

**Enlisted Association of the National Guard
of the United States
(EANGUS)**

21 August 2008



**2008 REPORT
of THE
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**

EANGUS
3133 Mount Vernon Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22305

August 21, 2008

Mr. President and members of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States: The Committee on Resolutions met on August 18th and 19th in Meeting Room(s) 200/201, Savannah International Trade and Convention Center, Savannah, Georgia. There were 51 members present. Special guests included: SGM Irene Torkildson, CMSGT Duane Volk, SGM (Ret) Janet Salotti, representing the National Guard Bureau Legislative Liaison Branch (NGB/LL). Additionally, we were supported by EANGUS National Office Staff Frank Yoakum.

The committee reviewed the 31 Draft Resolutions published and distributed to the 55 EANGUS Chapters prior to this Conference. Of the 31 resolutions considered, you have before you 16 resolutions recommended by your Resolutions Committee for Approval. There were also 28 resolutions from 2006 looked at for reaffirmation of which 18 are before the body for your consideration. Eight proposed resolutions were withdrawn from consideration by the sponsoring states. As provided by the EANGUS by-Laws, Article VIII, Section 3, Standing Committees; “The Chairperson of the Committee on Resolutions shall report to the Conference only those resolutions the Committee recommends for adoption. Resolutions not submitted for Conference approval will be attached to the report and submitted to the Secretary of the ASSOCIATION.”

At this time the delegation body will take action to adopt or reject each resolution. I will read only the Resolution Number and “Pertaining To:” statement. Each delegate was provided with a copy of the final Resolutions Committee Report at their table. Further information on each resolution is within that document. Following this body’s action on the recommended resolutions, I will conclude my report.

As the Chairperson of the Committee on Resolutions, I want to thank the committee members that work with me throughout the year as well as those that attended our meetings here for their hard work and congenial attitudes while working through the draft resolutions and those to be reaffirmed. Your dedication to a professional product provides the “roadmap” of our organization for the next year and is reflected in this report. Because of the committee members’ dedication, we were able to complete our work one day early. Mr. President, I move acceptance of this report as printed.

**DEBRA I. NEWTON, SFC
EANGUS AREA I, Chairperson
EANGUS Chairperson, Committee on Resolutions**

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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

Background: 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.

Recommendation: That the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the U.S. urges Congress to provide matching pay increases for active duty pay and retired COLA.

Sponsor: Minnesota

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-02

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

Issue: 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.

Background: 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.

Recommendation: That Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the U.S. 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.

Sponsor: New Hampshire

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-03

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

Issue: 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.

Background: 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. That is the problem, all other employees can receive a higher benefit than what the military technician can ever achieve. The examples below will help illustrate this, with the exception of the regular employee that retires at 62, let’s assume that everyone has 30 years at age 56 and has a high three of \$50,000

1. Law Enforcement, Firefighter, Air Traffic Controller, their pension would be $.017 \times 20 \times \$50,000 = \$17,000$ plus $.01 \times 10 \times \$50,000 = \$5,000$ for a total of \$22,000 per year
2. Regular retiree at 62 with 30 years service, their pension would be $.011 \times 30 \times \$50,000 = \$16,500$ per year
3. Military Reserve Technician, their pension would be $.01 \times 30 \times \$50,000 = \$15,000$ per year

If the Law Enforcement, Firefighter or Air Traffic Controller received a 2% COLA each year, their retirement would have grown by at least another \$1800 by the time the Military Technician received their first COLA.

References and Regulations: USC Title 10, sections 12108 & 14515, AFI 36-3209, paragraphs 2.7, 2.11 & 2.50, ANGI 36-2002, paragraph 4.1.5, FERS -- Federal Employees Retirement System (An Overview of Your Benefits), April 1998 (Form Number: RI 90-1).

Recommendation: That congress change the current policy regarding COLAs for military technician so that they are the same as the other “Special Groups”.

SPONSOR: New York

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

Issue: 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.

Background: 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.

Recommendation: It is the recommendation of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States to encourage the United States Congress to change the Social Security regulations to allow retired personnel to fill positions with civilian employers of National Guard and Reserve members during a deployment and not penalize their social security benefits.

Sponsor: Arkansas

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-05

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

Issue: 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.

Background: 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.

Recommendation: The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States recommends that the National Guard Bureau, the Department of Defense, and the Congress of the United States support the authorization and appropriation of funding for an annual defense budget of no less than 4 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Sponsor: Arkansas

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-06

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

Issue: DoD has levied a requirement on Guardsmen but has not provided medical/dental coverage at no cost to the member to meet the levied requirement.

Background: 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.

Recommendation: The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States recommends that the National Guard Bureau, the Department of Defense, and the Congress of the United States 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.

SPONSOR: ARKANSAS

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-07

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

Issue: National Guard and Reserve Component service members need adequate mental health resources.

Background:

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.

Recommendation: The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States recommends that the Congress of the United States 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.

SPONSOR: ARKANSAS

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-08

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

Issue: Current methods of tracking medical information of deployed National Guard members are unsatisfactory.

Background: 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.

Recommendation: The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States recommends that the National Guard Bureau, the Department of Defense, and the Congress of the United States 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.

A medical information management system 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.

SPONSOR: ARKANSAS

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-09

Pertaining to: CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM TRAINING FOR THE NATIONAL GUARD

Issue: Civil Support teams requires advanced training that would be simulations based training programs for the Weapon of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Teams (WMD-CST), and to expand the scenario database to sustain and improve the high level of initial training required for the WMD-CSTs.

Background: 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.

Recommendation: The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States recommends that Congress of the United States 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.

SPONSOR: ARKANSAS

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-10

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

ISSUE: Dual Status Military Technicians are not allowed to receive enlistment/reenlistment bonuses, student loan repayments or overtime pay.

BACKGROUND: 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.

Recommendation: That the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urge Congress to pass the National Guard Technician Recruiting and Retention Act of 2008, which would allow all Dual Status Military technicians to receive enlistment/reenlistment bonuses, student loan repayments and their choice of overtime pay or Compensatory time off.

SPONSOR: Connecticut

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

Issue: That all members of the Armed Forces and Veterans who have served our country honorably deserve to have their loved ones buried with them.

Background: 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.

Recommendation: That the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the U.S. request the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Congress of the United States to pursue legislation providing parents of single members of the Armed Forces or Veterans eligibility for burial with the member.

SPONSOR: Montana

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-12

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

Issue: 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.

Background: 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.

Recommendation: That the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the U.S. urge DoD, Department of the Army and National Guard Bureau to pursue funding and additional contracts so all Soldiers in the Army National Guard have the current IBA and provide SAPI Plates to Soldiers so the Soldier can properly train and accomplish all Pre-Mobilization tasks.

SPONSOR: Wyoming

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-13

Pertaining to: SPACE-A TRAVEL PRIVILEGES FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES

Background: 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.

Recommendation: That the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the U.S. 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.

SPONSOR: California

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-14

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

Issue: 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.

Background: 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. Section 1491 of Title 10, United States Code provides for funeral honors for veterans in subsections (b) (2) and (c):

(b) Composition of Funeral Honors Details –

(1) The Secretary of each military department shall ensure that a funeral honors detail for the funeral of a veteran consists of two or more persons.

(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. Each member of the armed forces in the detail shall wear the uniform of the member’s armed force while serving in the detail.

(c) Ceremony – A funeral honors detail shall, at a minimum, perform at the funeral a ceremony that includes the folding of a United States flag and presentation of the flag to the veteran’s family and the playing of Taps. Unless a bugler is a member of the detail, the funeral honors detail shall play a recorded version of Taps using audio equipment which the detail shall provide if adequate audio equipment is not otherwise available for use at the funeral.

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.

Recommendation: That the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the U.S.:

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.

Sponsor: Pennsylvania

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-15

Pertaining to: SUPPORT OF THE 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 PURPOSES AND GOALS OF THE ENLISTED ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES

Issue: 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. A single resolution provides the EANGUS leadership the flexibility to address the non-people issues as the opportunity arises and resources permit.

Background: The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) is dedicated to promoting the status, welfare, and professionalism of the men and women of the Army and Air National Guard. Our goal is to provide quality, motivated, professional soldiers, airmen, noncommissioned officers to the National Guard. Our primary focus is to accomplish our purpose and goals in the best interest of the National Guard Enlisted Force. Issues of force structure, missions, and effective equipment to accomplish those missions are more appropriately addressed by the NGAUS and AGAUS.

Recommendation: That the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States continues to pledge support to those NGAUS and AGAUS initiatives that contribute to the accomplishment of the EANGUS purpose and goals

SPONSOR: North Dakota, Connecticut

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-16

Pertaining to: APPRECIATION FOR THE HOSPITALITY AND EFFORTS BY THE STATE OF GEORGIA, THE CITY OF SAVANNAH AND THE ENLISTED ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF GEORGIA AND AUXILIARY

Background: The 37th General Conference of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States met in Savannah, Georgia from 18 through 21 August 2008. The city of Savannah and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Georgia acted as gracious hosts and hostesses to their fellow National Guard members, their spouses and guests. The tireless efforts and dedication of the Georgia Conference Committee made significant contributions to ensure a most successful General Conference.

Recommendation: The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States commends the State of Georgia, the city of Savannah, the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Georgia and the Auxiliary for the support they have given and outstanding hospitality they have extended to make the 37th General Conference most successful and memorable.

Sponsor: EANGUS Resolutions Committee

All resolutions approved by the EANGUS Delegate body are affirmed for a period of two years. The following 2006 EANGUS Resolutions are reaffirmed for one additional year or until satisfactory resolution of the issue.

- 06-02 THE DEFINITION AND ALLOCATION OF MISSIONS AND RESOURCES IN SUPPORT OF 21ST CENTURY NATIONAL GUARD MISSIONS**
- 06-03 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: SOLDIER SUPPORT FOR ARMY MOBILIZATIONS/DEMOBILIZATIONS**
- 06-04 FORCE MANAGEMENT TOOLS FOR THE NATIONAL GUARD**
- 06-05 EQUITABLE TREATMENT OF ALL NATIONAL GUARD RETIREES AND VETERANS**
- 06-07 SPACE AVAILABLE TRAVEL OVERSEAS FOR GUARDSMEN AND RESERVISTS**
- 06-08 FEDERAL EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT CREDIT FOR TITLE 32 MILITARY DUTY PERFORMED PRIOR TO BECOMING A FEDERAL EMPLOYEE**
- 06-09 THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE REGARDING THE FUTURE OF THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD (ANG)**
- 06-10 ACTIVE GUARD RESERVE (AGR) REENLISTMENT BONUSES**
- 06-12 STATE COMMAND CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT (STATE CCM) FULL-TIME POSITION**
- 06-14 NON-DUAL STATUS (NDS) MILITARY TECHNICIANS – PROVIDING THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY TEMPORARY AUTHORITY TO EMPLOY NON-DUAL STATUS MILITARY TECHNICIANS ABOVE THE STATUTORY CEILING**
- 06-15 INCREASING AUTHORIZATION AND FUNDING LEVELS FOR ARMY NATIONAL GUARD ACTIVE GUARD RESERVE (AGR) AND INCREASE THE CONTROLLED GRADES**
- 06-16 MODIFY CURRENT SELECTED RESERVE COMPONENT TRICARE DENTAL PLAN PROVIDING REDUCED PREMIUMS AND INCREASED COVERAGE TO E-1 THROUGH E-4 MEMBERS**
- 06-17 LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM A MEMBER’S CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYER FOR TITLE 32 ACTIVE GUARD RESERVE (AGR)**

SERVICE UNDER THE FORMER VETERAN'S REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS ACT (VRRRA) SHALL INCLUDE LEAVE WITHOUT PAY, FURLOUGH OR SEPARATION WITH SUBSEQUENT REEMPLOYMENT

- 06-19 GRANTING OF EXCUSED ABSENCE/ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE FOR ABSENCE RELATED TO VETERAN'S MEDICAL CARE**
- 06-20 VETERANS GROUP LIFE INSURANCE (VGLI) PREMIUMS**
- 06-21 SERVICE MEMBER'S CIVIL RELIEF ACT FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS**
- 06-25 ESTABLISHMENT OF BEREAVEMENT LEAVE TO ENABLE SERVICE PERSONS ON ACTIVE DUTY TO ATTEND TO THE PERSONAL AFFAIRS OF THE LOSS OF IMMEDIATE FAMILY DUE TO HOSTILE ACTIONS WHILE ON ACTIVE DUTY**
- 06-28 NATIONAL GUARD COUNTERDRUG STATE PLANS MANNING**

**2008 DRAFT RESOLUTIONS WITHDRAWN FROM
COSIDERATION BY SPONSORING STATE**

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-05D

Pertaining to: NATIONAL GUARD MORALE, WELFARE AND RECREATION PROGRAM (NG MWR)

Issue: Reliance on the National Guard continues at the highest levels in recent history for both Federal and State missions yet the National Guard of the United States does not have a Morale, Welfare and Recreation program.

Background: Across the globe, the men and women of the National Guard have to depend solely on the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Marines' Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) and the Armed Forces Recreational Centers to provide affordable facilities to reconnect with their families following deployments or simply for their family vacations or a haven to relieve some of the tremendous stress placed on our Guard personnel in today's volatile world.

While supplemental mission funds¹ and services provided by the active components and their MWR facilities are a valuable asset for our National Guard members, they are not sufficient to meet our needs of reintegration, transition, and therapeutic healing for our Soldiers, Airmen and Naval Militia in the communities where they live.

Recommendation: The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) is embarking on a pilot program to urge the Congress of the United States to enact legislation that would provide MWR funding to the National Guard Bureau to be used to provide these services for National Guard personnel in each of the states.

SPONSOR: New York

¹ Supplemental mission funds are provided to the National Guard units quarterly out of the Non Appropriated Funds.

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-10D

Pertaining to: AMENDING TITLE 10, U.S.C. TO REDUCE THE AGE AT WHICH A RESERVE COMPONENT MEMBER MAY BEGIN RECEIVING RETIREMENT PAY

Issue: The current retirement pay system is inequitable compared to the amount of service Guardsmen are giving their nation.

Background: The Congress of the United States established the age limit for receipt of retired pay by reserve component members more than a half century ago. Current law states that a retired reserve component member will begin to draw military retired pay upon reaching 60 years of age regardless of number of years served. A National Guard member who enlists after high school at age 17 and retires after 30 years of service at age 47 must wait thirteen years before drawing a retirement check.

In contrast, an active component member who enlists at the same age and serves 20 years on active duty can receive retirement pay immediately upon retirement at age 37. Reducing the eligibility age to draw retirement benefits would be a big step in mitigating this disparity. A more equitable retirement program could greatly aid recruitment and retention for the National Guard. Retaining the seasoned leadership officer and enlisted members provides cost offsets by lowering reliance on the “replacement” person. Having transitioned to an operational force, the National Guard of the United States is spending more time on active duty as it shares responsibility for the Global War on Terror. In this changing environment, the National Guard is experiencing a critical loss of senior leadership who are increasingly retiring after 20 years of good service.

An amendment to the current law that would both address the inequity of the present system and 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, that individual would be eligible for retirement benefits at age 59, and so on.

Recommendation: The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States recommends that the National Guard Bureau, the Department of Defense, and the Congress of the United States support legislation to reduce the age at which a retired member of the Reserve component can receive military retirement pay by one year for every two years served after twenty good years of service.

SPONSOR: Arkansas

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-12D

Pertaining to: REVISIONS TO MANAGEMENT POLICIES FOR THE FULL-TIME MANNING WORK FORCE FOR THE NATIONAL GUARD

Issue: Major revisions are needed to management policies for the National Guard full-time workforce.

Background: Today's National Guard is changing in response to our nation's call as it engages in military operations around the world. As our country calls on the Guard to serve alongside its active duty counterparts, it must retool the existing technician and full-time manning program to sustain a high level of readiness. Operational tempo has placed considerable strain on Guard resources. The National Guard's long-term ability to effectively support the overseas troop requirements for the Global War on Terror is at risk unless its troops are given the necessary full-time tools to effectively execute all National Guard missions.

A long standing double standard adversely affects a substantial number of federally employed National Guard technicians who have prior Title 32 military service in the National Guard. 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. Only Title 10 military duty performed by an active duty or Reserve member prior to becoming a CSRS or FERS employee can be included as service for retirement credit.

Most National Guard orders (annual training, professional education, duty schools, etc.) are issued under Title 32, U.S.C. The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) considers any Title 32 service to be state duty and not eligible for credit under CSRS/FERS. This is so even though the National Guard member performing the Title 32 active duty was paid with federal dollars and performing national war-fighting training. It is possible for a National Guard member and Reservists to perform the identical active duty training at a military school or military installation with only the Reservist allowed credit for that time under CSRS/FERS.

Recommendation: The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States recommends that the Congress of the United States:

- Raise the congressionally established "ceiling" on non-dual status (NDS) personnel to 5% of the total National Guard technician requirement
- Expand the combat disability exception to the NDS cap to include all returning soldiers and airmen with disabling injuries in the permanent long term Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) rolls
- Allow Title 32 Active Guard Reserve personnel to perform state emergency missions under the command and control of the Governor
- Allow full time National Guard employees to be eligible for all general officer billets without requiring them to surrender technician or AGR status or requiring the position count against active component end strength
- Provide forthwith 100% funding of the required full-time manning requirements for the National Guard
- Eliminate all control grade limitations for the National Guard and provide the necessary funding to allow states full flexibility relative to promotions and assignments
- Revise Title 5, U.S.C. to allow military service performed under Title 32 to be treated equally with that performed under Title 10 for purposes of obtaining credit for that service under the CSRS and FERS
- Establish full parity in benefits between duty performed under Title 10 and Title 32 by allowing military service under Title 32 to be creditable for the same purposes as military service under Title 10.

SPONSOR: ARKANSAS

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-14D

Pertaining to: TRICARE COVERAGE FOR “GREY AREA” RETIREES OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVES

Issue: Grey Area retirees have been unfairly excluded from expanded benefits for members of the Reserve Components.

Background: Although the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2007 authorized fee based TRICARE enrollment for all members of the National Guard and Reserve and their families, it did not provide TRICARE access to “Grey Area” retirees.

“Grey Area” retirees are Reserve component retirees under the age of sixty with twenty years or more of faithful and honorable service who have qualified for retirement pay at age sixty. Some of these retirees may spend twenty or more years in this status without full benefits.

They and their families continue to be excluded from recent legislation expanding benefits for the Reserve components.

Recommendation: The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States recommends that the Congress of the United States authorize and appropriate funds which would allow “Grey Area” retirees from the National Guard and Reserve access to TRICARE benefits.

SPONSOR: ARKANSAS

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-19D

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

Issue: Employers of Guardsmen and self-employed Guardsmen need tax credits to inspire greater support of the National Guard.

Background: An estimated 41 percent of mobilized National Guard members face a reduction in pay while on active duty. Although some employers have made up the difference in pay and some even pay full salaries to mobilized employees, most cannot afford to offer such generous benefits. Some employers cannot economically replace deployed National Guard employees during periods of deployment. Self employed National Guard members can be ruinously hit by deployment. Offering tax credits to both employers of National Guard members and to self-employed Guard members would reward these patriotic Americans and inspire greater support of all members of the Guard in the workplace.

Recommendation: The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States recommends that the Congress of the United States provide tax credits to employers of National Guard members and to self-employed members of the National Guard.

SPONSOR: ARKANSAS

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-20D

Pertaining to: THE MEDICAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN HOMELAND RESPONSE OPERATIONS

Issue: The National Guard needs a medical information management system with self-contained wireless capability that can provide medical support to homeland response operations.

Background: Ever increasing utilization of the Guard in domestic disaster operational roles requires proper medical information management. Key areas in medical information management include patient management, vaccine administration and control, disaster/mass casualty response, bioterrorism response, clinical process automation, security and staff management, and patient surge capacity.

Experience in recent natural disasters has shown that computers and management tools used in day-to-day clinic operations may not be available when communities are truly devastated. A self-contained wireless system is needed that will collect the information required for dispensing biologics/vaccines during a mass casualty scenario where tens of thousands of people may be affected.

Recommendation: The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States recommends that the National Guard Bureau, the Department of Defense, and the Congress of the United States support the authorization and appropriation of funding for:

- A medical information management system with self-contained wireless capability that can provide medical support to homeland response operations.

SPONSOR: ARKANSAS

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-22D

Pertaining to: THE FUTURE OF THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Issue: Critical decisions, plans and initiatives continue to be formatted by the Department of Defense and the Department of the Air Force without consistent and equitable participation of the ANG. In addition, such actions have not provided for the impact to the governors or their adjutants general.

Background: 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 in 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 Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. The National Guard is a cost effective force that consumes only 4 percent of the total Department of Defense budget.

The ANG must remain relevant and reliable to ensure readiness for current and future missions. Critical decisions, plans and initiatives continue to be formatted by the Department of Defense and the Department of the Air Force without consistent and equitable participation of the ANG. In addition, such actions have not provided for the impact to the governors or their adjutants general.

Recommendations: The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States recommends that the National Guard Bureau, the Department of the Air Force, the Department of Defense, and the Congress of the United States support:

- The militia-basing concept that connects the Air Force to communities dispersed throughout the nation and provides for agile and quick responses to dispersed threats
- The cost efficiencies, capabilities, and community support generated by Air National Guard (ANG) units at the state level by including them as an integral part of the Future Total Force planning and structure
- The best interest of the United States by maintaining a baseline force for homeland defense which includes civil engineering, medical, security forces, and air sovereignty/air defense
- Retention of ANG flying missions to nurture and sustain direct connectivity with America's communities while supporting the expeditionary Air Force
- The exceptional expertise and experience that Air Guard members offer, while recognizing the significant value of Total Force training
- A continuing dialogue that involves the Air Force, National Guard Bureau, Air National Guard, National Guard Association of the United States, and the Adjutants General to effectively plan for evolving threats and new missions
- Revisions of the role of the ANG in the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR), Future Total Force (FTF), and threat analysis
- Ensuring the ANG is a full partner moving forward in harmony with the Active force into new and emerging mission areas
- Ensuring the ANG is properly represented in the Office of the Secretary of Defense corporate decision making processes, particularly in the studies and actions that directly impact ANG missions, resourcing, and funding
- Ensuring the ANG is properly represented in the Department of the Air Force corporate decision-making processes for the development of all policy initiatives that directly impact ANG missions, resourcing, and funding.

SPONSOR: ARKANSAS

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-23D

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

Issue: Stand-alone Air National Guard units require proper resourcing to meet security measures as directed by Chief of Staff Air Force (CSAF).

Background: Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force (CSAF) directed the implementation of enhanced installations security procedures. These procedures necessitated an increase in manning to comply with revised installation security requirements. Rather than increasing permanent full-time authorizations, a program called Air Reserve Component Volunteers (ARCV) was created, allowing Air Reserve Component (ARC) security forces to augment permanent security forces at both Active Duty and Air National Guard (ANG) installations. At the onset, this program was funded by the Active Component through Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 and for approximately the first half of FY06.

A Department of Air Force decision in FY06 directed that funding of these positions ANG bases was an ANG cost and therefore the Active Component would no longer resource those security requirements. As a result, the ANG funded the balance of FY06. However, the ANG can no longer fund this program resulting in its termination within the ANG as of the end of FY06. However, the Active Component continues to fund ARC volunteers that augment Active Duty bases.

The volunteers who augment security functions 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 CSAF. 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 (GWOT), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).

Recommendation: The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States recommends that the National Guard Bureau, the Departments of the Air Force and Army, and the Department of Defense urge the Congress of the United States to support requisite resourcing to the National Guard Bureau with Air National Guard (ANG) security personnel in support of security measures as directed by Chief of Staff Air Force (CSAF).

SPONSOR: ARKANSAS

2008 DRAFT RESOLUTIONS NOT TO BE CONSIDERED BY DELEGATES

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-01D

Pertaining To: MILITARY DENTAL MOBILIZATION READINESS REQUIREMENT

Background: The brave men and women in the military raise their hands and courageously serve. We owe them our appreciation and respect in our words and our deeds.

Currently it is required by the Department of Defense (DOD) that all National Guard members have an annual Dental Screening. Often, this is at the expense of Soldiers and Airmen who do not have adequate Dental Insurance. Unfortunately, due to the high cost of Dental Insurance Premiums, employers do not offer substantial Dental plans that would cover this expense. Therefore, Soldiers and Airmen often do not meet the DOD service wide goal of 75% for individual readiness because they cannot afford to do so. To encourage guard members to maintain dental readiness, Congress should, for the member only, reduce the out-of-pocket costs for restorative dental care under the Tri-Care Dental Program.

Recommendation: In the final report of the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves dated 31 January 2008 it recommends that DOD should provide annual screening at no cost to service members. The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the U.S. urges the United States Congress to enact legislation which would require DOD to offer Annual Dental screenings and restorative care to Soldiers and Airmen of the National Guard at no cost.

Sponsor: Iowa

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-07D

Pertaining to: EMPLOYERS BEING ALLOWED TO PAY THE PREMIUMS FOR THEIR EMPLOYEES ENROLLED IN TRICARE RESERVE SELECT

Issue: Healthcare costs are rising, yet employers have little financial incentive to hire a Guardsman or Reservist. Meanwhile numerous Guardsmen and Reservists are unemployed or underemployed because employers know they can lose a Guardsman or Reservist for an extended period during war time.

Background: The National Defense Authorization Act of 2007 authorized TRICARE Reserve Select is made available to all National Guard and Reserve members except for those eligible for the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan. Those military members selecting TRICARE Reserve Select pay a 28% cost share premium. This premium is at times much less than they pay for their civilian insurance. Employers have asked to pay or reimburse their National Guard and Reserve employees but it is a violation of the law. This would be an incentive to employers to hire National Guard and Reserve members if they don't have to pay \$1000 or more for the member's health insurance.

Recommendation: It is the recommendation of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States that Congress be encouraged to change to laws to allow employers of National Guard and Reserve members to pay the TRICARE Reserve Select premiums for their employee.

Sponsor: Arkansas

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-08D

Pertaining to: FREE HEALTH AND DENTAL CARE FOR NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE MEMBERS

Issue: Guardsmen and Reservists are bearing the financial brunt of health and dental care to maintain their military readiness. The military requires routine dental exams yet doesn't pay for them or pay to fix any problems. Healthcare requires a monthly premium plus co-pay, so that the member meets the military's medical requirements.

Background: In the past decade, the United States Congress has authorized National Guard and Reserve members and their families to enroll in TRICARE Medical and Dental Insurance. All of the programs for National Guard and Reserve members also involve premium payments. The medical premiums run \$81 per month for member only coverage on medical and \$253 for member and family medical coverage. Dental coverage is an additional \$xx for member only coverage and \$xx for each additional family members. During Army National Guard deployments, many personnel have been disqualified for medical or dental readiness. Air National Guard members are required to provide more documentation on medical and dental visits but all is done at the member's expense. Following deployments, with the rising number of cases of National Guard and Reserve members with Post Traumatic Stress symptoms, the Reserve Component has no official way to treat these members. Most receive assistance from the VA facilities and Military OneSource. Our Active Component counterparts have their mental health professionals on each base to assist and treat the active personnel. By providing free (no premium) TRICARE coverage for the member would provide a higher level of readiness for all military members and reduce the costs of preparing members for deployments. Family members may still participate in the program but they would pay a premium cost share comparable to current premiums. Family would pay this until the member is on orders for more than 30 days when they would convert to the same programs as active duty families.

Recommendation: It is the recommendation of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States that the United States Congress authorize and fund free medical and dental coverage for all National Guard and Reserve members.

Sponsor: Arkansas

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-16D

Pertaining to: RECOGNITION AND FUNDING OF THE UNIQUE DUAL MISSION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD

Issue: DoD must recognize and fund the unique dual mission of the National Guard.

Background: National Guard citizen soldiers serve full time overseas in over 40 countries and at home. Army National Guard soldiers have, at times, comprised nearly half of the United States' combat forces in Iraq and provided 90 percent of the ground troops responding to Hurricane Katrina. In the last Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR), the active Army and Air Force recommended reductions in the National Guard force structure that would impact numerous Army National Guard armories and Air National Guard wings. Reductions in force structure and the shortage of essential equipment for the National Guard threaten its ability to accomplish its missions. The National Guard remains the force best suited to perform the vital homeland defense mission of the Department of Defense. It is imperative that the Department of Defense maintains National Guard resources.

Recommendation: The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States recommends that the National Guard Bureau, the Department of Defense, and the Congress of the United States:

- Fully support the vital ongoing missions of the Army National Guard of the United States and the Air National Guard of the United States in Iraq and Afghanistan and in the areas of homeland defense, disaster assistance and relief efforts
- Fully fund the equipment needs of the National Guard
- Request the Department of Defense to consult with Congress and the chief executive officers of the states on any proposed changes to the National Guard force structure
- Request the Department of Defense in its force restructuring plans for the National Guard to fully consider the role of the National Guard in performing its homeland defense missions and state missions as defined by the governors of the states
- Request the Department of Defense to prepare budget projections that adequately detail and balance the cost savings from any changes in National Guard force structure with the projected costs of large personnel increases that may be needed to respond to a future national emergency
- Request the Department of Defense to assure Congress and the governors of the states that potential changes in the National Guard force structure will not impact the safety and security of the citizens of the United States

SPONSOR: ARKANSAS

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-17D

Pertaining to: TRANSITION ASSISTANCE FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL (TAMP) INVOLUNTARILY RELEASED FROM FULL-TIME NATIONAL GUARD DUTY

Issue: Army and Air National Guard members involuntarily released from any Full-time National Guard duty tours should receive Transition Assistance for Military Personnel benefits.

Background: Department of Defense (DOD) Directive No. 1332.35, effective December 9, 1993, established Transition Assistance for Military Personnel. This program provided medical and dental care and other benefits for military personnel upon separation from active duty. It included National Guard members involuntarily released from full-time National Guard duty (FTNGD) and Active Duty Special Work (ADSW) tours.

Beginning with the 2004 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), Congress established the Transitional Assistance Medical Program (TAMP) for Reserve Component members to retain TRICARE benefits for up to 180 days following their release from active duty. Congress has since made the TAMP program permanent in subsequent NDAA.

In interpreting this NDAA language, the National Guard Bureau Directorate of Personnel has issued a policy memorandum which limits TAMP benefits to Air National Guard (ANG) members who have performed active duty in support of officially declared contingency operations. The memorandum excludes payment of TAMP benefits to ANG members performing FTNGD unrelated to a contingency operation. This policy memorandum has had no effect on Army National Guard members who continue to be eligible for TAMP benefits when involuntarily released from the FTNGD tours unrelated to contingency operations.

Recommendation: The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States recommends that the National Guard Bureau, the Department of Defense, and the Congress of the United States support:

- Eligibility for both Army and Air National Guard members involuntarily released from any Full-time National Guard duty tours to receive Transition Assistance for Military Personnel benefits.

SPONSOR: ARKANSAS

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-18D

Pertaining to: FORCE MANAGEMENT OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE

Issue: Force management of the National Guard and Reserve requires immediate attention.

Background: Today's National Guard is changing in response to our nation's call as it engages in military operations around the world. As our country calls on the Guard to serve alongside its active duty counterparts, it must have the force management tools it needs to sustain a high level of readiness. Operational tempo has placed considerable strain on Guard resources. The National Guard's long-term ability to effectively support the overseas troop requirements for the Global War on Terror is at risk unless its troops are given the necessary force management tools to effectively execute all National Guard missions.

Recommendation: The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States recommends that the National Guard Bureau, the Department of Defense, and the Congress of the United States provide force management tools for the National Guard that will include the following:

- Amending the Selected Reserve Incentive Program (SRIP) regulatory guidance to allow newly commissioned and warrant officers to retain their enlisted SRIP eligibility for the remainder of their prior enlisted term
- Implementing military family support programs that will meet the unique needs of the families of mobilized National Guard and Reserve members
- Amending the Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act (SCRA) to mandate both the refund of college tuition payments for members who cannot complete the school terms because of military service and the protection of the academic standing of servicemembers deployed to active duty
- Establishing parity with the active forces in the administration, rates, and eligibility standards relative to Chapter 1606 Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits.

SPONSOR: ARKANSAS

EANGUS RESOLUTION 08-26D

Pertaining to: REGARDING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVES

Issue: The proposed changes to the mission, duty status reform, retirement, the AGR program, promotions, medical coverage and many other drastic changes that would adversely affect the National Guard.

Background: In these perilous times the National Guard has clearly demonstrated that without them, their Active Component counterparts would never have been able to achieve the level of success that we now have experienced on the world wide war on terror. Any change in the current duty status could and would hurt the ability to recruit and retain our highly qualified personnel. With weekend drill pay cut in half of its normal amount, the Guard would be hard pressed to keep and motivate personnel to train to an acceptable level prior to deployment. The reduction in retirement points coupled with a 401K-style of retirement system, there would be little, if any, motivation to reenlist or even stay until retirement in the National Guard. We have come a long way in providing medical coverage for our Guardsmen and their families under what is TRICARE Reserve Select, a switch to the FEHBP program, while having better coverage, would cost National Guard personnel more money. This coupled with the fact that if the report is adopted, the individual would be earning half of what they do now and would create an undue hardship on the Guardsmen and their families.

The AGR system has been a qualified success story for keeping the training standards up but also breaching the gap between Active Component and National Guard and local communities. To replace them with active personnel would be a disaster. When the military tempo slows down again and the cuts begin, these will be among the first positions cut. Further, with the advent of a nationwide promotion system for officers and senior enlisted personnel there will be no guarantee that the best and brightest will rise to the top, plus it could pose a hardship on employees and families for this individual to accept a position in another state, not to mention stifle the motivation of personnel within the state to strive to obtain these positions.

Recommendation: That the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the U.S. urge the Department of Defense and Congress to reject the final report from the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves, as it is highly flawed and in need of deep revision. While some observations could, and should, be reinstated in findings concerning the National Guard, most should be considered unconstitutional and a violation of States Rights.

SPONSOR: Montana