inequity in their service has been the ability to receive a reenlistment bonus while mobilized and serving in Title 10 or 32 statuses. Although recently made a matter of policy to allow reenlistment bonuses for military technicians, there is no legislative language codified in Title 37 that specifically authorizes such a bonus, leaving the implementation open to interpretation and possible flawed implementation. EANGUS urges Congress to properly codify in Title 37 the authority for military technicians to receive reenlistment bonuses when ordered to active duty for named operations, regardless of the authority (Title 32 or Title 10) at the same rate which is used for active duty service members.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 06-14

Pertaining to: AMENDING UNITED STATES CODE TO PROVIDE FOR BURIAL OF PARENTS OF SINGLE SERVICE MEMBERS IN NATIONAL VETERAN'S CEMETERIES

Single military members eligible for burial in a National Veteran's cemetery are unable to provide for their parent's burial in close proximity. However, a married military member may provide for their spouse to be buried with them. EANGUS urges Congress to change Title 38 United States Code to allow parents of single service members the authority to be buried in close proximity in National Veteran's cemeteries.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 06-15

Pertaining to: AUTHORITY FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY TO TEMPORARILY EMPLOY NON-DUAL STATUS TECHNICIANS ABOVE THE STATUTORY CEILING

The use of non-dual status technicians, whose full time position is not predicated upon their membership in the Selected Reserve, is limited by a congressionally mandated ceiling of Army and Air National Guardsmen. Greater flexibility is needed to adequately support those organizations whose dual-status technicians (military technicians) are deployed. Non-dual status technicians are Title 32 competitive civil service employees who are not required to maintain military membership in the selected reserve. They are employed by the National Guard through the Secretaries of the Army and Air Force to perform support tasks not related to the National Guard wartime missions. These positions are limited in number and Congress establishes the limit every year in the National Defense Authorization Act. The statute establishing these positions was crafted prior to the Global War on Terror. Mobilizations of dual-status military technicians since September 11, 2001 have posed new problems in complying with these ceilings. Amending Section 10216 of Title 10 USC would allow the Secretaries of the Army and Air Force to employ non-dual status technicians temporarily in positions normally occupied by dual status military technicians who are unable to perform in the positions due to their mobilization. The mobilization of these critical support personnel has created a need to backfill many of their dual status military technicians with temporary or term employees. A limited exception to the non-dual status restriction would significantly improve the hiring process and positively impact on unit readiness. EANGUS urges the Departments of the Army, Air Force, and Defense, and Congress, to provide authority for temporary employment of non-dual status technicians above the established ceilings.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 06-16

Pertaining to: INCREASING THE AUTHORIZATION AND FUNDING LEVELS FOR ARMY NATIONAL GUARD ACTIVE GUARD/RESERVE (AGR) AND INCREASE THE CONTROLLED GRADES

For the Army National Guard, the full time support manning levels are not adequate in the current operating environment. The Army National Guard needs an increase of 1,039 AGR authorizations to restore the FY05 ramp, which was diverted to the Recruiting and Retention efforts. In addition, the need exists to increase the controlled grade cap to restore 469 positions. EANGUS urges NGB, Department of the Army, and the Congress of the United States to pursue legislation providing and increasing the AGR authorizations and controlled grades.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 06-17

Pertaining to: MODIFY THE CURRENT SELECTED RESERVE COMPONENT TRICARE DENTAL PLAN PROVIDING REDUCED PREMIUMS AND INCREASED COVERAGE TO E-1 THROUGH E-4 MEMBERS

Minor changes to the TRICARE Dental Plan can enhance the dental readiness of our junior grade soldiers and airmen. Selected Reserve members must undergo an Annual Dental Examination to determine and ensure worldwide deployability. There is no funding provided to the member to accomplish this examination unless the member uses the FEDS_HEAL program. This program only provides the member a dental screening and not any treatment which may be necessary to restore the member to proper deployability standards. Reducing dental premiums would enhance the member's ability to maintain their dental readiness. EANGUS urges the Department of Defense, the Departments of the Army and Air Force, and the Congress of the United States to pursue legislation reducing Reserve Component Dental Plan premiums and co-pays for E-1 through E-4 members.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 06-19

Pertaining to: ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EARLY OR IMMEDIATE ANNUITY RETIREMENT SYSTEM FOR GUARD/RESERVE MEMBERS UPON RETIREMENT WITH AT LEAST 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

The current age 60 retirement annuity eligibility is antiquated and not equitable. When the age limit for receipt of retired pay by reserve component members was set decades ago, the reserves were not relied upon as they are today. Current law states that a retired reserve component member will begin to draw retired pay upon reaching 60 years of age. Reducing the age from 60 to 55 will mitigate a disparity between active and reserve forces. EANGUS urges NGB, Departments of the Army and Air Force, and the Department of Defense to work with Congress to pass an early or immediate retirement annuity system for reserve component members upon completing at least twenty years of eligible service.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 06-20

Pertaining to: GRANTING OF EXCUSED ABSENCE/ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE FOR ABSENCE RELATED TO VETERAN'S MEDICAL CARE

NGB guidance to State Human Resource Officers directs that a paid leave or leave without pay must be charged for an absence of a military technician while seeking veteran's medical care. The use of discretionary excused absence or administrative leave should be considered as an option to allow injured veterans the opportunity to receive medical care for that injury. EANGUS urges NGB to recommend to State Human Resource Officers of all Federal Agencies that National Guard members seeking veteran's medical care be afforded excused absence or administrative leave rather than charging the member paid leave or leave without pay.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 06-21**Pertaining to:** VETERAN'S GROUP LIFE INSURANCE (VGLI) PREMIUMS

Veteran's Group Life Insurance rates are cost prohibitive for retiring National Guard and Reserve members due to their age. VGLI is a program of post-separation life insurance which allows service members to convert their Servicemen's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) to renewable term insurance. VGLI is sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs. EANGUS urges the Department of Veterans Affairs to re-evaluate their VGLI insurance premium rates to better fit the budget of discharged or retired military members.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 06-25**Pertaining to:** FAMILY SERVICEMEMBER'S GROUP LIFE INSURANCE (FSGLI) COVERAGE FOR DEPENDENTS

The group life insurance coverage for dependents of service members provided by the Servicemembers Group Life Insurance program needs to be increased. FSGLI is a program that provides coverage for the spouse and children of military members. FSGLI currently covers \$10,000 on dependent children of the service member. The minimum this insurance should be is \$25,000 due to increased costs of funerals and living. EANGUS urges the United States Congress to take action to provide an increase in the amount of FSGLI for dependent coverage.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 06-28**Pertaining to:** REQUIRED SUPERVISION OF LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS (LPC's) BY MEDICAL DOCTORS

There is a lack of Licensed Professional mental health Counselors to treat returning veterans of the Global War on Terror. This shortage is due to difficulties in payment processing, which requires that the original physician who referred the member to the LPC must validate the payment for services rendered. Independent practice authority is necessary to establish authority for mental health counselors who practice under TRICARE. EANGUS urges United States Congress to provide direct payments to all Licensed Professional Counselors in support of our veterans and to regard Licensed Professional Counselors as other Master's Level Mental Health providers.