VIKANG NEWS

VOLUME 46 ISSUE 2

President's Report
Lt. Col Donald Dahlquist
To the leaders of the Minnesota
Army and Air National Guard

What a year for the members of the Minnesota Army and Air National Guard. We've had many of our members return from the longest deployment since WWII, we continue to deploy and redeploy members into harms way supporting our nations Global War on Terrorism while also supporting the numerous missions across the state, the nation and the world. We continue to meet increaseing training requirements, face shortages in equipment, meet challenging inspection cycles and define future missions for many of organizations.

We do all of this while also trying to balance the requirements of friends and family, employers, personal health and our own individual needs and desires and we do it all for reasons of which there are too many to mention. Of course while we have made a commitment to meet those many responsibilities and obligations, we have not done so without having our own expectations developed for support and benefits in return.

It is exactly to help meet the return of support and benefits that National Guard Association of the United National States and Guard Association of Minnesota, both at the state and federal level, serves to work to ensure that all members of the National Guard receive. In order for our association to help meet the needs and expectations of our membership, we need to let our law makers know what our members require and desire and to speak in a loud voice so that we are heard and not ignored. NGAUS and NGAMN have the ear of the lawmakers. It is through the efforts of associations such as these that we have received benefits such as access to TRICARE, higher

Education tuition assistance, increased veterans benefits and more. Many of the upcoming initiatives focus on the needs of veterans who have returned or are returning from supporting the global war on terrorism and their families, increased retirement benefits, and there are also others (both at the national and state levels) that focus on tax exemptions, equipment replacement modernization and many others too numerous to mention in this article.

These legislative items are being brought forward for the benefit of all guardsmen and women and are in some cases require substantial outlays of taxpayers money. Money of which there is much competition for. Lawmakers will not willingly spend taxpayers' dollars unless they believe their constituents feel that the value and benefits received are important. We are those constituents and we are the voice to tell them. It is through membership within organization that our organizations can fund people to work on our behalf. And with our organizations help, we can "sit at the table" when decisions that may affect us either personally or professionally are discussed and our opinions can be

Membership to our organization is not free. Nor should it come without benefit to each and every member. The NGAMN Executive Board has as its top goal to serve the needs and wants of our members to the best of our ability. We are developing better ways to communicate through use of our website at www.ngamn.org as well as developing mechanisms informing our general membership of legislative issues and other issues of We are reaching to concern. Minnesota National Guard officers at all levels to establish a peer group of representatives who can communicate happenings of interest to everyone. Most importantly, we are striving to

OCT 2007

continue to make this an organization that serves our members, communicates with our members, and helps provide for a stronger, better trained and equipped force for our state and Federal government to rely on when duty calls.

I invite each and every one of you to visit our NGAMN website at www.ngamn.org and the NGAUS website at www.ngaus.org bership renewal can easily be accomplished at our website using your credit card or you can print the membership form and mail it with a check to NGA-MN headquarters. Walt Schulz 3530 E. Medicine Lake Blvd, Plymouth, MN 55441. welcome suggestions improving our website and strengthening our organization. You may contact me with suggestions or recommendations at 612-713-2560 Or email me at:

Donald.dahlquist@mnstpa.ang.af.mil

133rd Airlift Wing By Lt Col Bob Niesen

The 133rd was recently evaluated for compliance by four different teams with welcome results! The grades received are as follows:

133rd Medical Group – "Outstanding" 133rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron – "Excellent"

133rd Maintenance Group – "Best Seen To-Date"

133rd Airlift Wing – "Excellent"

The evaluations culminated several months of preparation by members across the wing and down deep into the organizations and is a validation of the attitude, capability, and performance of our wing members!

The preparation for this inspection occurred simultaneously during a period of continued high operational tempo with members deployed across the globe, aircraft

and teams supporting short notice Joint Enterprise mission requests in Europe, support to the I35W bridge collapse, and as we were moving into the always hectic fiscal year-end close-out.

The wing is now preparing for further participation in Operation Joint Enterprise with two rotations of aircraft and personnel in the late fall 2007 time period. Based out of Germany, these folks will potentially perform missions across Europe, into southwest Asia and northern Africa.

On a membership note, the wing is currently at 60% membership. Folks, we need to get this number up! There are important legislative actions pending at both the state and national level and our membership levels do make a difference when these issues are discussed. Of greatest importance to the individual members are bills addressing retirement age and medical benefits.

As a wrap-up to activities of the past few months and as we move into those of the next few months, we're conducting a family day celebration on Sunday afternoon, 14 October. There'll be static displays, unique food booths, and several fun activities for family and friends, young and old!

1st BCT MAJ Robert Intress

Minnesota National Guard Soldier to be Awarded Silver Star ~ First "Red Bull" to Earn Award since World War II ~ Staff Sgt. Chad Malmberg will became the first Minnesota National Guard member to be awarded the Silver Star medal since World War II during a ceremony on Saturday, Sept. 22. The Silver Star is the fourth highest military decoration that can be awarded to a member of any branch of the United States Armed Forces and is designated solely for valor in the face of the enemy.

Staff Sgt. Malmberg demonstrated "gallantry in action" while deployed to Iraq with the 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 34th Infantry Division "Red Bulls". Malmberg is credited with taking immediate action

when his convoy was attacked just outside Baghdad on January 27, 2007. Outnumbered by the enemy and trapped in an ambush for nearly an hour, Malmberg repeatedly put himself in the direct line of enemy fire to coordinate ground and air support and ensure the safety of his Soldiers. His calm leadership ultimoately saved the lives of every troop in his convoy, at great risk to his own.

Malmberg, 27, of St. Paul, recently returned from deployment and is currently a full time student at Mankato State University. He is assigned to A Company 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry in West St. Paul.

The Silver Star will be presented by Governor Pawlenty and the commanding general of the 34th Infantry Division, Maj. Gen. Rick Erlandson. Minnesota National Guard soldiers who served with Malmberg in Iraq, and their families, were in attendance.

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon:

The Minnesota National Guard has pioneered a program in hopes of changing how Soldiers and Airmen are reintegrated back to their communities. Called Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, the program is named as a reminder that the support of Soldiers cannot end when they return from deployment and the yellow ribbons are untied. Currently, 2,500 soldiers from the 1BCT and their families are scheduled for the Reintegration Training events. Some of the topics the soldiers will explore during their reintegration are:

- Relationship workshops for married couples and single soldiers
- A parenting workshop
- -Access to service providers to explain all the benefits available to combat veterans
- -A job Fair with access to 100 employers looking to hire!
- Anger Management
- -Gambling Abuse
- Substance Abuse
- -Drivers Safety

Soldiers or family members who would like to learn more about the Reintegration events are encouraged to contact the 1BCT Headquarters @ 651-268-8133 or they can go on-line

To:

http://www.minnesotanationalguard.or g/returning troops/btyr overview.php

WELCOME HOME RED BULLS!

Division: MAJ Kent Porter

'ATTACK!!!ATTACK!!!ATTACK!!' is the motto of the 34th Infantry Division allowing reflection of our past, but that charging attitude is still in existence today as we continue to be the most ready division in the Army National Guard. We charge forward with transformation, now two years old, we are still working to fill those unique positions that require our service members to train or retrain for up to a half year to become qualified. We charge forward in the joint environment, as we have exercises lined up with our Air Guard brethren from Minnesota and the US Navy. Add in a couple exercises with our active duty counterparts on two different continents, the division moves forward. We charge forward in reintegrating our deployed soldiers back into the ranks of Citizen-Soldier. We charge forward in preparing our next iteration of soldiers ready to deploy. We charge... we charge...we charge... We have charged forward under the command of Major General Rick Erlandson and leadership of Brigadier General Mike Beaman over the past few years, both have decided to retire and make way for new leaders to take this division forward. MG Richard Nash will take command of the 34th Infantry Division on 13 October 2007 at 1300 at Camp Ripley and COL (P) David Elicerio replaces BG Beaman as the new Deputy Commander. All are welcome to attend.

Warrant Officer Report CW 5 (ret) Richard Hathaway

The NGUSA Warrant Officer Caucus was attended by CW4 (ret) Walter Schulz and myself. The NGUSA caucus was presided over by CW5(ret) Larry Massey. We were briefed by NGB Chief Command Warrant Officer CW5 Sal Green.

Chief Green stated that the Warrant Officer Command is faced with some major challenges.

- 1. The current strength of the warrant officer corp is only 67% of assigned strength.
- 2. 70% of warrant officers currently assigned are eligible to retire.

NGB is looking at making changes regarding how new warrant officers are recruited and trained.

The second issue regarding warrant officers eligible for retirement can be expected in a career field that often starts with Officers that have 5-10 years prior service. I found the NGAUS Conference to be interesting, informative and a lot of fun. I

highly recommend attending a National Conference.

NGAMN NGAUS PUERTO RICO 2007 Retired Caucus Report Col (ret) Larry Burda

The Retired Caucus luncheon was attended by Retired General Hannula, Wayne Becker, Dick Grayson, Tony Johnson, Al Timm and Larry Burda.

Numerous National Guard retired notables were there including previous National Guard Bureau Chiefs and Directors.

A sandwich plate was served for lunch and was well worth the \$5 cost of the lunch.

The guest speaker was Col. (Ret) Pete Duffy, Deputy Legislative Director, NGAUS who spoke about NGAUS lobbying initiatives pertinent to retired National Guard members. He requested us to contact our elected officials to advocate for these issues. Most of these initiatives had been accepted by the Resolutions Committee for adoption by the Conference and they were adopted. See the next issue of National Guard magazine for details about retired and Veterans resolutions.

Finally, Col. (Ret) Ray Magill was elected for another term as the Retired USAF member representing us at the National Guard Association.

Attendees for Officer Professional Development (OPD) at 2007 NGAUS General Conference

Article No. 1 submitted By Attendee LT Jason Hull

As one of the participant at the NGAUS Conference in Puerto Rico, I was able to see first hand the benefits that NGAUS brings to the NG. The conference provided me with a "Top Down" view to the changes/challenges in the NG and evolution of programs being developed in the United States.

The Company Grade meetings were about finding the delegates that would lead each state and region in communications and provide additional support to the Association. We were also fortunate to have been able to meet with General Casey and ask question that we were interested in during our company grade luncheon. Additional discussions within the company grade professional development were the recruiting strengths (MN doesn't have those problems), Equipment, and Funding for training and equipment.

The senior leaders that spoke provided a good understanding of the tactical and strategic vision of the Air and Army National Guard. The Commander of AFNORTH provided an outstanding slide presentation of what support AFNORTH was providing domestically, and the additional roles in providing National Disaster Support to the US if needed. Outlining the vision of that MAJ-COM and the current missions along with the successes.

Because of the continued war on terrorism many of the highlighted topics fell along the lines of support for currently deployed and mission ready capabilities.

I hope this provides an idea of what took place at the conference from my point of view. Being this was my first conference, I look forward to attending another.

Thanks for your support.

Article No. 2 submitted by Attendee 1LT Christopher Grupe

I was very happy to have the opportunity to go to Puerto Rico for the NGAUS Convention.

It was good to hear and listen to the top leadership expound on their vision for the National Guard and its current state. We had an opportunity to interact with top leadership at luncheons and break-out sessions. I had the opportunity to listen to GEN Campbell, LTG Honore, LTG Blum, and LTG Vaughn speaks about Army Guard future missions, planning, requirements, etc. It's refreshing to have an opportunity to see what is going on at the top.

A bonus was listening to our guest speaker, Sen. John McCain speaks about his support and goals for the National Guard and expound on his support in the Senate for us.

I spent a complete day visiting vendors and seeing new equipment, interacting with them, and learning of new opportunities for National Guard people. Two interesting items to note; at the Tricare booth I was able to get updated information and documentation for National Guard & Reserve benefits and the new program for Army National Guard & Reserve soldiers driven by People Soft (Oracle) which will allow soldiers to easily check their pay, point capture, etc. with ease using a browser.

Finally, it was an excellent opportunity to network with my colleagues, fellow Minnesotans, and fellow Guard Members from other states and territories.

Thanks again for allowing me this opportunity!

Article No. 3 submitted by Attendee Capt Chad Vorderbruggen

First of all I would like to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to go to the NGAUS conference. As a young officer, I didn't have a real good idea of what NGAUS does for the Guard. I have been a member of NGAUS since becoming an officer and read the monthly magazine, but that was it. NGAUS was this abstract idea that didn't mean a whole lot to me. However, after spending three

days surrounded by generals and congressman from all over the country and being able to put faces behind their ideas was priceless.

At one point in the conference, Lt Blum and Mississippi Gen Congressmen Gene Taylor addressed the company grade officers. Gen Blum said this would be the only time in our careers we can by-pass the entire chain of command and go straight to the top. The general took very direct, hard questions from several of the National Guard company grade officers for about two hours. Questions ranged from health care issues for technicians, promotion /date-of-rank issues, and how young lieutenants and captains are supposed to keep doing the job with less and

less resources. The general gave very honest answers, and in many cases he had immediate fixes. Congressman Taylor also had some insightful knowledge to help young officers take care of their troops. Hearing Congressman Taylor and General Blum talk resuscitated my belief in the political system.

Overall the conference was a great way to spend three days, especially since it was in beautiful Puerto Rico. This is the only conference I can think of where young officers can interact with generals, congressman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and several others. Again, thank you for letting me participate.

"The Disclaimer-Minnesota National Guard Association Newsletter is published members of the Minnesota National Guard Association. It is not an publication. **Opinions** official expressed do not necessarily represent those of the Adjutant General, the Minnesota National Guard or the State of Minnesota."

> STATE CONFERENCE 25-27 APRIL 2008 ST. CLOUD, MN

NGAMN CORPORATE MEMBERS AND SPONSERS **VISIT NGAMN.ORG for more information on our Corporate Sponsors**





MIKE FIORITO







AM General













NAME	C	HANGE OF INFOR	RMATION FORM	
INAMIL	RANK	First	Middle	Last
ADDRESS				
	Street	or PO BOX		APT#
CITY		S	ГАТЕ	ZIP

NGAUS FUTURE CONFERENCES

130TH NGAUS GENERAL CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 20-22 2008 BALTIMORE, MD

Name

131ST NGAUS GENERAL CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 11-13 2009 NASHVILLE, TN

Address

2008 Membership Enrollment Form National Guard Association of Minnesota 3530 East Medicine Lake Boulevard Plymouth, Minnesota 55441

City				S	State	Zip	Но	_ ome Pho	hone Work Phone					
	Unit Assignment			(Group Rep			Email						
Amount							check pay					ove		
To pay b	y cred	it card, f	ill out t	the follo	wing: C	ircle cred	dit card ty	pe: Mas	ster Card	[] Visa	ı []			
Account	Numb	er				Exp	Date	_						
Signatur	·e													
	0-1	0-2	0-3	0-4	0-5	0-6	0-7	0-8	WO1	CW2	CW3	CW4	CW5	
State:	\$15	\$15	\$20	\$30	\$35	\$35	\$40	\$40	\$15	\$15	\$20	\$30	\$30	
National: TOTAL		\$45 \$60	\$59 \$79	\$72 \$102	\$85 \$120	\$108 \$143	\$123 \$163	\$139 \$179	\$26 \$41	\$35 \$50	\$46 \$66	\$59 \$89	\$73: \$103	
Associat														ne year and
any port						ica omic	cis and w	411 4 111 01	110015 100		incino cio	mp for p	2110 u 01 0	iie year aira
						1 000	State Life	Membe	ershin \$25	50				
							Life Mer							
		T Jon Do		LIIC IVIC			ista Martin			'Division/S	Separates"	MAIKent	Porter	
"Aviation							Lt Col Bol			"Troop CN	-			
		ol Scott C		S		•	Paul Cumn			"Retired"		-		
		rs" CW5						<i>8</i> -			. ()			
							T'S happ	ening a	t NGAUS	S?				
Approve														
														the NGAUS
						er the Le	egislative	Program	ıs/Resolu	tions and	Task Ford	ce Chairs	tab.	
NGAUS														
Lt Col	l Richa	rd Oxne	er has b	een offi	cially ap	pointed	as the Cl	nair of t	he newly	created N	NGAUS N	Mission S	upport T	ask Force. Lt
								ion Sup	port Grou	up at Littl	e Rock A	FB, Arka	nsas. As	the Chairman
of this n	ew task	force h	e will b	e cover	ing issue	s related	l to							
Air Edu	cation	and Trai	ining C	omman	d (non-p	lane rela	ited), Con	ıbat Rea	idiness Ti	raining C	enters/Aii	space, M	ission Su	ipport Group,
and Surg	geons.													
NGAUS	Conti	nues to N	Monitor	TRICA	RE Mar	nagemen	t Activity	Issues						
Since	the 1 (October	inaugui	ration da	ate for th	ne new [ΓRICARE	Reserv	es Select	(TRS) pi	rogram, 8	,8898 of	the 10,5'	71 Guard and
Reserve	membe	ers previ	iously c	overed	have suc	cessfull	y enrolled	in TRS	>					
TRS h	as a co	ntinuou	s open	enrolln	nent pol	icy. A c	ompleted	applica	tion posti	marked b	efore the	end of a	month	will establish
coverage	e on the	e first da	y of the	e follow	ing mon	th.	•		•					
What C			•											
"Write to			odate											
		it: 25,89		7	2.	Tenness	see – 2991	Oı	ır Goal fo	or CY200	7: 54.000	messages	s to go! V	Ve are doing
	This W			,			ippi – 210			nust do be				
		l Empow	vermen	t		Ohio –				, Director				
		ARE fee				Indiana				Deputy I				
		uced Ag			٥.	marana	//1			tt, Army				
2451 -		uccu 11g	c reem	Cilicit						bach, Air	-	,		
		Fundin	σ.							ps, Sr. Le				
				1000000	· t									
		lized Ass			ιι					ghan, Leg			dr out o	NCALIC
Top 5 St			essages)								os< cnec	k out oul	NGAUS
ı. Geo	orgia – i	3380						W	eosne: wv	ww.NGAI	JS.org			

2008 Initiatives

The Association is interested in advancing the following initiatives to Governor Pawlenty for inclusion in his 2008 Governor initiative package.

What is your opinion on these? Are they valuable to you and your soldiers and airmen? If you feel strongly regarding any of these or other initiatives, please contact your NGAMN Group Representative.

- Military pay exemption focus on exempting a portion of the pay earned in state.
 - Exempt all pay outside of state.
- Increasing authority of Support our Troops funds and funding models.
- Create a director of Reintegration to coordinate military and veteran efforts with other state agencies.
- Increased flexibility of the Tuition reimbursement program
- Employer focused incentives - apply SMCRA rules more broadly
 - provide tax advantages to military /veteran owned businesses
 - provide limited tax breaks to employers of military employees

Retired Officers Comments By MAJ (ret) Carl Madsen

Pear Harbor Remembrance Day is December 7, 2007, first Friday of December. On that day we are holding the Minnesota Army National Guard Association's Holiday Party. Please join us at the Ft, Snelling Officer's club at 1800 hrs for fellowship and fun; meals are \$27 per person. (Sirloin or Walleye) Send a check before November 24th to LTC (ret) Wayne Becker 10666 107th Place Maple Grove, MN 55369

Notes from the Executive Director CW4 (ret) Walter D. Schulz

Congratulations for reading the entire newsletter. It's been a very fast year with our state conference in June and our National Conference held in Puerto Rico in August. We had a total of forty nine attending.

2008 Membership will hopefully be as good as or better than 2007 in which we reached 62%.

Remember that NGAUS is on Capitol Hill every day lobbying for the National Guard Association of United States which includes the Minnesota. National Guard.

Thanks for all you support and look forward to seeing you at the Holiday Officers Party on 7 December at Ft. Snelling Officers Club.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

"President"
LtCol Donald Dahlquist
"Past President"
COL Kevin Gutknecht
"Vice President "Army"
MAJ Robert Intress
"Vice President "Air"

LtCol Paul Cummings "Executive Director" CW4 (ret) Walter D. Schulz "Secretary" 1LT Trista Martinson "Treasurer" COL (ret) Al Timm "Webmaster" MAJ (ret) Carl Madsen "Company Grade Rep" **CPT Daniel Dobler** "Company Grade Vice" 1LT Niels Gott "Brigade" CPT John Donovan "RSG" 1LT Trista Martinson "Division/ Separates" MAJ Kent Porter "Alt Representative" LTC Mark Wiens "133 AW/HO" LtCol Robert Niesen "Alt Representative" Mai Paul Jacobsen "148 FW" LtCol Scott Chambers "Alternate Rep" **CPT Brian Winter** "Starc" LtCol Paul Cummings "Alternate Rep" LTC Kenneth Worde "Aviation" CW4 Peter Panos "Alternate Rep" CW5 Steven Shoemaker "Troop Command" LTC Timothy Koietin "Alternate Rep" MAJ Gary Mundfrom "Warrant Officer Rep" CW5 Tom Novak "Group 10 Retired" MAJ (ret) Carl Madsen "Group 10 Alternate" CW5 (ret) Richard Hathaway "Legislative Liaison"

COME AND JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF FUN!

Renew old friendships and make new friends!

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OFFICERS HOLIDAY PARTY FRIDAY, 7 DECEMBER 2007

FORT SNELLING OFFICERS CLUB

SPONSORED BY THE RETIRED GROUP- ALL OFFICERS, ACTIVE OR RETIRED AND GUESTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. IT IS A TIME THAT WE CAN SHARE A MEAL, SOME HOLIDAY CHEER AND SPEND SOME TIME TOGETHER!

Club has handicapped access - uniform is business / business casual

COCKTAILS 1800 TO 1900

DINNER 1900

MENU SELECTIONS

10oz New York Sirloin steak and herbs, Baked Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables, Salad,
Rolls and Butter, Coffee or Tea and Dessert (ice cream w/ chocolate
sauce)......\$27.00 per person
OR

Broiled Canadian Walleye Pike with butter, white wine sauce, Roasted New Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables, Salad, Rolls and Butter, Coffee or Tea and Dessert (ice cream w/chocolate sauce).......\$27.00 per person

•••••	Officers Group" by November 24th.
Name	
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Telephone()
Email	_
	MENU/SELECTION:
	10oz New York Sirloin [] \$27.00
	Broiled Wallers [] \$27.00

Total amount enclosed (Make check payable to "Retired Officers Group") \$_____

Mail to: LTC (Ret) Wayne Becker 10666 107th Place Maple Grove, MN 55369 763-424-6505 email: becker.wayne@comcast.net

IN THIS ISSUE

PRESIDENT REPORT OFFICERS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

RETIRED OFFICERS REPORT

133RD AIRWING REPORT 1ST BCT REPORT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT **DIVISION REPORT** GOVERNOR PAWLENTY (REMARKS)

WARRANT OFFICERS REPORT 2007 HOLIDAY PARTY FORM RETIRED CAUCUS REPORT 2008 MEMBERSHIP FORM



The VIKANG News National Guard Association of Minnesota 3530 E. Medicine Lake Blvd Plymouth, MN 55441