

Enlisted Association of Utah **EANGUT EXPRESS**

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National EANGUS Conference

*By Sgt. Scott Campbell,
Utah Executive Committee
Member at Large, Army*

The EANGUS National Conference was held between August 20th and 25th. Among the distinguished visitors in attendance was Lt. Gen. Steven Blum, Chief, NGB who spoke concerning the state of the National Guard and entertained questions from the attendees. Also present were Lt. Gen. Clyde Vaughn, Director of the Army National Guard; Command Sgt. Maj. John Gipe, CSM, ARNG; Lt. Gen. Daniel

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(Right to left) President Spencer Nielsen swears in Executive Committee Members into new positions. 1st Sgt. Brad Howell becomes the new President, Sgt. 1st. Class Scott Evans becomes the 2nd Vice President, Sgt. Scott Campbell and Sgt 1st Class Wally Morse become Army Executive Committee members. From the Air Guard Joe Guimond becomes an Air Executive Committee Member and Howard Loveridge becomes the 1st Vice President.



President Spencer Nielsen gives state report at the 2005 National EANGUS conference in Orlando Florida.

UTAH 2006 August 20-23

As many know Utah has become the new home for the 2006 National Conference after Hurricane Katrina ripped through Biloxi Mississippi.

This conference will be a bridge between Utah and Mississippi with our conference logo having both the mountains of Utah and the magnolia of Mississippi.

This conference will be a great opportunity to show the other 54 States and Territories what great Utah hospitality is all about.

Legislative Workshop

By Pres. Brad Howell

I would like to submit my report on EANGUS 2005 Legislative Workshop conducted 11-15 March, 2005 in Washington D.C. The purpose of the Legislative workshop is to empower our members to educate their respective representatives on the National Guard's current issues. One of the main reasons for existence of EANGUS is to have a powerful voice for the National Guard on Capital Hill. One way to do this is to first educate and then assist members in contacting their state representatives concerning the National Guard's current issues. The first two days of the workshop consisted of various briefings from members of the EANGUS national committee, Department of Defense (DOD) personnel and current House and senate representatives. During this time we discussed many issues that affect the National Guard's overall readiness and well-being. I will go over three of the major issues we discussed and then report on meetings I had with some of our house representatives.

1. Early Retired Pay

You may remember that this topic was addressed during the last congressional session but was defeated on the Senate floor. Senator Hatch and Senator Bennett both voted against this bill and it was defeated. This year at EANGUS, we believe we have the chance to pass this issue on at least one of many bills addressing early retirement to include age 55 retirement; reduced age retirement based on years served and immediate pay and benefits upon retirement.

Congressman Bishop stated that this bill would cost too much and would have a hard time supporting it. As a note, the next day he co-signed a related bill that reduces age for retired pay.

Congressman Matheson's legislative assistant, Neeta Bidwai stated that the Congressman fully supports this issue and will vote in its favor.

Senator Hatch's legislative assistant, Bill

Castle stated that the Senator is still considering the issue. I expressed to him that our state members will monitor his actions and ask for his support.

2. Increased Tricare Benefits

Congress recently enacted legislation that increases coverage for reservists that have been deployed on a formula of 1 year's coverage for every 90 days of service in a cost-share basis. While this is good for our soldiers and airmen, we are asking for this benefit to be increased to include ALL actively drilling members.

Congressman Bishop stated that he is still looking at all the information but feels that he could support it depending on overall cost.

Congressman Matheson's office stated that he will fully support this benefit.

Senator Hatch's office expressed support for it but again needs to know the overall cost before full support.

3. BAH Type II

If you are a member of the Guard or Reserves, and entitled to a housing allowance, you will receive a special, reduced BAH, called BAH Type II, anytime you are on active duty for less than 140 days. If you are on orders to serve on active duty for 140 days or more, you'll receive the full housing allowance rate (the same as active duty). This year we are pushing to do

away with BAH type II. We believe it's unfair to pay reservists on active duty less than their active duty counterparts.

All representatives weren't fully aware of the situation and once informed expressed full support for this issues.

You may notice that I haven't included some of our representatives on these issues; Senator Bennett and Congressman Cannon were unavailable for appointment. Overall this year's Legislative Workshop was a success and we look forward to next year's workshop. For more information on all current issues and legislative alerts I encourage you to visit the national website at WWW.EANGUS.ORG.

Last year the Early Retirement Pay Bill was defeated on the Senate floor-- Both Senator Hatch and Senator Bennett voted against the bill.

Conference from Page 1...

James, Director of the Air National Guard; Command Master Sgt. Richard Smith, Command Chief Master Sgt., Air National Guard; and Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray. Subjects they covered included the leadership role of NCOs in the future and the importance of all Soldiers and Airmen being capable of performing in a joint environment.

The training included classes on military history, AGR & Technician issues, financial planning, counter drug operations, and others. All of the classes were excellent and well attended.

The business and legislative aspect of the conference hit on key points of discussion including Base Realignment and Closures (BRAC), a more fair retirement system for National Guardsmen and States' and Area needs covered in seven Area Caucuses.

One highlight for the Utah Guard was their involvement in the Junior Enlisted portion of the conference. No actual breakout was scheduled during the Conference for the Junior Enlisted so Utah Soldiers sponsored a Junior Enlisted luncheon for Soldiers and Airmen present at the conference.

Though short fused in its planning the event was an overwhelming success. Once the NGB and EANGUS leadership became aware of the event many of them changed schedules to add their support to our first annual luncheon.



Utah's Junior Enlisted delegation listen to Lt. Gen. Blum address the conference members about National Guard issues.

The leaders that joined our luncheon included Vaughn, Gipe, EANGUS Past President Terry Dell, EANGUS Past VP Roger Hagen, Army & Air Representatives from the NGB Legislative Liaison's office and approximately 50 attendees. The Guests mingled with our Soldiers and Airmen and took the time to listen to their questions, suggestions and concerns. Notes were taken during the meeting for follow up on many issues that concern the Junior Enlisted members of the Guard.

The Conference opened a conduit of communication between the Junior Enlisted (Ranks E1 to E6) and Senior NGB & EANGUS leadership. Because of this a good deal of the professional development material for the 2006 conference will be based on suggestions that came out of this meeting.

I would like to offer a sincere "Thank you!" to our Utah Soldiers and Airmen who made our trip a success.

Now lets put the same level of commitment into Salt lake City 2006!

Senior Enlisted Thoughts

By State Command Sgt. Maj. Dell Smith

This is a great time to be a member of the Utah National Guard. Our Guard is engaged heavily in the war fight and in the hurricane relief effort. Currently we have over 1,000 soldiers involved in Operation Iraqi Freedom and close to 500 soldiers in Louisiana providing hurricane relief support.

As an organization our soldiers and airmen make us proud every day.

I want to thank each one of you for your support to our Enlisted Association. It is growing steadily (over 1,600 members) and it is the hard work of our members that make this organization great.

We now have the great opportunity to host the 2006 EANGUS Conference (August 20-23) and we need each of you to step up and ask what you can do to help with the undertaking. This is a great opportunity to spotlight our state, the Utah National Guard, and our Enlisted Association. Let me thank you for your hard work, dedication and continued support of our Enlisted Association. We have a great organization and it's the membership that makes it great.

EANGUS Against 1/30th

By Sgt. Scott Faddis

Are you familiar with H.R. 1371? If you are a National Guard Soldier or Airman who is eligible for any incentive pay, **you should be.**

H.R. 1371 eliminates the 1/30th Rule for incentive pays. Representative Shelly Moore (R-WV) put forth the bill to eliminate the 1/30th Rule for: Aviation Career Incentive Pay, Career Enlisted Flight Incentive Pay, Hazardous Duty Pay, Dive Special Pay and Foreign Language Incentive Pay.

Using Foreign Language pay as an example, A National Guard member that scores a



3/3 (the highest score possible) and is qualified for a payment of \$200 a month will only receive \$13.33 a month. Each year the active duty member will be paid \$2,400 while the National Guard member will receive \$239.94 (pay of drill plus Annual Training).

It is Representative Moore's and EANGUS' contention that it takes exactly the same effort to maintain proficiency in skills such as languages for the Guard as the Active Duty. It is easy to see that it would take more time and effort from someone who only uses their language one weekend a month and two weeks a year to maintain their skills at a high level. Many Guard members spend their own time and money to maintain their language skills.

The 1/30th Rule has special meaning for many Soldiers and Airmen in Utah. There are many, many

Utah men, women and families that would benefit if the National Guard were being paid what their Active Duty counterparts are being paid for the same effort.

The 1/30th Rule also holds importance because Representative Rob Bishop is a member of the House Armed Services Committee, where the bill is currently being debated in the sub-committee for Military Personnel.

Every member of EANGUT should go to www.house.gov/robbishop/contact/ and let him know that he should support H.R. 1371 and help get it out of the subcommittee and onto the floor.

Auxiliary Moments

By Sandy Morse, Pres.-Aux

We have had a very good year and are going to have an even busier one this coming year..Utah is hosting the National Conference for EANGUS. We will need many, many volunteers for this to happen smoothly. If you are interested in helping please contact me at mwalldog@earthlink.net or on my cell at 801/ 870-3153.

This past August we had our National Conference in Orlando, Florida. Our members are growing and our biggest challenge is to keep lobbying for benefits for our soldiers/airmen and families. The bigger we are as an organization, the more power we have at Capitol Hill to get bills passed.

Our state Auxillary has grown to 39 members, but some memberships are due to expire in December. We need as many members as possible to renew by December 1st for them to count for 2006. PLEASE RENEW AND KEEP OUR ORGANIZATION STRONG!!!

I am hoping many of you will decide to get involved and come to the conference in August. It is a perfect opportunity to see what we really do as an organization. More information about the conference will be coming in the EANGUT Express and on the website.

We recently held elections for our executive board; President Sandy Morse, Vice President Ellen Campbell, Secretary Carrie Willson and Treasurer Karen Evans.

Junior Enlisted- Time Is Now

By Sgt. Scott Campbell, Executive Committee Member at Large

Several years ago I had the opportunity to attend 13F, Fire Support Specialist (FISTER) Advanced Individual Training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. The training was physically and mentally challenging, to say the least.

One thing that set the FISTERs apart was our daily PT regimen set by our drill sergeants. While other soldiers were performing side straddle hops and knocking out a few pushups; we were running at breakneck speed with logs held over our heads, performing sprints with sandbags on our shoulders or performing partner assisted pushups with a buddy leaning his weight into our shoulder blades. For the first few weeks it seemed to us to be arduous and cruel and we dreaded our 0430 wake up.

Then something unexpected happened.

One cold morning everything became clear to us. As we were getting really fired up in our PT it occurred to us that we had finally reached the point where we could keep up with the wild pace our drill

sergeants were setting for us.

The junior enlisted Soldiers and Airmen in Utah are similar to our FISTER unit. Our leadership is pushing us, and will require more with the 2006 Conference, but we will reach the level required and all be better for it.

Our 2006 national conference had been scheduled to take place in Biloxi next August but the facilities we had reserved are no longer up to the task.

The Utah Soldiers and Airmen of the Enlisted Association then did what they always do. They selflessly stepped up to the pump to save the day.

Your time to make a difference and add your steam is now! We are going to host the EANGUS National Conference from 21-23 August 2006. This will be the best organized, most well planned and most influential conference EANGUS has had to date. The reason that I believe that is because I know what you are capable of.

In the last five years I've seen you fight terrorism throughout the world, host the Olympics, respond to both manmade and natural disasters, and keep the trust and confidence of the people of the great state of Utah and of the United States of America.

You are the best and brightest our nation has to offer and I know that there isn't anything that we can't do when we work together as a team. I would like to formally request the participation of every Soldier and Airman in the Utah National Guard in making the 2006 EANGUS National Conference a success.

It is time to distinguish yourselves once again by volunteering to help plan, prepare and execute this conference by joining a conference committee and by being an active member of EANGUT.

I also strongly encourage military spouses to join and participate in the EANGUT/EANGUS Auxiliaries. EANGUS members nationwide are looking to us. Together we will make a difference.

You may reach me by phone @ Home: 801/789-8091, Cell 801/205-6254, or Office (801)253-5449. You may e-mail me @ scott.r.campbell@us.army.mil.



Spc. Gregory Annis talks to Command Sgt. Maj. John Gipe, the Army National Guard Command Sgt. Maj., about issues that are facing the Junior Enlisted at a luncheon for the Junior Enlisted.

WHAT WILL IT TAKE?

By Command Chief Master Sgt. Robert Hill

There was an elderly man that lived in a small town below a large reservoir. One day the Army Corps of Engineers sent a messenger in a truck to the town and inform the man they had found a crack in the wall of the reservoir and asked him to load his belongings into the truck and move to a safe location.

The elderly man said, "I'm not worried, God will save me."

Eight hours passed and the reservoir started to release water. As the water level rose in the town, the elderly man sat on his porch. A couple men in a boat passed by and asked the man if he would like a ride to dry ground.

The man replied, "No thanks, God will save me."

A few hours passed and as the water level rose the elderly man moved to the roof of his house. While standing on the chimney a helicopter passed by and tried to pick up the elderly man and take him to a safe location.

Once again the old man declined the invitation. "No thanks, God will save me."

The elderly man found himself standing at the Pearly Gates where Saint Peter asked, "Why are you here so early? You weren't scheduled to die for another 10 years."

The elderly man said, "I thought God was going to save me."

Saint Peter said, "Well what more could He do? He sent a truck, a boat, and a helicopter."

What will it take before all of our enlisted members understand the benefits professional military organizations provide?

EANGUS was conceived in 1970 by a group of Senior Enlisted Soldiers and Airmen, today EANGUS represents 85,000 Enlisted National Guard Members in all 54 states and territories. EANGUS positively affects the quality of life for past, present, and future members and their families by addressing issues on pay, benefits and entitlements.

Air Force Instruction 36-2618 states, "NCO's must promote organizational esprit de corps and foster good community relations by supporting **professional organizations** as well as unit, base, and Air Force events. Also, encourage subordinates to do the same."

You can help past, present, and future members of the National Guard by simply becoming a member of EANGUS. Your membership will increase the voice the governing body carries as they lobby for your rights. I strongly encourage all enlisted Soldiers and Airmen to become members or continue their vital membership.

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