inside

p7  2021 NGAT Conference Information
p9  36th Infantry Deployment
p18 EANGUS Awards & Update
p19 NGAUS Conference Update
Helping brides to be find the dress of their dreams in Austin since 2005

- Many Designers to choose from
- Formal wear
- Veils and Accessories
- Alteration services available
- Steaming, Cleaning and Preservation

Thank you to the Members of the Texas National Guard and their dependents
Enjoy $100 off your veil or gown purchase at Alexia Gavela Bridal

512-419-7818
www.agbride.com
3704 Crawford St
Austin, TX 78731
Summer is now behind us and fall is thankfully upon us. October brings Halloween fun and lots of goblins. November brings Thanksgiving, family times and being thankful for everything we have. December brings good tidings and a Christmas like we have never seen before. Santa may have to social distance this year and your festive dinner will probably look a little bit different — but we still have a lot to be thankful for and I wish you the best throughout the holidays.

For the safety of our members our “Annual Open House” scheduled for December has been canceled. We will, however, be running a food drive from November 2 - December 15. If you have can goods or nonperishable items that you would like to donate, please drop them off at the NGAT office or on Camp Mabry. All items collected will be donated to the Central Texas Food Bank to support our local community. Watch the NGAT website, app and Facebook for further information and other happenings at NGAT.

Our committees continue to meet at our quarterly Board Meetings to follow up on program processes and commitments. Make plans to attend the NGAT Conference scheduled for March 25-28, 2021 at the Delta Hotel Dallas Allen located in Allen, Texas. Watch the NGAT website, app and Facebook for updates.

If you want to make a difference and get involved, please consider serving on a committee. We are looking for members with a passion for NGAT and members who want to make a difference in our Association. Your Board of Directors and staff continue to promote membership and support our members.

The Enlisted National Guard Association of the United States (EANGUS) recently recognized the NGAT News Magazine as the best magazine for a combined association. Our NGAT website also received an award for the best non-commercial website. Thank you goes out to MSG (Ret) Theresa Billeck-Zuniga and Terri Sheets for all their hard work that keeps NGAT in the limelight. Don’t forget to send in pictures and news articles about your unit and individuals so we can input them into our magazine. Send your information to ngatnews@ngat.org.

We appreciate your support and continued encouragement as we move forward in these “social distancing” times. We encourage everyone to stay active and forward any recommendations you may have.

Stay safe and have a blessed Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas.

Priscilla Leger, CCM, Retired
NGAT President
CONFEREE CALL
62nd Annual National Guard Association of Texas Conference
March 25-28, 2021

Through these difficult times as we push through during this COVID-19 pandemic, your Association is moving forward to conduct an in-person 62nd Annual Conference of the National Guard Association of Texas (NGAT) in Allen, TX from March 25-28, 2021. All conference meetings, breakout sessions, and optional events will be held under one roof in the Delta Hotels by Marriot Dallas Allen and Walters Creek Convention Center. Right across the street in walking distance is the Walters Creek at Montgomery Farm shopping center featuring an array of shopping and dining venues for your pleasure to enjoy during your stay.

NGAT ensures you that the Association, hotel, and convention center will follow all COVID-19 risk guidelines and safety measures of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the State of Texas and local area.

Conference Registration – Registration will open on November 15, 2020 at www.ngat.org. Check out the meal packages and you’ll see that membership has its privileges. So, become a NGAT member now to take advantage of those membership privileges immediately. A $20 late fee will be added after March 10, 2021 and registrations made after March 19, 2021 can only be made onsite.

Room Reservations – The host hotel is the Delta Hotels by Marriot Dallas Allen located just 30 minutes from downtown Dallas. The hotel rate is $139 per night. We cannot guarantee this room rate for reservations made after March 5, 2021. We have adjusted our total number of rooms so please make your room reservations now to take advantage of the discounted rate.

Agenda Highlights:
• Thursday, March 25 (1700-1930) Defense Symposium/Reception – An invite-only event with Texas Military Department leadership and Corporate Partners.
• Friday, March 26 (1300) Exhibit Hall Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – Join us as we open the Exhibit Hall with our great Corporate Partners.
• Friday, March 26 (1830-2100) Welcome Party – Come enjoy some good food and music at our outdoor beach themed Welcome Party.
• Saturday, March 27 (0800-1130) NGAT Annual Meeting and General Session – All conference attendees are invited to the NGAT annual meeting and general session.
• Saturday, March 27 (1915-2100) Awards Banquet – Join us as we recognize our members for outstanding achievement.

Your Association is making many changes to the 2021 conference to ensure your safety during the pandemic. We understand that not everyone will want to travel to attend the conference so we are inquiring into a possible virtual option that may be available during the 2021 conference. The safety of our members and all attendees will be of our upmost concern as we move forward in the planning process. Please watch our website, Facebook page, and NGAT App for updates on the conference during these changing times.

We will see you in Irving!

FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Marvin E. Harris
NGAT Executive Director

HELP YOUR EDUCATION SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS — APPLY FOR AN NGATEF SCHOLARSHIP

The National Guard Association of Texas Educational Foundation (NGATEF) announces its annual scholarship competition. Educational grants for attendance at colleges or universities will be awarded to active and life members of the National Guard Association of Texas and/or their spouses, sons or daughters. The foundation will award multiple educational grants of various amounts ranging from $500 to $5,000.

High School seniors, college undergraduates and graduate students will be considered for these educational grants.

Two scholarships have very specific requirements, so if you meet these requirements, we encourage you to apply for an NGATEF scholarships:

• Scholarship available for an NGAT member currently serving in the Texas State Guard or a spouse/child of a NGAT member currently serving in the Texas State Guard.
• Scholarships available to an NGAT Member currently serving in the Texas Army or Air National Guard

Special thanks to USAA and the Texas Capital Area Chapter of AUSA for their continued support with our scholarship program. All applicants must be an Annual or Life Member of NGAT or the spouse, son or daughter of an Annual or Life Member of NGAT.

Deadline for submission of scholarship applications is February 12, 2021. Visit www.ngat.org/education.htm to download the scholarship application.

NGAT HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE CANCELED

The NGAT staff has been working with Santa and going over the list of precautions required to host our Annual Holiday Open House and it has been determined that, sadly, we will be canceling our 2020 Holiday Open House normally held in December at the NGAT office. Due to the limited space in the NGAT office and for the safety of our staff and members we feel it is best to forgo the event this year. The NGAT Board or Director and Staff wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season.

NOMINATIONS FOR NGAT PRESIDENT-ELECT NOW BEING ACCEPTED

Individuals interested in running for the position of NGAT President-Elect must meet the following qualifications:
• Be an NGAT Annual or Life Member in good standing.
• Must have served at least one year as a member of the NGAT Board of Directors. Current and former member of the NGAT Board of Directors are eligible to apply.
• Must complete a nomination application available on the NGAT website on the Board of Directors page.
• Must be able to serve the next four years on the NGAT Board of Directors. (Two years as President-Elect and two years as President.)

For additional information contact the NGAT Executive Director, Marvin Harris at nharris@ngat.org. Nomination will be accepted through February 28, 2021.
Texas Guardsman and 28th Chief of the National Guard Bureau retires to Texas

ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2020 MG TRACY R. NORRIS, the Adjutant General of Texas, hosted the retirement ceremony for General Joseph L. Lengyel, Texas Guardsman and the 28th Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

The ceremony was conducted outdoors at the historic site of the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas and broadcasted live during the 142nd NGAUS General Conference so that National Guard personnel across the United States could watch the event. COVID-19 mitigation efforts were in effect at the ceremony, but despite the limitation in audience size, there was no limitation of gratitude and respect for Lengyel’s service.

Speaking at the ceremony, Lengyel expressed admiration and pride in the service and dedication of all men and women in the National Guard. “One of the most impressive things about all of the men and women who serve in our military and who put on this uniform, is that none of us knows what the uniform will ask of them. You may deploy multiple times, you may serve domestically, but that is what we signed up for.”

Lengyel exits the military after nearly four decades of service to the Air Force and the Air National Guard. He served in various operational and staff assignments, primarily as an F-16 Instructor Pilot and Weapons Officer. His experience in the F-16 includes tours in Air Combat Command, Pacific Air Forces, United States Air Forces in Europe and the Texas Air National Guard. Lengyel is a command pilot with more than 3,000 flying hours primarily in the F-16.

He has commanded a fighter squadron, operations group, air expeditionary group and the Air National Guard Readiness Center. Additionally, Lengyel served as the Senior United States Defense Official; Chief, Office of Military Cooperation; and Defense Attaché, Cairo, United States Central Command, Cairo, Egypt.

Prior to his assumption of command as the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, Lengyel was the vice commander of the Texas Air National Guard’s 149th Fighter Wing. During the ceremony the “Gunfighters,” performed a fly-over above the Alamo in honor of Lengyel’s service to the Wing and to the United States Military.

Lengyel has also presided over one of the Guard’s most active periods of domestic support operations. From large scale hurricane response efforts like those seen after Hurricane Harvey, to the broad and varied mission sets in the response to COVID-19, to protection of liberty, life and property during the June 2020 civil disturbance, Lengyel has ensured that the Guard was ready to meet the call. As of his retirement, 180,000 Guardsmen were on some form of active duty order.

Throughout his command, Lengyel dedicated his service to improving the quality of life for all the service members under his responsibility, as well as focusing on maintaining readiness and agility within the Guard.

Reflecting on the totality of his service within the National Guard, Lengyel said: “I never intended to be Chief of the National Guard Bureau, but I will never trade in my experience for anything in the world.”

BACKGROUND: MEMBERS OF THE TEXAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD’S 149TH FIGHTER WING, known as the “Gunfighters” fly over the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas, on August 28, 2020. The flyover was conducted in honor of the retirement of General Joseph L. Lengyel, the 28th Chief of the National Guard Bureau. Prior to assuming command as the Chief, General Lengyel served as the vice commander for the 149th Fighter Wing. (Photo by Andrew Ryan Smith)
Thursday, March 25, 2021
Defense Symposium

Friday, March 26, 2021
Fun Run/Walk
License to Carry Training
NGAT Wine Tasting
Trade Show/Silent Auction
Welcome Party

Saturday, March 27, 2021
NGAT Business Session
NGAT General Session
Trade Show/Silent Auction
Lunch with Exhibitors
Spouses/Retirees Lunch
Breakout Session
NGAT Awards Banquet

Sunday, March 28, 2021
NGAT Prayer Breakfast

NGAT Award Nominations
Now Being Accepted

The NGAT Awards Program is designed to recognize NGAT members who provided exceptional service and outstanding contributions to NGAT. The program also recognizes NGAT members who have been involved in acts of heroism that included risk of life or personal safety, or extreme acts of humanitarianism involving the saving of a life or the attempt to save a life.

Deadline for nominations is March 6, 2021.

SERVICE AWARDS
The Minuteman Award
The Davy Crockett Award
The Jose Navarro Award
The Sam Houston Award

HEROISM AWARDS
General K.L. Berry Award
The LTC James A. Spring Humanitarianism Award

Visit the NGAT website for submission requirements and criteria.
www.ngat.org/awards.htm

Silent Auction donations being accepted at the NGAT Office.
THE 4TH BATTALION, 133RD FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT from the Texas National Guard, transferred authority of the Army Central (ARCENT), Force Field Artillery Headquarters, (FFA HQ) High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) Regiment to the 1st Battalion, 14th Field Artillery Regiment, 75th Field Artillery Brigade from Fort Sill, Oklahoma, in a ceremony on, August 28, 2020.

COL Ryan E. McCormack, Commander of ARCENT FFA HQ and the 75th Field Artillery Brigade presided over the ceremony, which saw LTC Malcomb Warbrick, the outgoing FFA HQ HIMARS BN commander, pass the mission to LTC Andrew M. Hercik, the incoming FFA HQ HIMARS BN commander.

The 4-133rd FA BN, ‘Deep Strike,’ hit the ground running last December. During the course of their deployment, the Deep Strike battalion kept their spears sharp by conducting 87 live-fire missions in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, supporting Combined Joint Task Force, (CJTF-OIR), and Special Operations Joint Task Force, (SOJTF). They continued rehearsing and refining their mission requirements by executing over 350 mission rehearsal exercises supporting CJTF-OIR and SOJTF.”

“In nine months, we were able to deploy out of Texas, and starburst into eight different locations said Warbrick. “Throughout the deployment, we surged over 650 Soldiers, composed of units from 6 states, we spanned a total of 13 bases throughout seven different countries, and were given the thankless duty of retrograding four of them. We trained with several partner nations including critical medical and security exercises. We performed live-fire exercises with both our Kuwait and Emirate partners and fired 87 rounds in support of OIF and Spartan Shield. In true ‘Deep Strike’ fashion, placing Soldiers first, we graduated 22 Soldiers from the Basic Leadership Course, and promoted 16 Soldiers.”

“Deep Strike” Soldiers returned shortly before midnight on September 24, 2020. Soldiers were greeted with an escort provided by the San Marcos Police Department followed by a water cannon salute by the San Marcos Fire Department. The regiment’s deployment was its first deployment since World War II — 75 years since the battalion organically deployed into combat. The unit provided rocket missile fire in the Middle East as east as Afghanistan, as west as Egypt, as north as Syria and as south as Yemen. ★
36th Infantry Division Deploys to the Middle East

On September 27, 2020, Soldiers of the 36th Infantry Division along with family and friends gathered at Kelly Reeves Athletic Complex in North Austin to bid farewell to 700 Texas Army National Guard Soldiers set to deploy to the Middle East.

The 36th Infantry Division whose headquarters is in Austin, Texas has been rigorously training and preparing for this deployment for the past two years. Despite their hectic training schedule for the mobilization, many division headquarters Soldiers chose to volunteer for COVID-19 response efforts and the civil disturbance missions.

“IT’S NOT AN OATH TO A FLAG OR TO A PRESIDENT; IT’S AN OATH TO SUPPORT AND DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES AGAINST ALL ENEMIES, FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.”

The soldiers will travel to Fort Hood for a month of training, followed by a nine-month overseas tour of duty. The division will support Operation Spartan Shield, an ongoing Department of Defense operation headquartered in Kuwait. It’s the largest deployment for the Texas Military Department this year.

The headquarters will provide training for partner nations based on a Central Command theater security plan. The Texans will serve as experts to forces interested in improving their skills in such areas as artillery, maneuver, and command and control.

During the deployment ceremony, MG Patrick Hamilton, the Commander of the 36th Infantry Division, said “I am confident that this fantastic group of soldiers on this field are ready to go and assume mission command in the Middle East.” He thanked the families who gathered to see their loved ones off for their support and “selfless service.”

Before he released the soldiers to eat a final lunch with their families, Hamilton spoke of how honored he was “to serve as part of the 1% of Americans who raises their right hand and swears an oath.”

“IT’S NOT AN OATH TO A FLAG OR TO A PRESIDENT; IT’S AN OATH TO SUPPORT AND DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES AGAINST ALL ENEMIES, FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC,” he said. “The Constitution is that single document that allows us to be here today, to worship as we want to worship, to celebrate what we want to celebrate, to know that we will be judged by our depth of character and that we will succeed or fail, rise or fall based on our individual level of effort and our confidence. There’s nothing more that we can ask than to defend those rights.”

Members of the 36th Combat Aviation Brigade provide a helicopter flyover during the 36th Infantry Division deployment ceremony. (Photo by 1SG (Ret) Javier Garcia)
Key Leadership Update

MG Greg Chaney
Deputy Adjutant General – Army

Brig Gen Michael Lovell
Mobilization Asst. to the Dir. of Intelligence
United States Strategic Command

COL Jose Rivera
Commander
72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team

Col Keith Williams
Commander
136th Airlift Wing

Col Daniel Janusz
Commander
147th Attack Wing Mission Support Group

CSM Jason L. Broyles
Command Sergeant Major
3-144th Infantry Regiment

CSM Broyles has also been selected to serve on the NGAT Board of Directors for the 56th IBCT.

NGAT IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE OUR NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Priscilla Leger
President

Chris McKeag
President-Elect

Michael Wolff
Vice-President

Bruce Robison
Secretary

Mireya Cruz
Treasurer

Marvin Harris
Executive Director
Ex-officio Mbr
GUARDSMEN OF THE TEXAS NATIONAL GUARD attached to Joint Task Force – Longhorn provide stocking and distribution support to the San Antonio Food Bank in San Antonio, Texas, on October 5, 2020. Since April, Texas Military Department service members have been mobilized across the state of Texas to augment local food banks in order to meet an unprecedented increase in demand due to the COVID-19 pandemic. (Photo by SSgt Stacy Cooper)

We are extremely proud of all the Soldiers, Airmen and State Guardsmen of the Texas Military Department who have answered the call to support, and who continue to support COVID-19 response missions. They are truly Texans serving Texas.

“The response to this virus will be a team effort. Just like we did during the Bastrop fires, and in the destruction of Hurricane Harvey, we will work together with our partner agencies to overcome any challenges we may face.”

— MG Tracy R. Norris, the Adjutant General of Texas.

GUARDSMEN OF THE TEXAS NATIONAL GUARD attached to Joint Task Force – Longhorn provide stocking and distribution support to the San Antonio Food Bank in San Antonio, Texas, on October 5, 2020. Since April, Texas Military Department service members have been mobilized across the state of Texas to augment local food banks in order to meet an unprecedented increase in demand due to the COVID-19 pandemic. (Photo by SSgt Stacy Cooper)

SPC LIZETTE AYLLONQUIRINO a member of HHC 172nd BEB assigned to the Texas Military Department’s Joint Task Force – Longhorn marks vehicles for processing during the feeding of more than 3,300 families near NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas.

COVID UPDATE

SPC LIZETTE AYLLONQUIRINO a member of HHC 172nd BEB assigned to the Texas Military Department’s Joint Task Force – Longhorn marks vehicles for processing during the feeding of more than 3,300 families near NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas.

PROGRAMS AND INCENTIVES

VETERAN, NATIONAL GUARD, RESERVES, SPOUSAL AND DEPENDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

As a Veteran, you understand the value of loyalty, Swift offers fully-paid tuition scholarships to Vets (including National Guard and Reserves), their spouses or dependents to attend Swift Academy. Vets, their spouses or dependents can take advantage of this free opportunity to earn their CDL. This is our way of saying thank you for your service!

GUARD AND RESERVES SERVICE MEMBERS

We appreciate the sacrifice that our US Military and our Veterans made to protect our families, our freedom and our future! It is for this reason that we are committed to assisting Active Duty service members as they transition from their military career to a civilian occupation. We welcome men and women who are currently serving in the Guard or Reserves! We will honor your commitment to fulfill your Guard or Reserve duties and support your attendance for required military obligations. Find out more about the programs and incentives Swift offers our nations heroes!
ON OCTOBER 7, 2020, THE TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT graduated twenty-four students from the University of Texas Project Management Certificate Program during a ceremony at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas. To recognize this significant achievement, MG Greg Chaney, the Deputy Adjutant General – Army, presented the graduates with certificates. These twenty-four Soldiers came from all across the Texas National Guard to enhance their skill-sets through the use of the Army Credentialing Assistance Program. (Photo courtesy of the Texas National Guard Education Office)

PICTURED ARE THE NEWEST SECOND LIEUTENANTS of the Texas Army National Guard. The Officer Candidate School or OCS graduated 18 officers in class #63 on August 22, 2020, at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas. Congratulations to all the graduates! (Photo courtesy of the Texas Military Department)

WHEN A DEADLY AMOEBA affected the water supply of Lake Jackson, Texas, your Texas Guard jumped into action to help. Members of the 36th Infantry Division and other Texas Guard units have distributed over 1 million bottles of water to the people of Lake Jackson and will remain on mission as long as Texans need them. (Photo courtesy of the Texas Military Department)

CONGRATULATIONS TO CAPT BENTON HENDRIX, 1st Lt Jimmy Root, 1st Lt Jordan Millen, and 1st Lt John Graham, the newest graduates of the H9th Fighter Wing F-16 pilot class! (Photo courtesy of the H9th Fighter Wing)

MEMBERS OF THE TEXAS STATE GUARD and the Texas DPS Dive Teams joined together in September for a joint dive training operation in Bridgeport, Texas. The training focused on vehicle recovery. (Photo by PV2 Keith Bernabo)
GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT recently appointed MG Tracy R. Norris, the Adjutant General of Texas, to the Governor’s Task Force on Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response. The 11 panel task force provides expert, evidence-based assessments, protocols, and recommendations related to state responses to infectious diseases, and serves as a reliable and transparent source of information and education for Texas leadership and citizens. Congratulations MG Norris!

LTC MALCOLM WARBRICK, Commander of the 4-133rd FA, presents 1LT Nickolas Leonard with the Bronze Star Medal at a ceremony in the Middle East for exceptionally meritorious service while serving as platoon leader commissioned officer in charge for Task Force Jordan, Special Operations Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve. 1LT Leonard relentlessly disrupted violent extremist organizations in southern Syria. His actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service.

Young Heroes of the Guard Toy Drive

THE ANNUAL “YOUNG HEROES OF THE GUARD” Toy Drive, benefitting Texas children’s hospitals and battered women’s shelters, is a Texas State Guard community service event that started in 2009. The initial goal of the toy drive was to provide toys to the children confined to hospitals in the Dallas/Fort Worth area to bring them comfort and joy during the holidays.

Since 2009, the toy drive’s reach has expanded state-wide, encompassing thousands of children who are hospitalized over the holidays or otherwise don’t have a place to truly call “home.”

Will you join us in this mission to bring happiness to Texas children? You can help by donating toys or funds; hosting a collection box; or volunteering your time to sort, package, load, and deliver the toys. Helping the Texas State Guard complete this mission will brighten the day for thousands of Texas children in the upcoming holiday season.

If you or your organization have questions about the Toy Drive please don’t hesitate to leave us a message on our website at www.txsgtoydrive.com/contact-us.
Soldiers are faced with many stressful situations in and out of uniform. Between deployments, separations, and stress at work and home, service members have a high risk of being involved in domestic violence situations.

In Texas, being charged with a misdemeanor assault family violence holds multiple consequences. Most importantly, the arrest will be on your criminal record. If convicted you may have problems obtaining a state issued professional license, immigration issues for non-citizens and you lose the right to possess a firearm. As a military professional this will not only impact you as a civilian but will hinder your military career.

Federal law prohibits anyone convicted of a misdemeanor or felony offense of domestic violence from possessing a firearm. There is no exception for military personnel. DoD reported 16,912 incidents of domestic abuse in FY18, with 8,039 that met the DoD definition of domestic related incidents.

Domestic violence is defined as the use, attempted use, or threatened use of force or violence against a person, or a violation of a lawful order issued for the protection of a person who is: a current or former spouse; a person with whom the abuser shares a child in common; or a current or former intimate partner with whom the abuser shares or has shared a common domicile.

Some service members accused of assaulting a family member mistakenly believe that if the Judge doesn’t make an affirmative finding of family or domestic violence, the firearms prohibition doesn’t apply. Unfortunately, the military services can look at the facts of the individual case and determine the conviction involved family violence. When this happens, service members are normally separated from the military. A conviction for domestic violence could preclude an individual from future service in the military and opportunities as a civilian.

Doug O’Connell is a retired TXARNG Colonel who focuses on representing military services members, veterans, first responders and their family members. Doug@DougOConnell.com
THE TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THE WINNERS of the 2020 Best Warrior Competition that brings together Soldiers and Airmen from the Texas National Guard and our state partnership program countries of the Czech Republic and the Republic of Chile. The Soldiers and Airmen who competed are considered the “best of the best” of their respective units.

Service members gather for a demanding multi-day competition that tests their tactical skills, endurance and technical expertise through scored events such as a tactical road march, obstacle course, swim test and physical fitness test, just to name a few.

Traditionally, winners are named and honored at a banquet for all participants, however, this year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were unable to gather this previous spring for the celebration. Like so many other events around the world, we recently honored our winners virtually.

SGT Haden Roach and SPC Jacob Arndt were selected to represent the Texas National Guard in the National Guard Best Warrior 2020 Competition held in September at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. Although they did not win the competition, they proudly represented Texas Soldiers and Airmen.
“ROTORS IN THE SAND” TELLS THE COMPELLING TRUE STORY, unvarnished and starkly real as to what happened behind the scenes of the CV-22 Osprey accident investigation. Find out more about the four casualties, and the sixteen survivors of the most controversial accident in Air Force history. Travel with the Board as they piece together hundreds of clues to solve the ultimate question: Why did the Osprey suddenly “fall out of the sky?”

After conducting over 100 interviews and spending time combing through wreckage — find out how the Accident Board determined the substantially contributing factors that caused the accident. Was it “pilot error?” Was the accident caused by an engine power malfunction? Learn how the Osprey crew desperately fought to save their crippled airplane during the last 18 seconds of flight on April 9, 2010.

This book will give reader’s a renewed appreciation for our men and women in uniform and the extremely dangerous missions they are tasked to conduct while in the combat zones around the world.

“Rotors in the Sand” is written by NGAT Life Member, Brigadier General (Retired) Donald D. Harvel. Harvel retired from the U.S. Air Force in September of 2010 with over 34 years of military service. After graduating from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York in 1976, he received a commission into the U.S. Air Force. He attended pilot training at Williams Air Force base in Chandler, Arizona. After graduation, Harvel flew C-130 aircrafts on active duty and in the Air National Guard. He was a squadron commander, group commander, and a wing commander. He also worked as the Air National Guard advisor to the commander of Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC).

In August of 2019, Harvel retired from his job as a commercial airline pilot. He had over 20,000 hours of flying time in the military and commercial aircraft. His book was released in April of 2020. Sadly, Harvel died suddenly on September 5, 2020. All proceeds from book sales are being donated to select veteran organizations to help gold star families.

Available at rotorsinthesand.com or Amazon.com

All proceeds from book sales are being donated to select veteran organizations to help gold star families.
TWO NEW SCHOLARSHIPS ESTABLISHED FOR TEXAS GUARDSMEN

THE NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION is proud to announce that two new scholarships have been established in recognition of MG (Ret) James K. “Red” Brown and MG (Ret) William A. “Bill” Hall. The scholarship recognizes their leadership and long distinguished service to the great State of Texas, the United States Army and the United States of America. These scholarships are being established to reward students, family members, and current or former members of the Texas Army National Guard who show skills in motivating others, academic achievement, and service to the community in and out of the classroom. Those wishing to donate to either of these scholarships may do so at the following site: www.ngat.org/education.htm.

MEETING OF THE WEST TEXAS OLD GUARD BUNCH

ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2020, over 50 members of the “West Texas Old Guard Bunch” called in via Zoom to discuss changes to their group. With 113 members and 50+ calling in to the meeting, it’s fair to say the meeting was a success. During the call they had 5 general officers in attendance. Current President LTG (BVT) (Ret) Edgar Murphy stated during the meeting that at the age of 85 years old it was time for him to step down as President of the West Texas Old Guard Bunch. The new officers selected were President, COL (Ret) Jeff Breor; Amarillo Vice-President, MSG (Ret) Mike Lee; and Lubbock Vice-President, COL (Ret) Ronnie Shell. For more information on joining the West Texas Old Guard Bunch please contact COL (Ret) Jeff Breor at jeffrey.breor@safeco.com.

24 YEARS OF MILITARY SERVICE

ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2020, at the 36th Combat Aviation Brigade Headquarters, near Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, LTC Jose Reyes (right) proudly concluded his military career of 24 years. A heartfelt retirement ceremony was held with family, friends and fellow Soldiers. The Commander of the 36th Combat Aviation Brigade, LTC (P) Robert “Bo” Guerara (left), presented LTC Reyes with the Meritorious Service Medal, and several other close colleagues presented him with personalized gifts to mark the occasion.

LT COL ELROD COMPLETES “FINI” FLIGHT

ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2020, Lt Col Scott Elrod, a member of the 149th Fighter Wing, piloted his final flight in an F-16 Fighting Falcon after 20+ years of military service in the U.S. Navy and the Texas Air National Guard. The “Fini Flight” is a military aviation tradition which marks a pilot’s retirement from the Air Force.

FULLER NAMED LEANDER CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

MITCH FULLER, an NGAT Life Member and former member of the Texas Army National Guard, received the Leander Chamber of Commerce “Citizen of the Year Award” in a ceremony held on October 8, 2020, in Leander, Texas. Mitch works as a Senior Consultant for J.L. Powers and Associates and currently serves as Vice Chairman of the Leander Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and represents Williamson County as an Ambassador for the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA). Congratulations!
EANGUS Area IV Wins Multiple Awards in EANGUS 2020 Competition

The 2020 EANGUS Annual Conference scheduled for August 9-12, 2020, in Little Rock, Arkansas was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the EANGUS awards competition was held despite the cancellation. EANGUS Area IV consists of EANGUS members from the following states: Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas. Area IV members won the following awards during this year’s competition:

**EANGUS AWARD RECIPIENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Side By Side</th>
<th>Mrs. Connie Myers (MS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pen is Mightier than the Musket</td>
<td>Mrs Judith Putnam (KS)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PUBLICATION AWARDS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category 4</th>
<th>“NGAT News” (TX)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Category 6</td>
<td>“Mississippi Strong” (MS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Texas for <a href="http://www.ngat.org">www.ngat.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CSM VIRGIL WILLIAMS SCHOLARSHIP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Makayla Doucet (Dependent of MSgt Adam Doucet (TX))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSG Tina Heth (TX)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kristin Yanez (Dependent of MSgt Jesus Yanez (TX))</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PATRIOTS SCHOLARSHIP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corrinne Jennings (Dependent of SFC Brandon Jennings (KS))</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COMMAND SERGEANT MAJORS ADVISORY COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

| PFC Ian Walthall (AR) |

---

Cruz Elected EANGUS National Secretary

Due to the cancellation of the 49th Annual EANGUS Conference, nominations for the position of EANGUS National Secretary were opened in June under Article XII of the EANGUS Bylaws. Elections were conducted and on August 22, 2020, EANGUS announced that **SFC Mireya Cruz**, a member of the Texas Army National Guard’s 36th Infantry Division was selected for the position of EANGUS National Secretary. SFC Cruz also serves as the Treasurer on the NGAT Board of Directors and has been a long time supporter of both NGAT and EANGUS. Congratulations SFC Cruz!

**Congratulations!**
Marcie Weldin wins Patrick Henry Award

MS. MARCY WELDIN serves as the Director of Government Affairs for the Texas Military Department and was recently awarded the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) Patrick Henry Award for her outstanding and exceptional work on behalf of the Texas Military Department and the National Guard.

The Patrick Henry Award is designed to provide recognition to local officials and civic leaders, who in a position of great responsibility distinguished themselves with outstanding and exceptional service to the Armed Forces of the United States, the National Guard or NGAUS.

Marcy Weldin has always gone above and beyond to ensure the needs of the Texas National Guard servicemembers are well understood and taken care of, especially among the 38-member Texas Congressional delegation. While simultaneously overseeing engagement and interaction with leadership in the State of Texas. Marcy thoroughly educates and informs members of congress and their staff through regular and proactive communication, as well as by travelling extensively to Washington, D.C. on a regular basis.

As a result of Marcy’s efforts, numerous provisions beneficial to the National Guard have been included in annual authorization and appropriations legislation. This includes, but is not limited to, continued National Guard equipment modernization and procurement funding, enhanced and streamlined benefits to ensure servicemembers and their families are well taken care of, and dedicated military construction (MILCON) funding to ensure modernization of Texas National Guard facilities. Marcy’s expertise and engagement with Texas officials to benefit National Guard servicemembers is unparalleled.

Marcie also works closely with NGAT to ensure on certain issues concerning the Texas Guard we have a unified voice. Her contributions are very befitting for her recognition with this award.

IN A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER, NGAUS conducted a conference livestreamed from the National Guard Memorial in Washington, D.C. to the computers, tablets and mobile devices of its members around the world. Attendees had a front-row seat to see and hear senior defense officials, meet with corporate exhibitors and visit with old friends over a two-day period.

The conference allowed NGAUS to conduct business as usual in order to craft their priorities for the coming year. Four members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and former Vice President Joe Biden were some of the speakers who addressed the 3,000 plus members in attendance.

Texas had a delegation of 45 attendees at the virtual conference. Some members were also able to participate in the NGAUS virtual fun run. During the membership update Texas was recognized for improving our NGAUS membership from 9% in 2018 to 26% in 2020. Thank you to all our members who continue to support NGAT and NGAUS.

TEXAS ATTENDEES get together virtually to chat after one of the general sessions during the NGAUS Virtual Conference.

COL (RET) PAUL TRESSA proudly wears his medal after completing his NGAUS Virtual Fun Run in Corpus Christi, Texas.

MAJ JENNIFER NEWMAN a member of HHC 71st MI Expeditionary Bde. completed her NGAUS Virtual Fun Run in Windcrest, Texas.

DOWNLOAD THE NGAT APP!

Please delete the previous app then search for “NGAT” in the Google or Apple Store.
The Honorable Kay Granger recognized for her Distinguished Service

DURING THE NGAUS VIRTUAL CONFERENCE, The Honorable Kay Granger was recognized as a recipient of the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) Harry S. Truman Award for Distinguished Service in Support of National Defense. Authorized by the NGAUS Board of Directors in 1968, it is the highest recognition conferred upon an individual by the Association.

Congresswoman Granger has been a vocal supporter of military modernization and readiness initiatives through her career. From her time as Mayor of Fort Worth to her current position as Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Committee, she has been a steadfast supporter of the National Guard. She has, without hesitation or reservation, answered the call of the Chief of the National Guard Bureau regarding nationwide Guard interest, while simultaneously addressing the at-home issues presented by the Adjutant General of Texas.

In her efforts to support the Guard, Congresswoman Granger spearheaded the fight to maintain C-130 aircraft at the 136th Airlift wing at Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base. She organized a multi-state, bipartisan coalition whose tireless efforts to educate the U.S. Air Force on maintaining a National Guard hurricane response force along the United States Gulf Coast. The Congresswomen was once again called upon by the National Guard to assist in successfully impressing upon the U.S. Army the critical nature of maintaining AH-64 Apaches and Infantry Brigade Combat Teams in the National Guard. She has played a vital role in maintaining the National Guard’s operations readiness.

As the Chairwoman of the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee, Congresswomen Granger prioritized federal funding for concurrent military modernization efforts by appropriating 8 C-130J Super Hercules aircraft for the Air National Guard. This marked the first time the National Guard has received new C-130Js since 2002. Her focus on Guard readiness has led to multiple years of appropriations that support modernizing the National Guard at the same pace as the Active Components. Her support is critical to enabling the Guard to effectively support both active duty mobilizations and state missions set to include F-22, F-35, UH-60M, and UH-72.

In the aftermath of the massive Hurricane Harvey disaster, Granger was the lead negotiator creating a disaster package which provided nearly $40M in funds for the post response efforts. Her support helped ensure that the Gulf Coast Region is prepared for significant natural disasters for years to come. In response to Hurricane Harvey, the Texas National Guard was able to evacuate over 18,000 people, shelter 26,000 people, provide lifesaving aerial rescues for nearly 400 stranded citizens, and move 382 tons of cargo. The total force Hurricane Harvey efforts speaks volumes to Congresswoman Granger’s foresight and the importance the National Guard plays in her domestic response strategy.

Based on her career long dedication and tireless efforts to support Service Members and their families it was befitting that she received this prestigious award.

Members of the 136th Airlift Wing were honored to host Congresswoman Kay Granger during a September visit to the Wing Headquarters to show off their capabilities and aircraft. Because of Grangers hard work on Capitol Hill it has allowed the Texas Guard to maintain maximum readiness and mission dominance. (Photo courtesy of the 136th Airlift Wing)

Shop to support the Texas National Guard Foundation Shop at smile.amazon.com/ch/81-3514934
Shop deals at smile.amazon.com and Amazon donates
amazonsmile

Shop to support the Texas National Guard Foundation Shop at smile.amazon.com/ch/81-3514934
Shop deals at smile.amazon.com and Amazon donates
amazonsmile
CORPORATE PARTNERS

During this time of social distancing due to the Coronavirus we would like to thank our Corporate Partners for everything they have done for us in the past, everything you still do and will continue to do for NGAT. We want you to know how thankful we are for your support, and we look forward to a prosperous future together.

We invite our members to visit our website for links to these corporate partners. YOU ROCK!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW WEBSITE SPONSORS
As of 10/16/2020

CPT Walter Bender “Butch” Alcorn, Retired, Loveland, CO
Mr. Lloyd B. Alexander, Life Member #750, Retired, Lometa
TSgt Mark R. Allen, Life Member #26337, Retired, Coldspring
Mr. Edward D. Anderson, Life Member #23952, Retired, Waco
SSG Floy D. Armstrong, Life Member #8213, Retired, San Antonio
Mr. Scott A. Arnold, Life Member #26823, Retired, Houston
Mr. Jose G. Arredondo, Life Member #9566, Retired, Kingsville

SMSgt Bobby J. “Butt” Bailey, Life Member #13, Retired, Nederland
SSG Walter L. Bailey, Life Member #18516, Retired, Brownwood
Mr. Guadalupe Balladares, Life Member #19212, Retired, San Angelo
CPL Timothy C. Bankston, Life Member #26591, Retired, Marshall
Mr. Patrick R. Barron Jr., Life Member #11504, Retired, Garland

MSG Murray D. “Doug” Berggren, Life Member #2951, Retired, Georgetown
Mr. John T. Brown, Life Member #9980, Retired, Point
LTC John P. Burke Jr., Retired, San Antonio
SGT Leonel M. Castellanos Jr., Life Member #26620, Retired, San Antonio

CSM David Castorena, Retired, San Antonio
TSgt Roy B. Childs, Life Member #26377, Retired, Palmer
MSG Myron F. Danz, Life Member #4345, Retired, Fredericksburg
Mr. Ray Dault, Associate Life Member #80, Retired, New Braunfels
Mr. Paul W. DeGrant, Life Member #5730, Retired, Alvarado
Mr. Charles D. Duckworth, Life Member #5261, Retired, Mesquite
Mr. Richard F. Dykstra, Life Member #4824, Retired, Port Orchard, WA

CSM Nils J. “Jack” Erickson, Life Member #1111, Retired, Plano
LTC Gerald L. “Jerry” Ericsson, Life Member #23154, Retired, Friendswood
SFC Ignacio Estrada, Retired, Hewitt
COL Michael P. Finn, Retired, Belton
Mr. Rodolfo Garza, Life Member #8020, Retired, San Antonio
*Mr. George A. Gomez, Retired, Overton

LTC Jerry W. Harbour, Retired, Alvin
Brig Gen Donald D. Harvel, Life Member #22144, Retired, Fountain Hills, AZ
COL William R. Johnson, Life Member #33280, Retired, Terrell
CMSgt Johnny D. Jones, Life Member #14590, Retired, Rockwell
SFC Lance A. Keune, Life Member #13998, Retired, Ingram

SMSgt Hubert Kosub, Retired, San Antonio
*SFC Tommy D. Kramer, Retired, Nolanville
Maj Ralph L. Lenz, Life Member #52, Retired, Houston
Mr. Terry J. Light, Life Member #14787, Retired, Livingston
MSG Charles E. Lightfoot, Life Member #20584, Retired, Marble Falls
Brig Gen (BVT) Craig A. Manifold, Life Member #33737, Retired, Helotes

Sgt Irineo C. Mendoza, Life Member #4289, Retired, Lufkin
**Sgt Bradley N. Moore, Det 1 Co A REC & RET BN, Mansfield
COL Gregory P. Mulligan, Life Member #33260, Retired, Lakehills
Mr. Alejandro Munoz, Life Member #25595, Retired, San Antonio
CW2 Christopher Pavelka, Retired, Alvord

SMSgt Armando R. “Mondo” Pena, Life Member #16810, Retired, Selma
SSG Leonardo Puente, Retired, Houston

Maj William T. Pullen, Life Member #214, Retired, Fort Smith, AR
SMSgt Sidney A. Ratisseau, Life Member #153, Retired, Pasadena
Mr. German Roux Jr., Retired, Harlingen
COL George H. Rudd, Life Member #10043, Retired, Empire, MI
CMSgt Robert B. Sohm, Life Member #18958, Retired, Dublin
Mr. James M. Trahan, Life Member #23, Retired, Nederland

MAJ Pike Albert Ward III, Retired, Austin

MSG Charles A. Wheeler, Life Member #3526, Retired, Abilene
CW4 Raymond L. Whitaker, Life Member #38, Retired, Austin
COL Thomas E. Williams, Life Member #48, Retired, Round Rock
SSG Donald R. Wolske, Life Member #5967, Retired, Gatesville
SFC David Woodberry, Retired, Desoto

CW4 William S. Zett, Life Member #5672, Retired, Webster

*Had NGAT Life Insurance Policy
**Had No-Cost Active Guard Policy of $1,000

PLEASE NOTE: SMSgt Alan R. Kosub was listed under TAPS in the Summer Issue of the NGAT News Magazine. He recently called to tell us that he is alive and well!! We would also like to let you know that some of the names listed under this issue of TAPS died some time ago however during the process of updating our database we just recently were informed of their passing and wanted to share the information with you.
AFBA proudly supports NGAT, its members and their families by offering State Sponsored Life Insurance (SSLI) underwritten by 5Star Life Insurance Company.

- Coverage is 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- Convenient payroll deduction.
- **Keep the coverage.** After you retire or separate, you can continue your coverage for you and your family as long as contributions are paid.
- No hazardous duty or civilian occupation restrictions.
- Benefit paid regardless of cause of death, subject to contestability provisions.
- Full conversion privilege is upon request and must be received within 31 days of termination of term life policy, regardless of health.
- Optional Spouse and dependent coverage available.
- Must be an active member of the National Guard to purchase this insurance.

Contact the National Guard Association of Texas at www.NGAT.org or (512) 454-7300 to learn more.

Life insurance coverage provided through AFBA is underwritten by 5Star Life Insurance Company (a Lincoln, NE company) administered by NGAT at 3706 Crawford Avenue, Austin, TX 78731. This member benefit is offered only to NGAT members in the state of Texas. Policy series: MATPol
### PLANNING CALENDAR
(As of October 31, 2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 Nov</td>
<td>Election Day (GO OUT AND VOTE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Nov</td>
<td>Veteran’s Day (NGAT Office Closed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-27 Nov</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break (NGAT Office Closed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Dec</td>
<td>National Guard’s Birthday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24-31 Dec</td>
<td>Christmas Break (NGAT Office Closed)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Jan</td>
<td>New Year’s Day (NGAT Office Closed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Jan</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Day (NGAT Office Closed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 Jan</td>
<td>NGAT Board of Directors Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Feb</td>
<td>Valentine’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Feb</td>
<td>President’s Day (NGAT Office Closed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Mar</td>
<td>NGAT Board of Directors Meeting, Allen, TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Mar</td>
<td>NGAT Defense Symposium, Allen, TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-28 Mar</td>
<td>62nd Annual NGAT Conference, Allen, TX</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Due to COVID-19 events may be cancelled or rescheduled. Please watch the NGAT website, Facebook and the NGAT app for updates.