

VIKANG NEWS

VOLUME 46 ISSUE 1

FEB 2007

President's Report Greetings to the leaders of the Minnesota Army and Air National Guard

These are busy times for the men and women who serve as citizen soldiers in our great state. We have thousands of Minnesota National Guard warriors deployed in harms way in Iraq and Afghanistan, helping our nation wage war against terror.

All of those deployments bring to mind the reasons that we exist as an association. We are here to make sure our association members, and all Minnesota National Guard members, get the benefits they deserve for serving the state and the nation. We also want to make our force better educated and more professional because it will then be able to better do its job in the name of national defense.

There are some basic benefits, such as regular pay raises, improved equipment, funding for training a retirement plan and access to health care that we may take for granted. Understand that these things are available to you because, over the years, someone representing the National Guard has encouraged our federal and state legislators to provide us with the resources we need to be a better and stronger force. Someone took the time and made the effort to educate lawmakers about the value and advantages of a strong, vibrant National Guard.

On a state and national level, your National Guard association has done many things for its membership. There are many tuition and education assistance programs, insurance program, employment protection and a host of other things that protect us and our families.

This legislative effort is why we exist. We work on legislative initiatives at the state level, and we support legislative work at the national level done by the National

Guard Association of the United States. And the National Association has served Minnesota well in the past year. It spent a great deal of time and effort during the recent Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission proceedings insuring that the members of that commission understood the importance of units such as the 148th Fighter Wing. Ultimately, the 148th survived the proceedings, although at one point it was on the list of units to be eliminated.

To succeed in our legislative efforts, we need to be credible. We do that by insuring the lawmakers that the association represents all of the National Guard leaders in the state. In the last few years, our membership level has been average, about 60 percent, when compared to all other state associations. Our neighbors Wisconsin and Iowa have managed to have 100 percent membership for the last few years.

We as an association need to support our Army and Air National Guard. And, we begin doing this by showing strong membership in our association. Then, when we contact our federal and state law makers, they know that we are united for our cause.

Minnesota has some of the best Air Guard units in the United States. Our Army Guard units are also considered some of the best. And Minnesota Army National Guard efforts to recruit and retain soldiers have been about the best in the United States at this point in time.

It is time that our Association becomes one of the best in the United States as well.

I ask all of you to renew your membership to the Minnesota National Guard Association. If you aren't a member, it is time to sign up and stand up to be counted. You can renew your membership online at www.ngamn.org with a credit card, or you can print off the membership form, and mail it with a check to NGA-MN headquarters, Walt Schulz 3530 E. Medicine Lake Blvd, Plymouth, MN 55441 Phone 763-545-1391.

We are planning an outstanding State Conference in June in Bloomington. The president of the National Guard Association of the United States will speak, as will a number of other state and local officials. The focus will be to Honor our Warriors. There is more information on the conference on the website.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can call me at 651-398-5170 or email me at kjgutknecht@comcast.net. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. And, thank you for your service to our great state and to the United States of America.

Kevin Gutknecht
LTC, MN ARNG
President, NGA-MN

Retired Officer Report By Carl Madsen, MAJ(Ret)

Minnesota needs to become a "veteran friendly" state. Many active duty officers, warrants and enlisted are retiring and we should make this state attractive. Comparatively Minnesota lags behind other states, at least economically. Many soldiers are retiring as young as 38 years of age and can contribute to the states' economy for many years. Please visit www.ngamn.org and contact your representative to bring these well trained workers to Minnesota to retire. For example, other states offer tuition in any state institution, tax exemptions, outreach for veterans to apply for benefits and changes to the firearm certifications are all being considered.

Please contact other retired officers about becoming members of the Minnesota National Guard Association. For a one time payment of \$175 they can become a lifetime member of both the state and national associations. The more members the association has the more powerful our voice will become at both the state and national levels.

133rd AIRWING

By Maj Paul A. Jacobson

Well, a lot has happened over the past few months here at the 133AW.

In November, our wing commander, then Col Tim Cossalter moved downtown to become the new ATAG for Air and were promoted to General. Replacing him at the 133rd was Col Greg Haase. Col Haase no more than took command of the wing in December when he deployed with approximately 160+ people in the wing on an AEF rotation to Afghanistan with three of our C-130's. He has been replaced by Acting Wing Commander Col Bob Cayton until his return in April.

Meanwhile, since last fall, the wing has deployed 40+ individuals in support of Operation Jump Start including Mission Support Group Commander Col Jim Daugherty beginning last fall and continuing through this year. People involved in OJS are performing between 30 and 120 day tour in the sunny confines of the southwestern border.

The wing also held its annual award ceremony in December including prominent attendees as the Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Larry Shellito and others from state staff. The special speaker was Governor Tim Pawlenty, and an inspiration year in review was provided by new Wing Commander Col Greg Haase. The noteworthy recognition taking place during the ceremony was the awarding of the Outstanding Airman of the year awards for the wing. This year the selectees were, SSgt (then SrA) Stephen Turner from the 210th Engineering Installation Squadron (located at the 133rd)

for Outstanding Airman of the Year, TSgt Apryl Wagner from the 210th Engineering Installation Squadron for Outstanding Non Commissioned Officer of the Year, and Master Sgt. Nate Roen from the 208th Weather Flight for Outstanding Senior Non Commissioned Officer of the Year. It should also be noted that these three also won the competition at the state level and had their names forwarded to the national competition.

Also in December, Lt Col Terry Seiben moved from being the Military Personnel Flight Commander to the position of Anti Terrorism Officer stationed out at the base. He was replaced by Lt Col Loren Hubert who was the previous 210th Engineering Installation Squadron Commander.

Finally, the 133rd will be hosting the Fun Run that will be held during the state conference in Bloomington and we look forward to as many able and willing participants ready to run. More information on this will be available at a later date when conference material is published.

Troop Command By MAJ Gary Mundfrom

The 84th Troop Command has experienced a tremendous amount of change over the past several months. In September and October 2006, the Troop Command HQs relocated from Roseville to Minneapolis. This was a very positive move for our unit and its soldiers. At the same time, the Brigade welcomed a new commander, COL Jeff Bertrang. COL Bertrang came to Troop Command after

completing a successful tour as the 34th Division G3. Less than a month later, Troop Command added two units to the Brigade – the 434th Chemical Company, commanded by Captain Brian Matzek and E Battery 151st Field Artillery (Target Acquisition Battery) commanded by Captain Paul Albers.

In December, the Brigade HQs hosted the Salvation Army's Operation Toyshop. Over 1,000 needy families from the community received support in the form of toys and gifts just in time for Christmas. In January both Battalions within the Troop Command had changes in command. Lieutenant Colonel Scott St. Sauver assumed command of the 151st Field Artillery Battalion and Major Daniel Hoben assumed command of the 682nd Engineers.

Concurrent with all of these changes in commanders and headquarters locations, the Troop Command has been planning and preparing for a new homeland security mission. The Brigade is in the early stages of manning, equipping, and training a 186 soldier and airman CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High-Yield Explosive) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP). This is a joint mission, with the Army National Guard providing command and control, decontamination, and search and extraction elements. The Air National Guard will provide a medical support element. This unit will be a follow-on force to first responders in an emergency, trained and equipped to be able to work alongside or support civilian agencies until FEMA and other federal assets can arrive. The concept is a natural fit for the Guard, as one of our primary missions has always been homeland security.

CHANGE OF INFORMATION FORM			
NAME	_____		
RANK	First	Middle	Last
ADDRESS	_____		
	Street or PO BOX		APT #
CITY	STATE		ZIP

Mail To: EXC DIR 3530 East Medicine Lake Blvd Plymouth, MN 55441			

Warrant Officers By CW5 Tom Novak

Under the mentorship and professional guidance of Course Manager CW2 Tina Stalboerger, Minnesota's RTI graduated 10 soldiers in its first Warrant Officer Candidate School.

They already have started WOCS Class #2 with 11 candidates. We are on of thirteen states involved in the training. It is incumbent upon all Guard Officers, Warrant Officers, and Non-Commission Officer's to help recruit candidates for WOCS Class #3 which will begin this fall. If you have interested soldiers and need further information regarding enrollment and/or qualifications to become a Warrant Officer, please contact CCWO Thomas V. Novak, (Tom.Novak@co.dakota.mn.us), or CW2 Tina Stalboerger at (Tina.Stalboerger@us.army.mil).

We are also looking for a few good Warrant Officers to step up and volunteer to become involved with the course. Instructors and Cadre are needed to ensure the long-term success of the program. Minnesota has always been a leader throughout the guard and, with your help, will continue to lead. As you all know, this is a critical time for us to tell the Warrant Officer story. Now is the time to step forward and assist.

The process of planning a Warrant Officer one-day meeting to discuss issues that affect all of us is underway. If you have any items you would like reviewed, please contact me directly.

Division / Separates MAJ Ken Porter

Soldiers of the 34th Infantry "Red Bull" Division have completed their first full year of transformation and continue to fill the ranks of all the new MOS/AOCs required. These specialties, some of them taking up to 18 months to become qualified, have proven difficult to fill but the battle continues to fill these positions. There used to be a time when it was difficult to fill company grade positions, now with transformation from our perspective, it is difficult to fill field grade positions. Lieutenants can be filled through some commissioning source, but to get qualified field grade officers takes much time. The dedicated officers of the 34th ID continue to step up, as we gradually fill the

ranks for our field grade positions. We know this is difficult on families and employers make sure you thank them for their support and do it often.

This past year, I am sure you are aware the Republican National Convention will be held at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul around Labor Day 2008. 34th ID stands ready to support JFHQ-MN in planning, training, and executing to ensure a safe and successful RNC. This operation will give us an opportunity to work with other parts of the Government and look forward to the challenge

"All Things Considered" By W. D. Schulz/Executive Director

The annual state conference will be held 1 - 3 June at the Holiday Inn Select (International Airport Hotel) 3 Appletree Square, Bloomington 55424. Registration form enclosed in the Vikang Newsletter, or registration is available on-line at ngamn.org.

Please take time to read the information on State Sponsored Life Insurance (SSLI) statement elsewhere in this newsletter, provided by R. Austin Jenkins, CLU, Bus. 1-800-633-8333 or email: ajenkinsclu@cs.com.

I had the privilege to attend the National Guard Executive Directors Association (NGEDA) meeting 21 - 24 January in San Juan, Puerto Rico. One of the accomplishments of this conference is to make preparations for 129th NGAUS Conference to be hosted in San Juan, Puerto Rico, 25 - 27 August 2007. I have reserved 40 rooms plus hospitality room at the Caribe Hilton. Room cost is \$150 + tax. Make your plans now, there is a registration form elsewhere in this newsletter, you can make your reservations now. American Airlines is offering a five percent (5%) discount on airfare to San Juan, Puerto Rico for the 129th NGAUS General Conference. You must use Authorization Number A6987AG when making reservations. You can book on - line at www.aa.com for AA/AE flights only. Use the authorization number above as the aa.com discount code. You may also call American Airlines Meeting Service Desk at 1-800-433-1790 for assistance with reservation and ticket purchase.

DO YOU SUPPORT YOUR NATIONAL GUARD?

The organizations that act in your behalf to retain a viable combat ready force are the NGAMN and NGAUS. Your membership in these two organizations makes it possible for

them to work for your military goals at both the state and national level. Are you doing all you can to make sure that your National Guard is, and remains a viable combat ready force in your state and nation? End strength, force structure, and up to date equipment remain top priorities in today's era of budget cutbacks throughout the military community. Remember, the only people who can tell our legislators and fellow citizens what we do best and how ell we do it, is you and me, members of the Minnesota National Guard Association. Our membership is currently at twenty eight percent (28 %).

Listed below are the Retired Life Members both State and National members in 2006

Beutler, Robert E. (MAJ0)
Harris, Neil P. (MAJ)
Rasmussen, Susan L. (LTC)
Diet, Carl D. (COL)
Neihart, Kenneth
Rupp, Robert (COL)
Halverson, James L. (Col)
Ostapenko, Nicholas (BG)
Teneycj, Leslie N. (CW4)

Active State Life Members in 2006

Schue, Scott M. (MAJ)
Stewart-Randall, Angela (MAJ)
Vavra, Mark A. (MAJ)

We had Forty Nine (49) new members of the association in 2006

The following have become Retired State and National Life members in 2007

Chilson, Ann L. (CPT)
Klavetter, William E. (MAJ)
Reuter, Robert A. (CW5)
Culbert, Edwin C. JR. (MAJ)
Nelson, Charles H. (Lt Col)
Holgate, Aaron B. (MAJ)
Peterson, Rodney R. (Lt Col)

We have one (1) new Active Life State and National Member for 2007

Evenson, Rhonda M. (MAJ)

JUST TO KEEP IN TOUCH

As you are receiving the Mar 07 newsletter hard copy, the NGAMN would like to request your e-mail address from all members and none members for future publications of the Vikang newsletter, please e-mail to excdir2@aol.com.

WE COULD USE YOUR HELP

If you would like to become a Corporate Member or if you know of a Corporation that is interested, please contact W.D. Schulz at 763-545-1391 or email: excdir2@aol.com.

State Sponsored Life Insurance (SSLI)

The National Guard Association of Minnesota sponsors five different Group Life Insurance Policies in the Minnesota National Guard SSLI Program. Every year hundreds of members apply to protect themselves and their families with SSLI. The following is a brief description of each plan.

1. **The USBA Level to Age 50 Group Life Plan, underwritten by New York Life***, is designed for members and spouses under age 45. The plan features high coverage from \$100,000 to \$250,000 in units of \$50,000. Coverage amounts are designed to remain level to age 50. At age 50, benefit amounts begin to reduce. Premium rates, although not guaranteed, are designed to remain level to age 70. Example, the current premium for a non smoker member insured at age 30 for \$100,000 is \$6.50 per month (cost less than SGLI for the same amount of coverage. For information on SGLI go to www.va.gov).
2. **The AFBA Better Alternative group life policy, underwritten by Five Star Life Insurance Company**, is designed for members and spouses under age 50. The plan provides high coverage up to \$250,000 for a very low cost. Premium rates, although not guaranteed, are designed to remain level to age 50. Example, the current premium for a non smoker member insured at age 30 for \$250,000 is \$16.00 per month (cost less than SGLI for the same amount of coverage. For information on SGLI go to www.va.gov). At age 50 and age 60 the premium increases. The coverage is designed to remain level to age 70.
3. **The USBA Lean 15 Group Life Plan, underwritten by New York Life ***, can provide an alternative to VGLI when a member is separating. Coverage is available to members and spouses from \$100,000 to \$500,000 in \$25,000 units. This plan features competitive rates that, although not guaranteed, are designed to remain level for 15 years. "Preferred" rates are also available to members who meet the highest underwriting standards. Example – the current premium for a non smoking male member, insured at age 50 for \$250,000, is \$80.63 per month. The current "Preferred" rate for the same individual is \$60.63 per month.
4. **The USBA Generation 3 Group Life Plan, underwritten by New York Life*** is a blended group life insurance plan that is available to both members and spouses. It combines Whole Life with Decreasing Term to provide a level coverage amount and affordable level rate that although not guaranteed, is designed to remain level for life. Example – the current premium for a non smoking male member, insured at age 50 for \$25,000 of coverage is \$24.09 per month.
5. **The Militia Insurance Trust (MIT) Group Life Plan, underwritten by New York Life***, has been available to Minnesota National Guard members for over 25 years. This is a "basic" family plan. A member under age 60 may obtain \$10,000 on themselves, \$5,000 on their spouse and \$5,000 on their children for a current monthly premium of \$7.16. Premiums, while not guaranteed, are designed to remain level to age 70. Claims are normally paid in 24 to 48 hours. Benefits reduce by 50% at age 60 and may be renewed to age 70.

We have many members applying for coverage under 3 of the above Plans - what NGAMN calls the Jumbo Option; i.e.; \$250,000 of coverage under the USBA Level Age 50 Plan; \$250,000 of coverage under the AFBA Better Alternative Plan; and \$10,000 coverage under the MIT Plan.

All of the SSLI Plans cover members while in the National Guard, including deployments, and can be retained when separating from the National Guard.

*All USBA Group Life Plans and the MIT Group Life Plan are underwritten by New York Life Insurance Company 51 Madison Ave NY, NY 10010 (Policy Form GMR).

To obtain an Application Form and a Brochure with complete Plan information (including eligibility, benefit provisions, premium rates, limitations & termination provisions, etc) please call the Plan Administrator at 1-800-633-8333.

**State Conference Info
1LT Trista Martinson**

The 103rd Minnesota National Guard Officer Association Conference "Honoring Warriors" will be held at the Holiday Inn Select in Bloomington, MN

June 1-3rd. The event will include a Friday night Social, caucuses, 5K Fun-run, Business Meeting with a working lunch, Spouses' luncheon with fashion show/informational services session all followed by our formal ball, and a Sunday morning Chaplains prayer breakfast. Our Guest Speaker is President of NGAUS MG R. Martin

Umberger. We look forward to a spectacular event. Any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to call/email trista.martinson@us.army.mil or 612-845-7036.

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NGAMN PLANNING CALENDAR AS OF 29 FEBRUARY 2007

- 1-3 June 2007** **102nd NNUAL STATE CONFERENCE – BLOOMINGTON, MN**
- 29 JULY – 4 AUGUST 2007** **WEEK 1 YOUTH CAMP AT CAMP RIPLEY**
- 5 AUG-11 AUG 2007** **WEEK 2 YOUTH CAMP AT CAMP RIPLEY**
- 25-27 AUGUST 2007** **129TH NGAUS ANNUAL CONFERENCE - SAN JUAN, PIERTO RICO**
- 23-25 AUGUST 2008** **130TH NGAUS ANNUAL CONFERENCE – BALTIMORE, MD**
- 11-13 SEPTEMBER 2009** **131ST NGAUS ANNUAL CONFERENCE – NASHVILLE, TN**

REGISTRATION FORM

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD OFFICER ASSOCIATION

102nd GENERAL CONFERENCE

1 – 3 June Bloomington, Minnesota

You may register by via credit card on the Secure NGAMN website www.ngamn.org. If you would rather register via mail please follow the following steps

STEP ONE: Reserve your Room

Rooms are set aside at the Holiday Inn Select (International Airport Hotel)
3 Appletree Square, Bloomington 55425

Call for the MN National Guard Officer Convention rate of \$82 + tax Suite \$102 + tax before May 1st, 2007 at **952-876-8659**

STEP TWO: PROVIDE YOUR CONTACT INFO:

- NAME & RANK:

- _____
- UNIT:

- _____
- HOME ADDRESS:

- _____
- DAY PHONE:

- _____
- E-MAIL:

Questions
Call 1LT Trista Martinson at
651-268-8860 or 612-845-7036
CW4 W. D. Schulz EXC DIR NGAMN
763-545-1391

STEP THREE: SELECT YOUR DINNER ENTRÉE

Mark your Choice (s):

- _____ Sliced Roast Sirloin
- _____ Chicken Marsala
- _____ Champagne Pasta

STEP FOUR: DETERMINE YOUR TOTAL COST

Make checks payable to "Minnesota National Guard Officer Association Conference"

Fill in # and sub-total

Event	Cost	#	Sub-total
Banquet & Business Meeting/Guest Brunch	\$60		
Business Meeting Only \$15 extra with Luncheon no dinner)	\$15		
Spouse Brunch/Fashion Show only no dinner)	\$15		
Prayer Breakfast	\$15		
Total =			

.....STEP FIVE: MAIL YOUR REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECK

Mail by 11 May 2007
To National Guard Association of Minnesota
3530 East Medicine Lake Boulevard Plymouth,
MN 55441

REGISTRATION FORM (STATE ATTENDEES)
129TH NGAUS GENERAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION
AUGSUT 24-27, 2007 - SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

REGISTRATION CATEGORIES (Please check applicable category):

Full Conference Registrant (\$125)

_____ **Delegate** **Retiree**
 Rank (if applicable) , Last Name, First Name, MI (Badge Name) (check if applicable)

Address _____ Phone _____

City/State/Zip _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____ Company/Unit _____

Company Grade/Warrant Officer Mixer – 24 Aug **Governor’s Reception** – 25 Aug
 Spouse Luncheon – 26 Aug **States Dinner** – 27 Aug
 (Please check events included in the registration fee that you will be attending)

Spouse/Guest Full Conference Registrant (\$125)

Company Grade/Warrant Officer Mixer – 24 Aug **Governor’s Reception** – 25 Aug
 Spouse Luncheon – 26 Aug **States Dinner** – 27 Aug

_____ (Badge Name)
 Rank (if applicable), Last Name, First Name, MI

(Please check events included in the registration fee that your spouse/guest will be attending)

Additional Ticketed Events (please check applicable categories):

Full Conference Registrant:

Spouse/Guest Full Conference Registrant:

<input type="checkbox"/> NGAUS Golf Tournament \$75.00 - 24 Aug	<input type="checkbox"/> NGAUS Golf Tournament \$75.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Fun Run \$20.00 – 25 Aug	<input type="checkbox"/> Fun Run \$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Retirees’ Luncheon - 26 Aug (Retired NGAUS Members \$5 – all others \$25.00)	<input type="checkbox"/> Retirees’ Luncheon \$25.00

ACCOMODATIONS: Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Hotel Name: **Caribe Hilton \$150 + tax** Deposit Required to secure room **\$100**

TRANSPORTATION: Airline _____ (Mil/Civ) _____ Flt# _____ Arr Date _____ Time _____
 Airline _____ (Mil/Civ) _____ Flt# _____ Dep Date _____ Time _____

Other (Please provide details): _____

Special Requests/Notes: _____

Total Amount due for registration fees & additional ticketed events \$ _____

Mail registration, & additional ticketed event fee check and form to:
Walter D. Schulz 3530 East Medicine Lake Boulevard, Plymouth, MN 55441

2007 Membership Enrollment Form

National Guard Association of Minnesota
3530 East Medicine Lake Boulevard
Plymouth, Minnesota 55441

Member Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Unit Assignment _____ Group Rep _____ Email _____

Home Phone _____ Work phone _____

Amount Due _____ (See table below) Make check payable to NGAMN send to address above

To pay by credit card, fill out the following: Circle credit card type: Master Card [] Visa []

Account Number _____ Exp Date _____ Signature _____

	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:	\$30	\$45	\$59	\$72	\$85	\$108	\$123	\$139	\$26	\$35	\$46	\$59	\$73
TOTAL	\$45	\$60	\$79	\$102	\$120	\$143	\$163	\$179	\$41	\$50	\$66	\$89	\$103

Associate Member: \$10

For Active Officers, NGAUS Membership is \$1,000; State Life Membership \$250

For Retired Officers: NGAUS Life Member \$125 State Life Member \$50

"1st Brigade" LTC Ken Worde

"Division/Separates" MAJ Kent Porter

"148 FW" Lt Col Scott Chambers

"Warrant Officers" CW5 Tom Novak

"RSG" 1LT Trista Martinson

"133 AW/HQ" Maj Paul Jacobsen

"Starc" CW5 Tom Novak

"Aviation" CW3 Steve Shoemaker

"Troop CMD" LTC Tim Kojetin

"Retired" MAJ (ret) Carl Madsen

NGAMN CORPORATE MEMBERS AND SPONSERS

VISIT NGAMN.ORG for more information on our Corporate Sponsors



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The VIKANG News

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