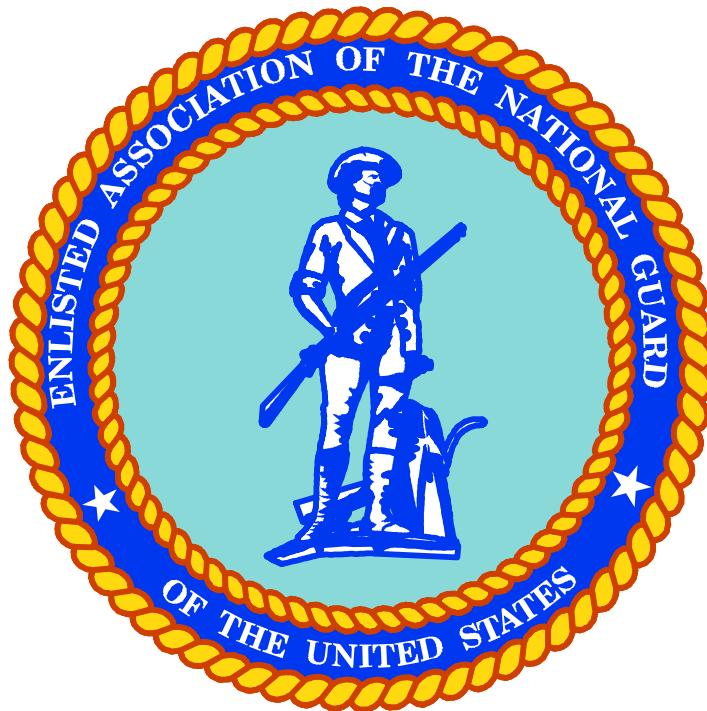


**Enlisted Association of the National Guard
of the United States
(EANGUS)**

2016 REPORT of the COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS



***RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN JEFFREY JAMES FRISBY***

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: 24 August 2016

TO: EANGUS Membership

FROM: Jeffrey Frisby, Resolutions Committee Chairman

SUBJECT: Resolutions Committee Report

1. Mr. President and members of the Enlisted Association of the United States: The Resolutions Committee met on August 21st, 22nd, and 23rd in the Hilton New Orleans Riverside, Belle Chase Room, in New Orleans, LA. There were 58 committee members present from 26 different states.

2. The committee reviewed 32 Eangus Draft Resolutions. Of the draft resolutions submitted you have before you 23 resolutions recommended by the Resolutions Committee for approval. Our Association has 11 Resolutions that are still standing resolutions from the 2015 Committee meeting. There were also 3 resolutions from 2014 that were considered for reaffirmation. The committee recommended all 3 of those to be reaffirmed for another year. There are 9 resolutions from 2013 that have previously been reaffirmed and are now set to expire at the conclusion of this conference.

3. As proposed by the EANGUS by-laws, Article VIII, section 3, Standing Committee's: "The Chairperson of the Committee of Resolutions shall report to the Conference only those resolutions the Committee recommends for adoption. Resolutions not submitted for conference approval will be attached to the report and submitted to the Secretary of the Association". After the acceptance of this report, I will read the resolution number and title. An electronic version will be displayed on the projector for the consideration of the voting delegates.

4. Mr. President, this concludes that the 2016 Resolutions Committee Report and I ask that it be filed for the record.

Jeffrey James Frisby
Resolutions Committee, Chairman

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RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

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

NR16-01

- TITLE:** Post 9/11 GI Bill Transfer Eligibility Benefit (TEB)
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** Allowing for the transfer of Post 9/11 GI Bill Benefits for service members who are ineligible to complete his/her Military Service Obligation (MSO) of four years due to non-retention/force management.
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** New Submission
- SUBMITTER:** Virgin Islands
- BUSINESS CASE:** Public Law 110-252 (Title 38, U.S.C. § 3319) established the ability for Service Members to transfer their Post 9/11 GI Bill educational benefits to eligible dependents. According to the law, the purpose of this authority is "to promote recruitment and retention in the uniformed services." To transfer education benefits, a Service Member must be on active duty or a member of the Selected Reserves in order to transfer benefits, have completed at least six years of qualifying service with at least 90 days of a qualifying period of service, have no negative action flag, and agree to serve at least four more years as a member of the Armed Forces, or the years of service as determined by the Secretary.
- The Office of the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness does not consider the ARNG Qualitative Retention Board (QRB) and the ANG Selective Retention Review Board as force shaping and there is no exception to the requirement that a Service Member must complete his/her Military Service Obligation (MSO) of four years due to non-retention/force management. The service member and their dependents are then left having to repay all previous benefits received to the VA. Active Component members and their dependents are able to retain their benefits due to "reduction in force or force shaping".
- RECOMMENDATION:** The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges the Office of the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness changes DODI 1341.13 to allow Service Members of the National Guard that have served honorably over 20 years and who are selectively non-retained or forced to retire without completion of their MSO be allowed to keep their Post 9/11 GI Bill Transfer of Benefit (TEB) without recoupment.

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

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

NR16-02

- TITLE:** Free Annual Pass to Fish and Wildlife Services and National Park Services to excluded previous military members and their dependents
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** Allowing for a free annual pass for all Military Retirees, Medal of Honor recipients, and their dependents.
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** New Submission
- SUBMITTER:** Arizona
- BUSINESS CASE:** The current free annual pass provided to Current US military members and the dependents of deployed military in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard, as well as most members of the Current US Reserves and National Guard covers entrance to Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service sites that charge Entrance Fees, and Standard Amenity Fees at Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation sites. Proper military ID is required (CAC Card or DoD Form 1173).
- Former military members who carry a blue DoD Form 2, pink DoD Form 2, DoD Form 1173-1, or DoD Form 2765 are not included in the free annual pass policy and are not eligible for the benefit. This policy excludes Medal of Honor recipients, Retired Members of the U.S. Active Duty, Reserves and National Guard, and their dependents who carry a military ID.
- RECOMMENDATION:** The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to enact legislation to change the current eligibility for a free annual pass in to Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service sites for all U.S. Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard personnel, Military Retirees, Medal of Honor recipients, and their dependents with proper military ID (CAC Card or DoD Form 1173, blue DoD Form 2, pink DoD Form 2, DoD Form 1173-1, & DoD Form 2765) .

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

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

NR16-03

- TITLE:** Protect Reserve Component health care benefits eligibility for Reserve Component members
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** Ensure Reserve Component (RC) health care benefits eligibility for all RC personnel regardless of employment or employer.
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** Resubmission
- SUBMITTER:** Arkansas
- BUSINESS CASE:** Section 706 of the FY07 NDAA authorized TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) for all National Guard Members and their families, however, the language was inserted into the statute which prohibits eligibility to enroll in TRS if the member is enrolled or eligible to enroll in a health benefits plan under chapter 89 of Title 5, or better known as “Federal Employee Health Benefits” (FEHB) program. This exclusion is codified in Title 10 U.S.C. Section 1076d, (a)(2). This exclusion affects all National Guard Technicians as well as all members working for other government agencies who participate in the FEHB Program. As many as 50,000 Guard members are prohibited from choosing TRS as a family coverage option due to this restriction. In some cases, currently, the rates for TRS can be nearly half the cost of the least expensive coverage option under the FEHB, making TRS the better option for many Guard Members who are currently not eligible. Eliminating this restriction will allow Guard Technicians greater choice in selecting the health care plan which best meets their family’s needs.
- RECOMMENDATION:** The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to amend Title 10 U.S.C. Section 1067d (a) by deleting paragraph two which creates an exclusion in TRICARE eligibility for anyone eligible for health benefits under Chapter 89 of Title 5 (Federal Employee Health Benefit Program).

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

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

NR16-04

- TITLE:** Air National Guard Athletics and Youth Act of 2016
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** CNGB Program that supports recruiting, retention and training within the National Guard requires a dedicated ANG Program Objective Memorandum (POM)
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** New submission
- SUBMITTER:** Arkansas
- BUSINESS CASE:** Members of the Air National Guard (ANG) are eligible per Title 32 - National Guard, Chapter 5 - Training, Section 504 to attend National Guard schools and small arms competitions. Chief, National Guard Bureau, (CNGB) Competitive Events Program is currently funded with ANG discretionary funding that provides inconsistent support for the program which has led to a three year decline in participation reducing overall effectiveness. The Army National Guard (ARNG) support for the program is already included in the ARNG POM process but not within the ANG.
- RECOMMENDATION:** The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges CNGB to add NGB-AY, Athletics and Youth Program into the ANG POM process aligning it with the ARNG in support of this important CNGB recruiting, retention and training program within the Army and Air National Guard.

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

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

NR16-05

- TITLE:** Reserve Component Service Member Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Improvement Act
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** Current tax law limits annual contributions to TSP accounts to a dollar amount which might penalize future reserve component service members who also contribute to a civilian employer provided 401k style retirement plan.
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** New submission
- SUBMITTER:** Arkansas
- BUSINESS CASE:** Beginning in 2018, individuals entering the National Guard will receive government-matched retirement contributions in their Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) accounts. Current tax code limits all individuals under the age of 55 to contributing \$18,000 toward their retirement each year. Future members of the National Guard, who max out their employer-contributed retirement account, could lose out on their government-matched TSP accounts. EAANG strongly supports HR 4381- Service member Retirement Improvement Act, introduced by Representative Sam Johnson (R-TX). This bill would stop the IRS from stifling Guard or Reserve service members' ability to save for their retirement. This bill would give Reserve Component service members the opportunity to fully participate in the military TSP part of the new blended retirement without compromising both their civilian and military retirement plans. HR 4381 would allow members of the National Guard to max out their employer-contributed retirement account and their government-matched TSP account. It is important to remember the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission, which proposed a blended retirement entitlement, did not intend for Guard and Reserve members to lose benefits. We believe the bill will encourage Guard, and Reserve members to contribute to their military TSP plan and prevent a negative impact to recruiting and retention.
- RECOMMENDATION:** The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to support legislation similar to HR 4381 that would increase the limitations on TSP/401K type contributions for Guardsmen, thus allowing them to utilize their full civilian sponsored retirement plan as well as their military retirement benefit.

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

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

NR16-06

- TITLE:** Tricare Reserve Select direct pay option for businesses
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** Providing an incentive to hire Reserve Component (RC) members by allowing businesses to purchase Tricare Reserve Select for their RC employees, as part of the employer mandated health insurance initiated under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA).
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** Resubmission
- SUBMITTER:** Arkansas, Minnesota
- BUSINESS CASE:** Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), businesses are required to provide affordable health care to Americans. If a business does not provide care, they risk incurring monetary penalties. During a testimony before the House Veterans Affairs Committee, EANGUS offered up an entirely new idea that the subcommittee found to be intriguing, allowing business's to somehow be enabled to directly pay for the Tricare Reserve Select policy premiums of an employee who is a Guardsman or Reservist. By paying the single rate of \$51.62 or the family rate of \$195.81 per month, a small business owner could save from \$3,000 to \$10,000 or more per year, per individual. This number would be an immediate and significant incentive to hire Guardsmen and Reservists. Best of all, Guard members are already entitled to purchase these policies, so no new program needs to be developed.
- RECOMMENDATION:** The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to enact legislation enabling businesses to direct pay the Tricare Reserve Select premium for Reserve Component (RC) members who desire to have Tricare Reserve Select.

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

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

NR16-07

- TITLE:** Support for the addition and alignment of EOD elements with each state Civil Support Team
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** There are 57 Civil Support Teams (CST) across the Nation. Incorporating an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) element into these CST's will enhance partnerships and capabilities for the unique mission and support that they provide to local authorities.
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** Resubmission
- SUBMITTER:** Arkansas
- BUSINESS CASE:** The National Guard is the first line of defense for individual states and the first responder for disasters and emergencies. The Civil Support Teams (CST) provide a state's first line of defense for a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, or Nuclear (CBRN) threats. CSTs can identify hazards, assess consequences, advise on response measures, position themselves as a preventive measure, and assist with appropriate requests for additional support. Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Technicians are a missing and needed element to accompany the skills sets and services that the CST's already provide. Civilian Bomb Disposal assets are often limited on response capability based on jurisdictional lines and or fiscal constraints. Further, even with these assets there are many areas either left uncovered or lacking explosive expertise regarding military munitions and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) which may be encountered. Adding an EOD team to each state's National Guard will give states an asset to cover military unexploded ordinances (UXO) as well as IEDs. EOD Technicians transitioning out of the Active Component have limited options to transition into the National Guard. An element of EOD in the National Guard not only provides a reserve component service for the Technicians to transition to, it also provides an opportunity for them to continue to provide their skill sets with a real world application of skills that benefits their State and Nation.
- RECOMMENDATION:** The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges the National Guard Bureau, the Department of Defense and Congress to evaluate the feasibility and force structure requirements needed to add Explosive Ordnance Disposal elements to the existing Civil Support Teams across the Nation and revise the CST mission statement to include the mitigation of situations needing EOD services. AGR resources located within the current force structure and manning should NOT be reallocated for EOD manning. Additional AGR resources would be required IOT meet these new mission requirements.

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

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

NR16-08

- TITLE:** Retirement Age for the Guard and Reserve
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** Establish Reserve Component retirement age parity with Active Component and meet the original intent of retirement program changes adopted in NDAA 2015.
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** Resubmission (Updated from EANGUS NR15-17)
- SUBMITTER:** Arkansas
- BUSINESS CASE:** Reserve Component (RC) members of the Department of Defense who serve 20 years or more earn a retirement benefit proportional to their time in uniform, however, they are not able to receive payment from the benefit until they reach the age of 60. Active Component retirees are able to receive their retirement benefit immediately upon retirement. RC members take the same oath to serve and protect our country as the active component, making the same sacrifices to time, community, nation and family. They have proven themselves to be a required part of this Nations call to defense, both at home and abroad. They are a true operational reserve to the Total Force. RC members deserve parity of the retirement age with the active component. Removing the age restriction and making it equal to the active components rule of eligibility immediately upon separation of service after 20 years helps to secure the future of our all-volunteer force, particularly the Citizen-Soldier. Changes in the Department of Defense Retirement Program that were adopted in the NDAA 2015 were originally aimed at lowering the retirement age for the RC. The language of the bill said that service members would be eligible to draw their new retirement immediately upon retirement age. For the Active Component, that retirement age stayed the same, immediately upon separation from the service after 20 years. For RC service members, however, retirement age is still defined as the age of 60, despite the original intent from Congress.
- RECOMMENDATION:** The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to support legislation that would change 10 U.S.C. Chapter 1223 by removing the “60 years of age” restriction on Reserve Component Members who have served 20 years and earned a retirement benefit from the Department of Defense before they can receive retirement compensation.

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

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

NR16-09

TITLE: Toxic Exposure/Toxic Wounds

SHORT DESCRIPTION: Burn pit exposure and various other toxic exposures are cause of illnesses among veterans of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan

PROPOSAL TYPE: New submission

SUBMITTER: Minnesota

BUSINESS CASE: Burn pit exposure and various other toxic exposures are cause of illnesses among veterans of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan failed to make the 2016 list of peer-reviewed medical research programs that Congress requires the Defense Department to conduct. The absence of burn pit exposure on the list was confirmed by a spokeswoman for the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs at Fort Detrick, Maryland

Exposure to various toxic chemicals is causing grave illness and even death to service members. The situation is tantamount Agent Orange and should be treated as such. Long term medical care must be made available for service members.

Sen Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) introduced S. 2679 a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish within the Department of Veterans Affairs a center of excellence in the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of health conditions relating to exposure to burn pits. A companion bill, H.R. 2237 was introduced in the House. Both have been forwarded to their Veterans and/or military affairs committees

RECOMMENDATION: The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to enact legislation supporting medical care for service members who have become ill due to effects of toxic exposure from burn pits and other chemical agents used in combat area.

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

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

NR16-10

TITLE: FY 17 Proposed TRICARE enrollment fees

SHORT DESCRIPTION: The Pentagon has proposed a series of TRICARE fee increases, outlined in the President's fiscal year 2017 budget.

PROPOSAL TYPE: New submission

SUBMITTER: Minnesota

BUSINESS CASE: The Pentagon has proposed a series of TRICARE fee increases, outlined in the President's fiscal year 2017 budget. Congress has these measures under review.

The DoD proposal would require all retired service members, except those currently in TRICARE for Life, to pay an annual enrollment fee to participate in TRICARE. Without payment of the "participation" fee, access to TRICARE would be forfeit until the next open season. DoD proposed a one-time fee to access TRICARE for Life.

Service members' access to Tricare is already earned by being an active member of the United States Armed Services, either in AC or RC component status. TRICARE for life is earned by 20 or more year membership in the US Armed Services.

RECOMMENDATION: The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to reject the DoD proposals to start charging enrollment fees for TRICARE.

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

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

NR16-11

- TITLE:** Automatic reenrollment in TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) and MetLife Dental
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** Automatic reenrollment in TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) and MetLife Dental after Active Duty (AD) time in which TRICARE Prime and Active Duty Dental automatically kicked in.
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** New Submission
- SUBMITTER:** South Dakota
- BUSINESS CASE:** Service Members who are enrolled in TRICARE Reserve Select then go on an Active Duty order for over 30 days are automatically enrolled into TRICARE Prime and Active Duty Dental. When the Service Members orders end, the health and dental insurance terminates. Providers do not remind Service Members that they have to re-apply for TRICARE Reserve Select and/or MetLife Dental. It is allowed to re-apply before the active duty time ends but numerous Soldiers and Airmen have re-applied and had their applications not accepted due to their Status at the time of application. There is a disconnect between DEERS and TRICARE that has left many Soldiers, Airmen, and their families without coverage. Allowing a suspension of TRS during any period of Active Duty where Tricare status changes, rather than disenrollment and re-enrollment could be a more feasible option for RC members.
- RECOMMENDATION:** The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges the Department of Defense to review policies and procedures to allow previous TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) and MetLife Dental participants to be automatically reenrolled into the benefit anytime they have had a change in duty status that caused another form of TRICARE or dental insurance to be enacted on their behalf.

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

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

NR16-12

- TITLE:** Reenlistment incentives for Soldiers reenlisting to meet mandatory service obligations (MSO).
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** Currently you are only eligible for an incentive (bonus, Montgomery GI Bill Kicker, or Student Loan Repayment) if you are 365 days or closer to your ETS.
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** New Submission
- SUBMITTER:** South Dakota
- BUSINESS CASE:** Some Soldiers and Airmen have to reenlist before their 1 year window to meet an MSO for their career progression. For example, Flight Medics have to become Nationally Registered Paramedic (NR-P). Upon completion of Nationally Registered Paramedic (NR-P) training requirements they incur a 48 month Service Remaining Requirement (ALARACT 061/2012 – NBG-ARH Policy Memorandum 06-081). Other positions have a similar MSO as well. If the Soldier is outside of their incentive window, they will still have to reenlist without incentives to satisfy their MSO.
- RECOMMENDATION:** The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges the National Guard Bureau to update the Selected Reserve Incentive Programs (SRIP) Policy so that Soldiers and Airmen are eligible for the same incentives that they would be eligible for if they were in the 1 year window when reenlisting to satisfy a mandatory service obligation.

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

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

NR16-13

- TITLE:** Recoupment or Termination of incentives for changing career management fields
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** Soldiers and Airmen who currently have enlistment incentives risk losing their incentives if they change their career management field (MOS or AFSC).
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** New Submission
- SUBMITTER:** South Dakota
- BUSINESS CASE:** Service members who currently have enlistment incentives risk losing their incentives if they change their career management field. Only some career management fields are eligible for incentives but moving from one field to another, even when both fields have incentive eligibility, service members face recoupment of previously paid incentives for voluntarily changing fields. Some positions are extremely hard to fill via lateral moves because the applicants would lose their incentives, causing financial hardship and stalling their progression in the military.
- RECOMMENDATION:** The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges the Department of Defense to allow National Guard Service Members to keep their incentives when changing career fields or for career progression so long as the new field is also eligible for incentives.

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

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

NR16-14

- TITLE:** TRICARE Retired Reserve rate for grey area retiree's
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** Service Members who retire with 20 good years of service in the National Guard are eligible for TRICARE Retired Reserve health insurance but the rates are too high to allow some to participate in the program.
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** New Submission
- SUBMITTER:** South Dakota
- BUSINESS CASE:** Service Members who retire with 20 good years of service in the National Guard are eligible for TRICARE Retired Reserve health insurance but the rates are too high to allow some to participate in the program.
- RECOMMENDATION:** The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to conduct a re-evaluation of the rates for TRICARE Retired Reserve in order to ensure that Reserve Component Grey Area Retirees are offered the best rate on their earned health care benefit.

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

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

NR16-15

- TITLE:** Technician compatibility
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** Some Technicians are limited on the positions that they can hold in a TDA/MTOE/UMDA unit due to the Technician Personnel Regulation 303.
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** New Submission
- SUBMITTER:** South Dakota
- BUSINESS CASE:** Some Technicians are limited on the positions that they can hold in a TDA/MTOE/UMDA unit due to the Technician Personnel Regulation 303.
- RECOMMENDATION:** The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges a reevaluation of the Technician Personnel Regulation 303 to specifically look at the Technician Compatibility hindrances.

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

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

NR16-16

- TITLE:** TRICARE Reserve Select Extension for surviving families of Guardsmen
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** Families members of Reserve Component Service Members enrolled in TRICARE Reserve Select lose the benefit if their sponsor has an unexpected death. The benefit eligibility should be extended for that family to continue to provide health care for the family.
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** New Submission
- SUBMITTER:** Nebraska
- BUSINESS CASE:** Service Members and their families who are enrolled in TRICARE Reserve select will lose that benefit after 6 months if the service member suffers an untimely death. This leaves the family with a very short window to find a new health care program before being penalized for not having a health care provider while also trying to manage all of the other details of such a sudden impact to life.
- RECOMMENDATION:** The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to enact legislation that would extend the eligibility period for surviving families of deceased TRICARE Reserve Select Sponsors.

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

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

NR16-17

- TITLE:** In Vitro Fertilization for Veterans with Service Connected Injuries
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** Veterans who become injured while on Active Duty to be allowed to use in vitro fertilization after they leave Active Duty
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** New Submission
- SUBMITTER:** Ohio
- BUSINESS CASE:** Those in all Branches of the Military, including those in the Army and Air National Guard, who become injured while serving on Active Duty may become impaired to having children on their own. A 1992 Federal Law does not authorize the Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide the service of in vitro fertilization to those in need. Currently, there are a few thousand Veterans, both male and female, are infertile due to injuries that were received during Combat or training. These injuries include some being paralyzed, some having damage to reproductive organs and others having brain injuries that affect the hormones that are needed to produce both eggs and sperm. Currently the Department of Defense does allow those still on an Active Status to use in vitro fertilization for those in need of the service due to service related injuries. While the Service Member is not charged for this service it is currently only being offered at seven hospitals, only around twenty percent of those eligible have taken advantage of this service. Those who do not take advantage of this service are generally in rehabilitation centers struggling to recover and not thinking about having children until after they are medically retired or discharged from the Military. While legislation has been brought before Congress in the past several years it has failed in every attempt. Repealing the 1992 law would allow those Service Connected Veterans to be able to start a family.
- RECOMMENDATION:** The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to repeal the 1992 law and authorize the Veterans Affairs (VA) to start allowing in vitro fertilization to those Veterans in need.

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

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

NR16-18

TITLE: Deployment Veteran Status

SHORT DESCRIPTION: Those who are Deployed to a Combat Zone for a 179 Consecutive Days and under would qualify for Veteran Status.

PROPOSAL TYPE: New Submission

SUBMITTER: Ohio

BUSINESS CASE: Those in the Army and Air National Guard have been constantly deployed to Combat Zones since 9/11 and are subject to be put in harms way. This could result in injury and/or death. Most of these deployments are 179 days and under due to no fault of those deployed. While those do perform each deployment honorably they do not qualify for Veteran Status. Under the current Federal Laws, those in the Military only gain Veteran Status if on Active Duty Status for 180 days or longer. By adopting this resolution, it would allow for those who are deployed to a Combat Zone to obtain Veteran Status for serving 179 Days or less.

RECOMMENDATION: The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to to authorize the Veteran Status to those serve honorably while deployed 179 or less days to a Combat Zone either through completion of the deployment with the Unit, being Wounded, or Killed In Action.

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

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

NR16-19

- TITLE:** Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) status while eligible for TRICARE due to mobilization orders
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** To adjust the options available for Technician Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) options.
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** New Submission
- SUBMITTER:** Ohio
- BUSINESS CASE:** Currently, technicians can only use TRICARE as a secondary insurance to FEHB until they enter into an Absent Uniformed Service (AUS) non-pay status during pre-mobilization TRICARE eligibility. The only option technicians have to utilize their full pre-mobilization TRICARE coverage is to CANCEL their FEHB plan which stops accrual of time toward retirement FEHB coverage eligibility and also results in loss of family FEHB coverage if death of the sponsor occurs while in a CANCEL status. Once in an AUS status, the technician has the option to TERMINATE their FEHB coverage, which suspends their FEHB coverage and payments, but entitles them and their dependents to all the eligibility and coverage if death of the sponsor occurs in a TERMINATE status, and also counts, while on orders and during the TRICARE TAMP period, as accrual of time toward retirement FEHB eligibility.
- RECOMMENDATION:** The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to allow the Military Technician to have the same FEHB options, rights, and coverage during pre-mobilization, mobilization, and post mobilization TRICARE eligibility periods.

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

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

NR16-20

- TITLE:** Traditional National Guard Retiree's Medical Insurance for those Rated 100% through the VA
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** Those who retire out of the National Guard traditionally, not medical, would also be eligible for CHAMPVA if rated 100% disabled through the Veterans Affairs (VA).
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** New Submission
- SUBMITTER:** Ohio
- BUSINESS CASE:** Those who retire out of the National Guard traditionally, not medically, are eligible for Tricare Reserve Retired(TRR), but those retirees who are also 100% disabled through the VA are not eligible for CHAMPVA due to being eligible for TRR. With the rates for TRR being high and the costs of finding insurance on the civilian side being high some families would struggle to afford medical insurance costs. Being eligible for CHAMPVA would have the Veteran go to the VA Clinic/hospitals and have the family members being able to see Civilian Doctors at a more affordable cost. Those 100% Retirees who would use CHAMPVA would be able to use it until they become 60 years of age and eligible for Tricare for Life when the individual starts collecting the military retirements.
- RECOMMENDATION:** The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to authorize those traditional National Guard Retirees who are 100% disabled through the VA to use CHAMPVA until the retiree reaches the age of 60 and becomes eligible for Tricare for life.

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

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

NR16-21

- TITLE:** CV-22 Osprey ANG total Force Package
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** Developing a long term mission requirement for the CV-22 Osprey for the ANG as part of the total Force Package.
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** New Submission
- SUBMITTER:** EANGUS Resolutions Committee
- BUSINESS CASE:** The CV-22 Osprey represents a major proven capability to be used by the Air National Guard (ANG). Its ability for vertical take-off and landing, combined with fixed-wing speed and range has proven this to be a versatile multi-mission aircraft. The attributes of the CV-22 have enabled military planners to transcend traditionally defined roles and missions as currently dictated by legacy capabilities and resolve distance and time shortfalls for Combat Rescue capability as noted by Commander Air Combat Command regarding a Combat Rescue Helicopter (CRH) Mixed Fleet: "He had discussed this with Chief of Staff of the Air Force as a very attractive possibility to mitigate current risk in the Combat Rescue mission area, particularly the CRH (HH-60) capability gap for expeditious long range extractions."
- The strategic shift to Africa and the Pacific reflects a shortcoming in Air Force Personnel Recovery (PR) that a traditional helicopter or C-130 force cannot meet regarding tyrannies of distance and response timing. The CV-22 provides a wide ranging capability to combat these tyrannies in a High End PR Title 10 role and provides a vastly improved mixed fleet to meet theater and Homeland Security/National Defense, Title 10, capability needs. CV-22 provides a rapid multi-mission state response capability in a single platform for Civil Support and Relief operations. Title 32 long range rescue, border security, and counter drug operations are more rapid, efficient, and economically done. The CV-22 will provide concurrent and proportional modernization, long-term recruiting, retention, and vast multi-mission capability. Counter Drug operations, rapid Civil Support point to point response, Border Patrol, Global Deep Strike anti-access PR Response and Homeland Security National Response capability performed by the CV-22 in the ANG is essential for long-term stability, dependability, growth and support to the Nation.
- RECOMMENDATION:** The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to direct the Department of Defense and National Guard Bureau to develop Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) formal requirement input to HQ AF for long lead and procurement input into the Program Objective Memorandum 2019, develop accession strategy for the ANG to attain and operate the CV-22 as part of the total force package and to capture force structure savings from Mixed Fleet as part of V-22 Multi-year III buy profile.

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

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

NR16-22

- TITLE:** Support of the structure and equipment issues that are endorsed by the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) and the Adjutants General Association of the United States (AGAUS).
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** EANGUS will continue to support the structure and equipment issues that are endorsed by the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) and the Adjutants General Association of the United States (AGAUS) that contribute to the accomplishment of the purposes and goals of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS).
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** Resubmission
- SUBMITTER:** EANGUS Resolutions Committee
- BUSINESS CASE:** Multiple force structure, mission and equipment issues are of interest to our membership. EANGUS is unable to address the multitude of these issues and must focus on “people” issues in support of our enlisted force. A single resolution provides the EANGUS leadership the flexibility to address the non-personnel issues as the opportunity arises and resources permit.
- EANGUS is dedicated to promoting the status, welfare, and professionalism of the men and women of the Army and Air National Guard. Our goal is to provide quality, motivated, professional soldiers, airmen, noncommissioned officers to the National Guard. Our primary focus is to accomplish our purpose and goals in the best interest of the National Guard Enlisted Force. Issues of force structure, missions, and effective equipment to accomplish those missions are more appropriately addressed by NGAUS and AGAUS.
- RECOMMENDATION:** That the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States continues to pledge support to those NGAUS and AGAUS initiatives that contribute to the accomplishment of the EANGUS purpose and goals.

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

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

NR16-23

- TITLE:** EANGUS appreciation of New Orleans, Louisiana, the Louisiana National Guard Enlisted Association and Auxiliary
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** Appreciation for the Hospitality and Efforts by the State of Louisiana, the City of New Orleans and the Louisiana National Guard Enlisted Association and Auxiliary.
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** New Submission
- SUBMITTER:** EANGUS Resolutions Committee
- BUSINESS CASE:** The 45th General Conference of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States met in New Orleans from 20 through 24 August 2016. The City of New Orleans and the Louisiana National Guard Enlisted Association and Auxiliary acted as gracious hosts and hostesses to their fellow National Guard members, their spouses and guests, even during a time where the majority of the Louisiana National Guard were fully engaged, representing the true spirit of the National Guard by serving the Louisiana Citizens during a tragic time of flooding and disaster. As they wear the uniform to serve those victims, they are carrying a message of hope, love, and care. A message that says, I am your friend, your family, your neighbor.....and I am here to help. Managing to carry on with that mission, our mission, as well as continuing to be able to conduct an incredible EANGUS National conference is an amazing example of their tireless efforts and dedication. To all of those that have stepped up to help, if it was for flood response or to help with the conference, we are humbly grateful. The significance of the work done by the EANGUS Conference staff, the Louisiana Conference Committee, President John Harris and all of you, has ensured an incredibly successful General Conference.
- RECOMMENDATION:** The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States commends the State of Louisiana, the City of New Orleans and the Louisiana National Guard Enlisted Association and Auxiliary for the support they have given and outstanding hospitality they have extended to make the 45th General Conference most successful and memorable.

NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

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

~~(DRAFT) NR16-XX~~

- TITLE:** Army National Guard Selected Reserve Incentive Programs (ARNG SRIP) Policy
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** Rescind portions of the current ARNG SRIP policy in order to enhance retention and readiness.
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** New Submission
- SUBMITTER:** Arkansas
- BUSINESS CASE:** In 2014, ARNG G-1 issued ARNG HRZ Policy #14-01. This policy remains in effect, and has been updated no less than 4 times. This policy supplements issues already addressed adequately in Army Regulation (AR) 135-7, and AR 601-210. The stated purpose of the policy is to assist “leadership in meeting and sustaining Army National Guard (ARNG) readiness requirements”. Paragraph 22j of this policy requires the termination of incentives, with recoupment, upon the second consecutive failure of a record Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT). This particular requirement does not function to improve unit readiness or manpower. By terminating the incentives, rather than suspending them, Soldiers who have failed a second consecutive APFT no longer have any motivation to improve their performance. Additionally, organizations which pursue excellence by using incentives as a reward for achieving positive consequences, such as enlistment and reenlistment, threaten the integrity of the entire organization and the incentive system, by using the loss of rewards as punishment for nonperformance. Simply stated, once a member agrees to an incentive, the permanent revocation of the incentive and the future ability to earn incentives, will virtually ensure nonperformance.
- RECOMMENDATION:** The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Army National Guard G-1 to rescind Paragraph 22j of ARNG HRZ Policy 14-01. AR 135-7 and AR 601-210 currently provide for the suspension or termination of incentives and no further action should be taken to terminate incentives in those particular situations.

NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

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

~~(DRAFT) NR16-XX~~

- TITLE:** Drilling Guardsmen Leave Accrual Program
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** Establish a proportional leave accrual program for drilling Guardsmen that acts as an incentive to continued service and reduces potential leave deficit during periods of mobilization.
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** New submission
- SUBMITTER:** Arkansas
- BUSINESS CASE:** The National Guard will continue to be relied upon to provide operational capability in a Title 10 status throughout the world. Therefore, Guardsmen will be mobilized, trained, and deployed to meet both predictable mission sets and emerging requirements. Currently, when traditional drilling Guardsmen are mobilized, they enter federal active duty with zero (0) leave days to their credit. Should individuals be afforded holiday leave during post mobilization training or be required to take emergency leave during the mobilized period, they immediately incur a leave debt. This leave debt has a negative impact upon a service member's ability to adequately transition from Title 10, therefore diminishing the benefits of a deliberate reintegration period with family members prior to reentering the civilian workforce (the more leave taken during the mobilization, the less leave available at the end). Traditional drilling Guardsmen are compensated for 63 base training days per annum. This includes 15 days of Annual Training (AT) and 48 inactive duty training (IDT) days, or unit training assemblies (UTAs). Furthermore, the average drilling Guardsmen will dedicate an additional 15 days towards continuing military education and unit support activities in an active duty for training status (ADT). Average potential for a drilling Guardsman could be as high as 78 days. Therefore, the total number of compensated days equates to 21% of a calendar year.
- RECOMMENDATION:** The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to establish a program to provide drilling Guardsmen leave days in proportion to the number of duty days performed. An example would be to provide 2.5 leave days for every 30 days of satisfactorily performed duty (either in AT, IDT, ADT status). Drilling Guardsman leave would be calculated annually in conjunction with W-2 formulation or upon a Soldier or Airman's T-10 mobilization in-processing. Total amount of accrued Drilling Guardsman leave would be capped at 30 days. This leave will only be used in a Title 10 status to offset any leave that is required during the mobilization period, thus preserving a service member's accrued Title 10 leave for use at the end of a mobilization in order to best support service member and family reintegration. Furthermore, allow traditional drilling Guardsmen the ability to maintain and then sell up to 30 days of Drilling Guardsman accrued leave upon retirement as an incentive towards career service. Leave accrued through the Drilling Guardsmen Leave Accrual Program cannot be sold at the conclusion of a T10 mobilization period; only leave accrued in a T10 status can be sold at the end of a deployment should the service member elect not to use his/her earned T10 leave following demobilization.

NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

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

~~(DRAFT) NR16-XX~~

- TITLE:** TRICARE Reserve Select extension beyond Uniform Service Time
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** Service members who retire or, otherwise, honorably end their service with the Missouri National Guard may lose access to Tricare immediately upon their last day of service.
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** New Submission
- SUBMITTER:** Missouri
- BUSINESS CASE:** Thousands of service members rely on the Tricare offered through their service to their state and/or country. Unfortunately, when they reach the end of their service through retirement or the expiration of term of service, they often lose access to Tricare or are forced to pay far more for services they were receiving just days before.
- Retirees are eligible for Tricare once they turn 65. Unfortunately, many Service members retire well before that age and are forced to turn to other solutions before reaching 65. This can lead to gaps in coverage, increase in premiums or copays or an unfavorable change in care providers or services.
- RECOMMENDATION:** The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to extend the opportunity to purchase the TRICARE Reserve Select Benefit for five years after a service member's retirement or for two years after a service member's honorable discharge in order to allow former military members and their families ample time to acquire acceptable coverage with no gaps or penalties under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA).

NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

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

~~(DRAFT) NR16-XX~~

- TITLE:** Concurrent Receipt of Federal Tuition Assistance (TA) and MGIB
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** Change 3 to DoDI 1322.5 Para 1k was changed in July of 2014 to remove this allowance for service members to utilize more than one assistance program together.
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** New Submission
- SUBMITTER:** South Dakota
- BUSINESS CASE:** Change 3 to DoDI 1322.5 Para 1k was changed in July of 2014 to remove this allowance for service members to utilize more than one assistance program together. The removal of this benefit to the service members has been detrimental to recruiting and retention for the Army National Guard nationwide.
- RECOMMENDATION:** The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to allow concurrent receipt of GI Bill and Federal Tuition Assistance.

NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

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

~~(DRAFT) NR16-XX~~

- TITLE:** Technician Flight Incentive Pay
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** Current dual-status technicians who fly for their full-time technician position do not get Aviation Career Incentive Pay (ACIP) or Hazardous Duty Incentive Pay (HDIP) while flying on Technician time.
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** New Submission
- SUBMITTER:** South Dakota
- BUSINESS CASE:** Only Soldiers or Airmen who fly on military status (drill time / IDT, Active Duty Orders, or Additional Flight Training Periods) receive ACIP or HDIP. Dual-status technicians are required to follow all of the guidelines set forth for aviators to be eligible for ACIP or HDIP (maintain their flight hours, flight physical, testing, and academics) but they do not get paid the incentive because they are government civilian employees. Based on their military qualifications and requirements it is not hard to believe that they could be better compensated for their time within the civilian workforce. This incentive would help bridge the gap between the civilian and military pay difference.
- RECOMMENDATION:** The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to enact legislation that would allow ACIP and HDIP to be paid to the dual-status technicians who fly on technician time.

NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

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

~~(DRAFT) NR16-XX~~

- TITLE:** Reenlistment incentives for Technicians
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** Eligibility for some Military reenlistment incentives (bonus, Montgomery GI Bill Kicker, or Student Loan Repayment) are not available to Technicians.
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** New Submission
- SUBMITTER:** South Dakota
- BUSINESS CASE:** Currently M-day Soldiers and Airmen are allowed to receive reenlistment incentives (bonus, Montgomery GI Bill Kicker, or Student Loan Repayment) but Technicians of the National Guard are not allowed reenlistment incentives because of their full-time career.
- RECOMMENDATION:** The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to enact legislation that would allow Technicians of the Reserve Component to be fully eligible for reenlistment incentives.

NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

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

~~(DRAFT) NR16-XX~~

- TITLE:** Reenlistment incentives for AGR's
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** Eligibility for some Military reenlistment incentives (bonus, Montgomery GI Bill Kicker, or Student Loan Repayment) are not available to AGR Service Members.
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** New Submission
- SUBMITTER:** South Dakota
- BUSINESS CASE:** Currently M-day Soldiers and Airmen, as well as Active Duty Soldiers and Airmen, are allowed to receive re-enlistment incentives (bonus, Montgomery GI Bill Kicker, or Student Loan Repayment) but AGR's of the National Guard are not allowed re-enlistment incentives because of their full-time career.
- RECOMMENDATION:** The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to enact legislation that would allow AGR Service Members of the Reserve Component to be fully eligible for re-enlistment incentives.

NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

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

~~(DRAFT) NR16-XX~~

- TITLE:** Recoupment or Termination of incentives after receiving Technician or AGR positions
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** Soldiers and Airmen who have an enlistment incentive lose those incentives if they are hired into the Technician or AGR program.
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** New Submission
- SUBMITTER:** South Dakota
- BUSINESS CASE:** Soldiers and Airmen who have an enlistment incentive lose those incentives if they are hired into the Technician or AGR program. This often results in a reduction in the number of applicants for key positions and could cause a financial hardship for those who are willing to take that risk.
- RECOMMENDATION:** The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to enact legislation that would allow new hires into the Technician or AGR Programs to be allowed to keep the incentives they had prior to being hired.

NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

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

~~(DRAFT) NR16-XX~~

- TITLE:** Boosting Military Technician leave from 120 hours to 160 hours
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** Due to additional training requirements Military Technician leave needs to be adjusted from the current 120 hours a year to 160 hours a year.
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** New Submission
- SUBMITTER:** Ohio
- BUSINESS CASE:** The Military Technician Leave is currently set at 120 hours per year. With most Annual Trainings currently being set at three weeks in length due to training for, or in support of, deployments military technician leave is used up all for Annual Training. With Military Technician leave being used up for Annual Training, those who have MUTA's on Friday's lose out on Technician Pay. Adjusting Military Technician leave from 120 hours to 160 hours would assist the Military Technician in accomplishing Unit and individual missions without being forced to lose pay.
- RECOMMENDATION:** The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to adjust Military Technician Leave from 120 hours per year authorized to 160 hours per year authorized.

2015 EANGUS RESOLUTIONS- CURRENT STANDING RESOLUTIONS

- NR15-01 Federal Military Spouse Preference (MSP) in hiring
- NR15-02 GI Bill Fairness Act of 2015
- NR15-03 Veteran Status
- ~~NR15-04 TRICARE Prime for Retirees (Accomplished in the NDAA 2016)~~
- ~~NR15-05 Military Retirement (Accomplished in the NDAA 2016)~~
- ~~NR15-06 Survivor Benefit Plan (Accomplished in the NDAA 2016)~~
- ~~NR15-07 Financial Literacy (Accomplished in the NDAA 2016)~~
- ~~NR15-08 Reserve Component Statuses (Accomplished in the NDAA 2016)~~
- NR15-09 Enhancement of the TRICARE Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) program for exceptional family members
- ~~NR15-10 DOD and VA services collaboration and improvement (Accomplished in the NDAA 2016)~~
- NR15-11 Consolidated Commissary and Exchange Services
- NR15-12 Restoration of entitlements and benefits of the Reserve Component during times of Involuntary Activation
- NR15-13 Posthumous Transfer of Post 9/11 G.I. Bill
- NR15-15 Buy-Back of Temp Tech Time for Retirement by Dual Status Military Technicians
- NR15-17 Reserve Component Retirement Age Reform
- NR15-18 Procurement of additional CV-22 Osprey
- NR15-19 Concurrent Receipt

**Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) Resolution
NR15-01**

- TITLE:** Federal Military Spouse Preference (MSP) in hiring
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** Call upon Congress to establish a single, uniform Military Spouse Preference (MSP) program for filling vacancies in Federal government.
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** New Submission
- SUBMITTER:** Arkansas
- BUSINESS CASE:** Military Spouse Preference (MSP) in hiring exists within the Federal Government. MSP programs exist by way of a patchwork of Federal Laws such as: Public Law 99-145, (DoD Authorization Act of 1986, Section 806, Employment Opportunities for Military Spouses), E.O. 13473, E.O. 12568, Part 315.612 of Title 5 CFR, Section 2108 of Title 5 CFR, and Section 3330.d of Title 5 CFR. MSP Programs operated by Federal Agencies apply non-uniform means for determining eligibility. Specific means of determining eligibility is not detailed in the cited Federal Laws but is left up to the Agencies as a matter of their business practices. The Office of Personnel Management has delegated hiring authority and thereby MSP eligibility determination to the individual Agencies. The patchwork of MSP laws, coupled with lack of clear specific guidance leads to conflicting MSP programs and process throughout the Federal Government. Even within a single Federal Agency, such as the Department of the Army, there exist numerous conflicts concerning application of MSP, due to conflicting and vague guidance issued by OPM, DoD, and DA CPS. These conflicts are compounded when factoring in the different practices used by each branch of the Armed Forces and their respective Reserve Component.
- RECOMMENDATION:** The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States recommends to the Congress of the United States that all Federal laws concerning Military Spouse Preference (MSP) be codified into a single Federal Law, with broad yet specific guidance regarding the eligibility and application of MSP in hiring. EANGUS suggests two categories of MSP. A non-competitive appointment category for “displaced” and/or “hardship” spouses similar to current MSP, and a competitive category similar to current 5 point Veteran Preference programs by which military spouses are awarded a number of points lesser than Veterans and ranked on selection lists immediately subsequent to Veteran Preference eligible applicants and ahead of non-Veteran applicants.

**Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) Resolution
NR15-02**

TITLE: GI Bill Fairness Act of 2015

SHORT DESCRIPTION: Time spent receiving medical care would qualify as active-duty time for Post-9/11 GI Bill education assistance for Guardsmen and Reservist.

PROPOSAL TYPE: New Submission

SUBMITTER: Arkansas

BUSINESS CASE: Members of the Reserve Component earn eligibility for the Post 9/11 GI Bill by serving on active duty and the amount and level of eligibility of the education benefit is directly related to the amount of time served in an active status. Even if the Reservist is in a title 10 status while receiving medical care for a service connected injury, that time is not calculated the same to help increase their eligibility. S. 602 has been introduced by SEN John Boozman (AR) and SEN Ron Wyden (OR) and HR 1141 has been introduced by REP Mark Takano (CA) that would make time served receiving medical care by a National Guardsmen or Reserve service member count toward the benefit eligibility of the education assistance.

RECOMMENDATION: The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to support and co-sign their respective piece of legislation, S. 602 or HR 1141, in order to amend title 38, United States Code, to consider certain time spent by members of reserve components of the Armed Forces while receiving medical care from the Secretary of Defense as active duty for purposes of eligibility for Post-9/11 Educational Assistance, and for other purposes.

**Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) Resolution
NR15-03**

TITLE: Veterans Status

SHORT DESCRIPTION: Reserve component members who serve 20 years in uniform are not considered a veteran if they do not have 180+ days of title 10 service.

PROPOSAL TYPE: New Submission

SUBMITTER: Minnesota

BUSINESS CASE: Under current regulation and law, a member of the armed services is not granted veterans status unless having served for a period of 181 consecutive days or greater on active federal duty. Reserve component members must serve for a period of twenty years or more and reach age sixty to become eligible for a retirement annuity. A reserve component member volunteers a minimum of ten percent of their life in service to their state and this great nation. Their service comes at a price to the service member, their family, their friends, and their employers.

Legislation has been introduced in both the house and the senate over the last few years to help recognize those reserve component members who have served 20 years, but for various reasons, never reached 181 days of consecutive federal service, by granting them the title of veteran. Over the course of this effort, we have seen the legislation pass the house but never brought to the floor in the Senate. We have also seen the proposal added to the NDAA on a few occasion to only be removed in the joint committee. The 114th Congress has both HR 1384 (REP Walz, MN) and S 743 (Boozman, AR) that would address this issue. The CBO has already scored this effort as cost neutral since these bills do not transfer any other benefits other than the ability to identify oneself as a veteran due to their years of service.

RECOMMENDATION: The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to enact legislation to redefine the qualifications for veteran status to include reserve component members who have successfully served twenty years or more in service to their state and this great nation.

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

ACCOMPLISHED

NR15-04

TITLE: TRICARE Prime for Retirees

SHORT DESCRIPTION: Helping retirees to maintain enrollment in TRICARE Prime, regardless of location in relation to a Military Treatment Facility (MTF).

PROPOSAL TYPE: New Submission

SUBMITTER: Minnesota

BUSINESS CASE: In 2013, DOD eliminated TRICARE Prime for retirees who lived farther than 40 miles from a Military Treatment Facility. In response, REP John Kline (MN) introduced HR 1500. This legislation would roll-back some of these changes and was able to ease some of the burdens retirees faced. Congressman Kline's legislation would ensure we keep our promises to provide the best quality and most cost efficient health care for our military retirees by allowing retirees who lived 100 miles or more from an MTF on the date the President signed the FY 14 NDAA into law the opportunity to re-enroll into TRICARE Prime.

RECOMMENDATION: The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to support legislation that would allow our military retirees that lost TRICARE Prime with the signing of the FY 14 NDAA the opportunity to re-enroll regardless of the distance they reside from a Military Treatment Facility.

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

ACCOMPLISHED

NR15-05

TITLE: Military Retirement

SHORT DESCRIPTION: Support for legislation that would modernize the current DOD retirement pay system by implementing changes similar to the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC), Pay and Retirement, Recommendation 1.

PROPOSAL TYPE: New Submission

SUBMITTER: Minnesota

BUSINESS CASE: Currently, 83% of service members are getting out of the DOD without reaching the 20 years of service required to be eligible for a retirement annuity. The MCRMC final report, recommendation 1, highlighted modernizing the current retirement system to a 401K style system that would allow service members to invest and own their retirement along the course of their career, even keeping that investment after they have left the service, regardless of the number of years served. Under this plan, current service members would be grandfathered to their current retirement but given the option to change their plan to the new 401K style plan. The plan would create an automatic enrollment into the government ran Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) for all newly joining service members as well as starting a government funded matching contribution. This recommendation also included the implementation of a continuation pay after 12 years of service.

RECOMMENDATION: The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to enact legislation to modernize the current Uniformed Services retirement program by adopting similar changes found in the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commissions, Pay and Retirement, Recommendation 1, which would include the establishment of a 401K style retirement fund, allowing service members to invest and own the fund, establish a matching government contribution, establish a continuation payment at 12 years of service, and allow for current service members to be grandfathered into their current retirement plan with the option to enroll into the new plan.

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

ACCOMPLISHED

NR15-06

TITLE: Survivor Benefit Plan

SHORT DESCRIPTION: Support for legislation that would modernize the current Survivor Benefit Plan by implementing changes similar to the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC), Pay and Retirement, Recommendation 2.

PROPOSAL TYPE: New Submission

SUBMITTER: Minnesota

BUSINESS CASE: The Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) is a popular, affordable program that provides a lifetime, monthly annuity to the survivors of retired military members for those members that enroll into the program and pay the monthly premiums. Some retiree survivors may also be eligible for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) payments from the VA, however, these survivors are restricted under federal law from receiving both payments in full, even though no duplication of benefit is involved. In FY 2013, 323,903 survivors received SBP payments but 20.7% of those also received DIC payments, making them subject to the SBP-DIC offset rule. The MCRMC agrees that the benefit offset is unfair to surviving spouses and recommends overhauls to the program that would include additional enrollment options to help for those who may be impacted by the offsetting rule.

RECOMMENDATION: The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to support legislation that would modernize the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) by implementing recommendations similar to those found in the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commissions, Pay and Retirement, Recommendation 2; maintaining the current plan for service members who want to elect subsidized coverage that would remain subject to the SBP-DIC offset, create an additional SBP program for service members who elect to pay an annually determined unsubsidized premium to ensure survivors receive full SBP and full DIC payments without an offset and allow for a one-time SBP open season for retirees to opt into the program of their choice.

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

ACCOMPLISHED

NR15-07

- TITLE:** Financial Literacy
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** Support for the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC), Pay and Retirement, Recommendation 3 that would call for stronger, more robust financial literacy education programs across the Department of Defense.
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** New Submission
- SUBMITTER:** Minnesota
- BUSINESS CASE:** The MCRMC concluded that the existing financial literacy programs across the DOD do not adequately educate service members and their families on financial issues and that it has been a long standing issue for all branches of the service. Weakness in financial literacy has been adversely affecting service members and their families; impacting careers, job security, and civilian life. Service members have overwhelmingly indicated that they would like to receive more education on financial stewardship.
- RECOMMENDATION:** The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges the Department of Defense to implement financial education recommendations such as those found in Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC), Pay and Retirement, Recommendation 3 to include increasing the frequency and strengthening the content of financial literacy education, specific educational classes at appropriate career points, providing an online budget planner for service members, and restructuring Leave and Earning Statements (LES's) to reflect service member benefit programs such as retirement, healthcare, and Survivor Benefit Plan, and possible lump sum retirement options.

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

ACCOMPLISHED

NR15-08

TITLE: Reserve Component Statuses

SHORT DESCRIPTION: Increase the efficiency within the reserve component by consolidating 30 reserve component statuses into 6 broader statuses, similar to the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC), Pay and Retirement, Recommendation 4.

PROPOSAL TYPE: Resubmission from 2012, Updated submission from 2014.

SUBMITTER: Minnesota

BUSINESS CASE: The Reserve Component (RC) currently has a variety of duty statuses that they could fall under while serving. These duty statuses reflect a reservist's availability to perform a specific mission, function, or job and is linked to appropriated funds and legal authorities. These various statuses and their respective criteria make it difficult for operational commanders to call RC members to duty. The current system is complex, aligns poorly to current training and mission support requirements, fosters inconsistencies in compensation and complicates rather than supports effective budgeting. The current system could also cause members to experience disruptions in pay and benefits as they transition from one duty status to the next.

RECOMMENDATION: The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to enact legislation to replace the 30 current reserve component duty statuses with six broader status such as the recommendations found in Recommendation 4 of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission final report. Congress should also stipulate that new orders for Reserve Component members should only be issued when an authority changes. If a duty status, purpose, or funding source changes, orders will only need to be amended accordingly to allow for uninterrupted pay and benefits.

**Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) Resolution
NR15-09**

- TITLE:** Enhancement of the TRICARE Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) program for exceptional family members
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** Improvement of the TRICARE ECHO program for exceptional family members with recommendations similar to the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC), Health Benefits, Recommendation 7.
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** New Submission
- SUBMITTER:** Minnesota
- BUSINESS CASE:** Under the Department of Defense TRICARE benefit program, the Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) provides financial assistance for services and supplies not traditionally available to help meet the needs of any Exceptional Family Member (EFM). ECHO provides assistive services, durable medical equipment, and other services that support the EFM's care and recovery, to include Home Health Care or applied behavior analysis reinforcement services. However, use of ECHO and its subsequent support services are only used after state sponsored programs are used. Service members are at a disadvantage for state sponsored services because they have to dis-enroll and reapply with every PCS or move that is a result of their career. This often finds service members placed on a waiting list to restart their EFM care, often times a waiting list that exceeds their assignment at a specific duty location. ECHO was designed by congress to be an alternative to unavailable waiver benefits from state programs, but since it cannot be used without using state programs first, it has become nearly impossible for service members to use and the find their EFM's not getting the care needed.
- RECOMMENDATION:** The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to enact legislation to that would modernize the TRICARE Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) to more closely align with state Medicaid waiver programs similar to Recommendation 7 of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission final report.

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

ACCOMPLISHED

NR15-10

TITLE: DOD and VA services collaboration and improvement

SHORT DESCRIPTION: Improvement of the joint collaboration between the Department of Defense health services and the Veterans Affairs health services to assist current serving and transitioning service members with recommendations similar to the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC), Health Benefits, Recommendation 8.

PROPOSAL TYPE: New Submission

SUBMITTER: Minnesota

BUSINESS CASE: The Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs provide health care to approximately 16 million service members, veterans, and their families each year. Congress established the Joint Executive Committee (JEC) to coordinate and improve cost effectiveness between the two systems. The MCRMC found numerous weaknesses in their research in the joint collaboration. Data sharing, formularies differences, and non-standardized policies all impair collaboration and prevent cost saving efficiencies. While joint health care would be the goal in this joint health care collaboration, it cannot be done without granting the JEC additional authorities and responsibilities to standardize and enforce collaboration between the DOD and the VA.

RECOMMENDATION: The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to enact legislation to refine the roles and responsibilities of the Joint Executive Committee (JEC), similar to Recommendation 8 of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission final report, in order to standardize and enforce collaboration between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

**Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) Resolution
NR15-11**

TITLE: Consolidated Commissary and Exchange Services

SHORT DESCRIPTION: Achieve efficiencies by consolidating the Department of Defense's commissaries and three exchange systems into a single, consolidated resale organization, similar to the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC), Quality of Life, Recommendation 9.

PROPOSAL TYPE: New Submission

SUBMITTER: Minnesota

BUSINESS CASE: The Department of Defense operates, through various agencies, a defense retail system of commissaries and exchanges, for service members worldwide. Each of these services, however, work under different business models, rules, coordination with their respective services, and under different governing bodies. Numerous studies have recommended consolidation of these services as a pursuit of improved cost effectiveness. A consolidated resale organization, with combined resources, increased operational flexibility, and better alignment of incentives and policies, would improve the viability and stability of these systems. It would sustain the benefit while reducing the combined reliance on appropriated funding over time.

RECOMMENDATION: The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges the Department of Defense to establish a single organization that consolidates the Department of Defense's commissaries and three exchange systems into a single defense resale system, similar to Recommendation 9 of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission final report.

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to enact legislation that would update Title 10 of the United States Code, Chapter 147, in order to reflect the consolidation of the several exchanges and the commissary system, similar to Recommendation 9 of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission final report.

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

NR15-12

- TITLE:** Restoration of entitlements and benefits of the Reserve Component during times of Involuntary Activation
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** Upon the enacting of 10 U.S.C. §12304b, members of the reserve component lost the ability to utilize certain benefits and entitlements that would normally be needed and required to be prepared for an involuntary activation in defense of the United States.
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** New Submission
- SUBMITTER:** Minnesota
- BUSINESS CASE:** On May 1, 2014, the Department of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs) signed a Memorandum explaining the guidance on service implementation of 10 U.S.C. §12304b Order to active duty for preplanned missions in support of combatant commands. An Information Paper was also attached to this Memorandum letter further defining the guidance surrounding ordering units to active duty under 10 U.S.C. §12304b. One of the biggest concerns surrounding this new law revolves around benefits offered or available to a member if they are involuntarily activated under this code. Currently, benefits and entitlements available to individuals involuntarily ordered to active duty under 10 U.S.C. §12302 in support of contingency operations are NOT available to Reserve Component (RC) members involuntarily ordered to active duty under 10 U.S.C. §12304b to support a contingency operation. One important distinction between active duty under §12302 and §12304b is that §12302 duty may qualify for a reduction in eligibility age for reserve retired pay under §12731, whereas §12304b duty will not. Whether or not the §12304b duty is in support of contingency operations does not matter. Additionally, §12304b orders do not provide RC members access to TRICARE prior their activation, nor does it provide TAMP benefits after deactivation.
- The Information Letter also goes on to state “Services may consider advising members involuntarily ordered to active duty under §12304b that such duty does not qualify for a reduction in the eligibility age for reserve retired pay and be given an option to volunteer, if they so desire, to serve under §12301(d), in which case their service may qualify for reduction in the eligibility age for reserved retired pay.”
- Further language within 10 U.S.C. §12304b discusses contingency operation verses a “preplanned mission”. A valid preplanned mission under §12304b is one in support of a Combatant Commander in which the Service has complied with the following requirements:
- The manpower and associated costs of such active duty are specifically included and identified in the defense budget materials for the fiscal year or years in which such units are anticipated to be ordered to active duty; and
 - The budget information on such costs includes a description of the mission for which such units are anticipated to be ordered to active duty and the anticipated length of time of the order of such units to active duty on an involuntary basis.

Also effected are potential USERRA (Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act) eligibility. To qualify for the 5 year exemption under USERRA, the Secretary of the Air Force (SECAF) has to designate the activation under 12304b as a critical mission or requirement. A preplanned mission does not necessarily fall into a “critical mission or requirement”.

In today’s day and age, the National Guard (Army and Air) has been providing the same level of capabilities and resources as our Active Duty (AD) counterparts since Desert Storm, nearly 24 years. During this time, the National Guard members selflessly volunteered to serve in any capacity needed and without hesitation and were provided the same benefits and entitlements as the Active Component (AC). Even during times of being involuntarily activated, Guard service members were able to count those days towards retirement age eligibility. Although most contingency operations are winding down, the need for the National Guard still remains but 10 U.S.C. §12304b does not afford the same benefits and entitlements to National Guard service members for the same operational services as the AC. Eliminating 10 U.S.C. §12304b would bring the RC involuntary activations in line with 10 U.S.C. §12302, thus allowing National Guard service members to receive the entitlements and benefits they deserve.

RECOMMENDATION: The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to rescind USC § 12304b and restore the benefits and entitlements to the reserve component members of the Department of Defense that they should be entitled to during times of involuntary activations.

**Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) Resolution
NR15-13**

TITLE: Posthumous Transfer of Post 9/11 G.I. Bill

SHORT DESCRIPTION: A Post 9/11 G.I. Bill cannot be transferred posthumously to dependents even when service member was eligible to transfer upon their death but did not initiate the transfer before passing away. This earned educational benefit is then lost and is not supplemented to survivors of National Guard members who died.

PROPOSAL TYPE: New Submission

SUBMITTER: Oklahoma

BUSINESS CASE: For many families who suffer the loss of a loved one who were current members of the Army and Air National Guard and died not while in an “active” status, the difference in survivor benefits is significant. As the law stands right now the posthumous transfer of G.I. Bill benefits is not addressed. Unfortunately, if it is discovered that a service member did not initiate the transfer of their unused Post 9/11 G.I. Bill to their spouse or dependents, the once allocated benefit is lost. Surviving spouses have been known to reach out to the NGB Retention office regarding this matter. The following recommendation is to allow posthumous transfer of Post 9/11 G.I. Bill benefits from a service member to their family, all of which who were previously eligible according to DOD Instruction. This is only allowing the transfer of a benefit, which was previously allocated to the member, to take place regardless of their death.

Under DODI 1341.13 dated May 31, 2013, the posthumous transfer of Post 9/11 G.I. benefits is not addressed. However, eligibility requirements are listed under this Instruction.

Per U.S. Code Title 38, Section 3319, *Authority to transfer unused education benefits to family members*, an individual approved to transfer entitlement of educational assistance under this section may transfer such entitlement only while serving as a member of the Armed Forces when the transfer is executed. Retired or separated members will not be eligible to transfer benefits to their dependents. The law does not address posthumous transfer of benefits from a member who was serving in the Armed Forces. The law does state that, “The death of an individual transferring an entitlement under this section shall not affect the use of the entitlement by the dependent to whom the entitlement is transferred.” However, this is written under the provision that the member had transferred their benefits prior to their death.

U.S. Code 38, Chapter 35, *Survivors’ and Dependents Educational Assistance* does NOT allow eligibility to family members when service members’ death was during Inactive Duty Training. Educational assistance is provided to dependents for members, while serving on Active duty, who died in the line of duty through the “Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship” and “The Survivors’ and Dependents’ Educational Assistance (DEA) Program”.

By allowing the posthumous transfer of the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill, it will also allow child dependents to possibly be qualified for education benefits under “The Yellow Ribbon Program” in which Degree Granting Institutions elect to make additional funds available for tuition and fees that are not covered under the GI Bill entitlement. However, in order to first be eligible for this benefit a child must already be a transferee of the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill from their parent.

RECOMMENDATION: The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to enact legislation to allow the transfer of deceased service members’ unused Post 9/11 G.I. Bill benefits to eligible family members when a transfer of entitlements was not initiated prior to eligible service members’ death and allow immediate use of transferred benefits under the conditions that the service member was previously eligible for transferability upon death in accordance with DODI 1341.13, 3.a. In regards to the service members’ previous eligibility in accordance with this instruction, failure to complete or agree to extended service agreement, in order to be eligible, shall not apply as long as minimum years of service were fulfilled prior to the service member’s death.

**Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) Resolution
NR15-15**

- TITLE:** Buy-Back of Temp Tech Time for Retirement by Dual Status Military Technicians
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** Technicians hired after 1996 are unable to buy back any of the time they spent on Temporary Technician status towards their retirement.
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** New Submission
- SUBMITTER:** Connecticut
- BUSINESS CASE:** Prior to 1996, Dual Status Military Technicians were allowed to buy back any time they spent in a temporary technician status. Anyone hired after 1996 cannot do that. A Temporary employee who proves themselves worthy enough to hire as full-time Technicians should be allowed to buy back their temp-tech time towards their retirement.
- RECOMMENDATION:** The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges the National Guard Bureau, the Office of Personnel Management, and Congress to enact policies and legislations that would allow Dual Status Military Technicians to buy back any time they spent in temporary technician status towards their retirement.

**Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) Resolution
NR15-17**

- TITLE:** Reserve Component Retirement Age Reform
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** Reserve Component members of the Department of Defense can serve 20 years to their state and county, earning a retirement that they cannot receive until they reach the age of 60, while the Active Component service member will draw their retirement check immediately after separating from the service.
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** New Submission
- SUBMITTER:** EANGUS Resolutions Committee
- BUSINESS CASE:** Reserve Component members of the Department of Defense who serve 20 years or more earn a retirement benefit equal to their time and service in uniform, however, they are not able to receive payment from the benefit until they reach the age of 60. Active duty retirees are able to collect their retirement pension immediately upon retirement from the armed services. Men and Women of the National Guard and Reserves take the same oath to serve and protect our country as the active component, making the same sacrifices to time, community, nation and family. They have proven themselves to be a required part of this Nations call to defense, both at home and abroad. They are a true operational reserve to the Total Force. Reserve Component members deserve parity of the retirement age with the active component. Removing the age restriction and making it equal to the active components rule of eligibility immediately upon separation of service after 20 years helps to secure the future of our all-volunteer force, particularly the Citizen-Soldier. To respect and honor their commitment and loyalty, they deserve the opportunity to receive the retirement benefit they have already earned immediately upon retirement.
- RECOMMENDATION:** The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to support legislation that would change 10 U.S. Code, Chapter 1223 by removing the restriction on Reserve Component Members who have served 20 years and earned a retirement benefit from the Department of Defense that requires that they wait until the age of 60 before they can start to receive compensation.

**Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) Resolution
NR15-18**

- TITLE:** Procurement of additional CV-22 Osprey
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** The house version of the NDAA 2016 increases procurement dollars and platform totals for the CV-22 Osprey.
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** New Submission
- SUBMITTER:** New Mexico
- BUSINESS CASE:** The CV-22 Osprey represents a major proven combat capability for the New Mexico Air National Guard (NMANG). Its ability for vertical take-off and landing, combined with fixed-wing speed and range has shown this to be a versatile multi-mission aircraft. The attributes of the CV-22 have enabled military planners to transcend traditionally defined roles and missions as currently dictated by legacy aircraft capabilities and resolve distance/time shortfalls for current Combat Rescue aircraft as noted by ACC/CC in Mar 15 regarding Combat Rescue Helicopter (CRH) mixed fleet: "It [CV-22] is as a very attractive possibility to mitigate current risk in the Combat Rescue mission area, particularly the CRH (HH-60) capability gap for expeditious long-range extractions." The strategic shift to Africa and the Pacific clearly reflects a serious shortcoming in AF Combat Rescue (CR) that is unsustainable by the current HH-60/C-130 force with regard to distance/response time. Today, the ANG provides 1/3rd of the CR capability and experiences the same limitations of the legacy fleet mix. In the current CRH replacement effort, the NMANG is the last unit to gain aircraft in 2024, if at all. While the CV-22 provides immense versatility to Combatant Commanders, it also fulfills the multiple mission sets of the Homeland Security/Defense Title 10 mission, SOF support/Training and numerous State Title 32 missions in a much more rapid, efficient, and economically achievable manner.
- RECOMMENDATION:** The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to support legislation similar to what is found in HR 2685, the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act, that increases the Presidents proposed budget for the Osprey Aircraft and adds one additional aircraft to AFSOC.

**Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) Resolution
NR15-19**

TITLE: Concurrent Receipt

SHORT DESCRIPTION: Change the required percentage of the VA rated disability from 50% to 30% to qualify for concurrent receipt.

PROPOSAL TYPE: Re-Submission

SUBMITTER: EANGUS Resolutions Committee

BUSINESS CASE: Concurrent Receipt means to receive both military retirements and VA disability compensation, and up until 2004 this was forbidden by law. To receive a VA disability compensation, disabled military retirees had to waive all or part of their military pay.

Qualified disabled military retirees with over 50% VA Disability currently get paid both their full military retirement pay and their VA disability compensation. This recently passed law phases out over 9 years for the VA disability offset, which means that military retirees with 20 years or more of service and a 50% (or Higher) VA rated disability will no longer have their military retirement pay reduced by the amount of their VA disability.

RECOMMENDATION: The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges Congress to support legislation to reduce required percentage of the VA rated disability from 50% to 30% (or higher) to qualify for concurrent receipt.

2014 EANGUS RESOLUTIONS REAFFIRMED FOR 1 YEAR

NR14-01: Federal tax exemption of \$5,000 for National Guard Soldiers and Airmen

NR14-07: Implementing Space-A for National Guardsmen, Reservists, "Gray Area" Retirees and their Dependents, and Eligible Surviving Spouses and their Dependents

NR14-09: Tuition Assistance (TA) payment eligibility for Army National Guardsmen

**Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) Resolution
NR14-01**

TITLE: Federal tax exemption of \$5,000 for National Guard Soldiers and Airmen

SHORT DESCRIPTION: Allow for an annual tax exemption of \$5,000 for Soldiers and Airmen of the National Guard to assist in the balancing of expenditures associated with their service.

PROPOSAL TYPE: New Submission

SUBMITTER: Mississippi

BUSINESS CASE: Soldiers and Airmen of the United States National Guard endure an increased amount of stressors that the average citizen in their service to the Country. The current state of the national economy is such that additional stressors are prevalent in the families of those who serve in the National Guard. In order for Soldiers and Airmen to live up to their service associated values, they commonly incur unforeseen sacrifices of time and money. The Army and Air National Guard combined make up less than .2% (approximation) of the country's population. A \$5,000 deduction equates to less than .02% (approximation) of total U.S. Revenue. This monetary value would be representative of compensation for financial losses that may be incurred throughout the year for National Guard service members in their effort to balance the erratic nature of being a citizen-soldier/airman.

RECOMMENDATION: The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges the Congress of the United States to enact legislation guaranteeing an additional exemption of at least \$5,000 from federal taxable wages and salary for any and all Soldiers and Airmen that receive payment for Duty from the National Guard of the United States of America. This \$5,000 should be in addition to any and all other exemptions that the service member may be entitled.

SPONSORS: Mississippi

**Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) Resolution
NR14-07**

- TITLE:** Implementing Space-A for National Guardsmen, Reservists, “Gray Area” Retirees and their Dependents, and Eligible Surviving Spouses and their Dependents
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** To implement law that was passed as part of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2013.
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** New Submission
- SUBMITTER:** Connecticut
- BUSINESS CASE:** The space-available travel law was included in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2013 and should now be providing equal benefits to active and reserve-component members, eligible surviving spouses and others the Secretary of Defense may deem as eligible.
- The Secretary of Defense should have, by now, established a priority order of travel for eligible members. The department has not implemented the law, nor updated the regulations needed.
- Currently, some National Guardsmen, Reservists, “gray area” retirees and their dependents, and eligible surviving spouses and their dependents are being denied these travel privileges. Asking the Secretary of Defense to quickly implement the law will help ensure that those benefits are available to those who are deserving of them.
- RECOMMENDATION:** The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges the Secretary of Defense to implement the law that expands space-available travel to all National Guardsmen, Reservists, “Gray Area” Retirees and their Dependents, and Eligible Surviving Spouses and their Dependents.

**Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) Resolution
NR14-09**

- TITLE:** Tuition Assistance (TA) payment eligibility for Army National Guardsmen
- SHORT DESCRIPTION:** Change the eligibility for an Army National Guardsmen to begin receiving Tuition Assistance benefits after his first year of service and the completion of AIT.
- PROPOSAL TYPE:** New Submission
- SUBMITTER:** Arkansas
- BUSINESS CASE:** The Army updated the Tuition Assistance payment eligibility requirements in ALARACT 317/2013 on 02 DEC 13. In this message, that went into effect on 01 JAN 14, a change to when a Soldier could start drawing the education benefit was made so that Soldiers had to wait one year after the completion of AIT before being eligible for the first payment. This change had very little impact on the Active Component as Soldiers time in the active Army doesn't start until they leave to go to Basic Training. Active Soldiers would report to training, graduate in five to nine months, then report to duty. If they were to attend college, it would be after hours and off duty. They would also start drawing the benefit anywhere from the seventeenth to twenty first month of their enlistment. Army Guard Soldiers, however, can spend anywhere from three to twelve months in the service before they even leave to go to basic training or AIT. By the time they return from training and wait the new requirement of one year after the completion of AIT, they have served multiple years of a six year contract without receiving a single payment from TA. Guardsmen also return from training and often immediately start college. This change was implemented to help the Active component focus on readiness and training before Soldiers started working on a college degree outside of duty. School is not a training distracter for the National Guard, since our Soldiers typically only drill one weekend a month and two weeks in the summer. When training does conflict with school, it is only for a few days at a time and can easily be worked out between the university and the Soldiers unit.
- RECOMMENDATION:** That the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urges the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army, G1, Compensation and Entitlements Division to change the eligibility of payment for the Tuition Assistance program for Army National Guard enlisted members so that Guardsmen are eligible to begin receiving benefit payments immediately following completion of initial entry training or upon reaching 1 year of service, whichever is later.

2013 EANGUS Resolutions Expiring with no Further Action

13-02: GI BILL FAIRNESS TO VETERANS RETIRED BEFORE AUGUST 1, 2009

13-03: BUSINESSES TO BE ENABLED TO DIRECT PAY FOR TRICARE RESERVE SELECT

(Resubmitted at EANGUS Draft NR 16-08)

13-04: PROVIDING FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY UNDER TRICARE

13-05: MAINTAINING THE NATIONAL GUARD'S OVERSEAS MISSIONS

13-06: PROTECTING DUAL-STATUS MILITARY TECHNICIANS FROM FURLOUGH UNDER FUTURE SEQUESTERS

13-07: SUPPORT FOR THE CYBER WARRIOR MISSION

13-10: FUNDING THE NATIONAL GUARD COUNTERDRUG PROGRAM

13-11: CORRECT EARLY RETIREMENT CREDIT

13-15: END STRENGTH OF THE NATIONAL GUARD

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

NR13-02

PERTAINING TO: GI Bill Fairness to Veterans Retired Before August 1, 2009

ISSUE: Military Veterans retiring between, and including, December 10, 2001 and July 31, 2009 never had an opportunity to make a transfer of Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits to a spouse and/or dependent children.

BACKGROUND: When Congress wrote the Post 9/11 GI Bill transfer-of-benefits rules, they stated that to make a transfer request, a military member had to be "serving on or after August 1, 2009" - the date when the Post 9/11 GI Bill started. However, eligibility for the Post 9/11 GI Bill went back to September 10, 2001. So those retiring before the August 1, 2009 date were fully eligible for the Post 9/11 GI Bill, to include the transfer option, but never had an opportunity to pass on those benefits to family members - because they were not currently serving on or after the August 1, 2009 date. They had already retired - some one day before the August 1st date. There are really two groups of veterans in question. Group one are active duty veterans retiring between, and including, September 11, 2004 and July 31, 2009. Group one met the 20-year "retirement eligible" requirement and served three years after September 10, 2001, so they are at the 100% Post 9/11 GI Bill tier - a requirement for active-year retirement eligible to be able to pass on benefits to family members.

Group two are Selected Reservists, namely National Guard and Reservists from all the military branches, who retired between December 10, 2001 and July 31, 2009. This group also met the 20-year requirement and served for at least 90 days on a Title 10 order in support of a contingency operation, which makes them eligible for the minimum 40% Post 9/11 GI Bill tier and eligible to pass on their Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits to a family member. We ask the veterans in both groups be allowed a one-time opportunity to pass on unused Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits to spouses or dependent family members - family members as defined in the Post 9/11 GI Bill rules. Veterans in these groups already have Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits - they just should be afforded the same opportunity to pass on those benefits that those currently serving "on or after August 21, 2009" have had.

RECOMMENDATION: Request President Obama and the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to initiate a Post 9/11 GI Bill Transfer-of-Benefits equality and fairness to 20+ year retired Military Veterans in both Active Duty and Reserve Component groups, as defined in the Preamble, retiring between, and including, December 10, 2001 to July 31, 2009, by allowing a one-time opportunity to pass on unused Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits to dependent family members.

SPONSOR: Minnesota

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

NR13-03

PERTAINING TO: Businesses to be enabled to Direct Pay for Tricare Reserve Select

ISSUE: Providing an incentive to small businesses to hire Reserve Component members

BACKGROUND: Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), more commonly referred to as ObamaCare, businesses are required to provide affordable health care to Americans. If a business does not provide care, they risk incurring monetary penalties. During a testimony before the House Veterans Affairs Committee, EANGUS offered up an entirely new idea that the subcommittee found to be intriguing. Executive Director Al Garver suggested that small business owners be somehow enabled to directly pay for the Tricare Reserve Select policy premiums of an employee who is a Guardsman or Reservist. By paying the single rate of \$51.62 or the family rate of \$195.81 per month, a small business owner could save from \$3,000 to \$10,000 or more per year, per individual. This number would be an immediate and significant incentive to hire Guardsmen and Reservists. Best of all, Guard members are already entitled to purchase these policies, so no new program needs to be developed.

RECOMMENDATION: To urge the Congress of the United States to enact legislation enabling businesses to direct pay the Tricare Reserve Select premium for Reserve Component (RC) members.

SPONSOR: Minnesota

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

NR13-04

TITLE: Providing for Physical Therapy under TRICARE

SHORT DESCRIPTION: To provide for certain forms of physical therapy under TRICARE

PROPOSAL TYPE: New Submission.

ISSUE: Unusual forms of physical therapy that are proven to work are denied payment under TRICARE

BACKGROUND: There are growing numbers of special-needs children and wounded warriors who, to our country's great shame, are increasingly being denied coverage for basic physical therapy. In April, H.R. 1705, Kaitlyn's Law, was introduced as a bill to amend the U.S. Code to provide for certain forms of physical therapy under Tricare.

SUBMITTER: Connecticut

BUSINESS CASE: The teenage daughter of a Navy captain, Kaitlyn suffers from cerebral palsy, scoliosis, autism and epilepsy. Without physical therapy, Kaitlyn's spine will curve to a degree that will fatally collapse her lungs. The severity of her condition rendered traditional physical therapy conducted on a ball or a bench useless. It was unclear what steps could be taken to arrest or at least slow her decline.

In an act of desperation, Kaitlyn's doctors hit upon a novel solution and tried conducting her physical therapy on a horse. Miraculously, it worked. But after six years of covering this therapy - which is less expensive than the traditional physical therapy it replaced - TRICARE changed its mind and began denying her coverage. It also demanded the family pay back a year of physical therapy costs. TRICARE argued that the use of a horse as a therapy tool was experimental and unproven, despite the clear evidence of its effectiveness with Kaitlyn.

After two years of appeals, the Samuels family finally had their day in court. They thought they'd won: The court recommended the Defense Department grant Kaitlyn her benefits. Victory was fleeting, however. The Pentagon sent the Samuels a letter disregarding the judge's recommendation and once more denying coverage.

This is not a spending bill, nor does it expand health care service. It merely serves to enforce the provision in the existing statute confirming coverage for therapy that is medically necessary and proven to work.

Kaitlyn's Law will clarify the physical therapy tools Tricare must cover in order to prevent the irresponsible mismanagement of benefits already available. It will ensure health care decisions for veterans and their families are made by doctors and patients, not by Washington bureaucrats without medical training or specific knowledge of the case.

It's important to ensure that the health care program serving uniformed service members, retirees and their loved ones works.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urge Congress to pass H.R. 1705, Kaitlyn's Law and provide our wounded warriors and military special needs children the care they need.

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

NR13-05

TITLE: Maintaining The National Guard's Overseas Missions

SHORT DESCRIPTION: To Protect the OCONUS missions of the National Guard and the National Guard's status as an Operational Reserve

PROPOSAL TYPE: New Submission.

ISSUE: The Department of the Army is looking to give many of the National Guard OCONUS missions to the active Component

BACKGROUND: On April 18, the Army Legislative Liaison Office advised all House and Senate offices of a change in policy regarding overseas deployments of the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve that is set to begin in fiscal 2014. Under the guise of cost savings, the Army could cancel some or all such deployments for the Army National Guard. This includes rotational missions in Afghanistan, along with historically Guard missions in Kosovo, the Sinai and the Horn of Africa. This is no small change. Over the past decade, the National Guard has deployed more than 750,000 individuals in support of contingency operations.

SUBMITTER: Connecticut

BUSINESS CASE: This proposal runs counter to the Army's rhetoric of keeping the Guard and Reserve operational and represents the first major step toward returning the reserve components to strategic reserves. The Army Guard of 2013 is the best-manned, best-trained, best-equipped and most experienced force in its long history. This is a direct result of the resourcing and legal authorities that Congress has provided the Guard since 9/11.

Ceasing overseas deployments of Guard troops will diminish the great investment Congress has made in the Guard since the beginning of the war on terrorism. The high level of readiness will atrophy, training opportunities will dwindle, and resourcing the Guard with new equipment will no longer be a priority. These steps will return the Guard to its pre-9/11 state.

If the point is to save money, it should be noted that a National Guard member costs about one-third of an active-component counterpart, and nearly \$2.6 billion could be saved for every 10,000 positions shifted from the full-time active Army to the part-time Army Guard.

Congress should ensure that this plan is reversed. It takes only a continued modest investment to maintain an operational force when compared to the cost of ramping up again if the Army successfully transforms the Army Guard back into a strategic force.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urge Congress to protect the Operational Reserve Status of the National Guard by reversing the Pentagon's policy of canceling OCONUS missions for the National Guard and replacing the National Guard Soldiers with Active Duty personnel.

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

NR13-06

TITLE: Protecting Dual-Status Military Technicians from Furlough

SHORT DESCRIPTION: To ensure Dual-Status Military Technicians are not subject to furlough.

PROPOSAL TYPE: New Submission.

ISSUE: Thousands of Dual-Status Military Technicians have received furlough notices and been furloughed under the current sequester despite the Pentagon having exempted uniformed personnel from sequestration. The President, Congress, and the DoD all agreed to exempt uniformed personnel from the sequester to limit the impact on military readiness.

BACKGROUND: Currently, there are more than 52,000 Military Technicians wearing the U.S. Army and Air Force uniforms to work every day, and they represent more than half of the National Guards full-time force. Most are furloughed one day per week and are losing 20% of their pay and readiness of personnel and equipment are suffering as a result. Unlike regular civilian employees, military technicians are required to be a member of the National Guard, attend weekend drills and annual training with their National Guard unit, maintain all fitness and readiness standards of their active-duty counterparts, and can be involuntarily ordered to active duty at any time. National Guard military technicians are the primary maintainers of National Guard ground equipment, airframes, equipment upgrades, and administrators of training at the unit level.

SUBMITTER: Connecticut

BUSINESS CASE: Unlike regular civilian employees, military technicians are required to be a member of the National Guard, attend weekend drills and annual training with their National Guard unit, maintain all fitness and readiness standards of their active-duty counterparts, and can be involuntarily ordered to active duty at any time. National Guard military technicians are the primary maintainers of National Guard ground equipment, airframes, equipment upgrades, and administrators of training at the unit level.

These uniquely hybrid positions have been developed over decades as the most cost-efficient and stable maintenance work-force in the DoD. Even their title – Military Technicians – makes them distinct from other DoD civilians. Their predecessors were known as Civilian Technicians, and it was Congress that decided they were more military than civilian, authorized them to wear their uniforms to work every day, and awarded them that title, along with expectations of fulfilling roles and responsibilities beyond that of their former duties.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urge Congress to protect National Guard Readiness by exempting Dual-Status Military Technicians from furloughs under the current and any future sequesters.

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

NR13-07

TITLE: Support for the Cyber Warrior Mission

SHORT DESCRIPTION: The Cyber Warrior Mission focuses on recruiting, training and maintaining cyber experts while protecting the country's national and economic security.

PROPOSAL TYPE: New Submission.

ISSUE: Protection of critical infrastructure and intellectual property which is vulnerable to persistent threats and exploitation.

BACKGROUND: A bi-partisan group of senators and representatives has introduced legislation to expand cyber security as a mission in the National Guard. Sponsors of the Senate bill, S. 658, are Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., Sen. David Vitter, R-La., Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., and Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash.

In the House, Rep. Steven Israel, D-N.Y., Rep. William Enyart, D-Ill., Rep. Richard Hanna, R-N.Y., Rep. Steven Palazzo, R-Miss., and Rep. Allyson Y. Schwartz, D-Penn. have sponsored an identical bill, H.R. 1640.

SUBMITTER: Connecticut

BUSINESS CASE: Because it is a force composed of citizen-soldiers and airmen, the National Guard has within its ranks talented members skilled in information technology who already defend the cyber network at their jobs in banking, telecommunications, and the medical industry and defense companies.

These Guardsmen will train state and local law enforcement, as well as other cyber responders, to develop a cohesive interaction between federal and state efforts, which is critical for any effective cyber defense.

This critical and common-sense piece of legislation will ensure that the states, along with federal agencies, are taking the right steps to protect our critical cyber infrastructure and intellectual property, which is vulnerable to persistent threats and exploitation.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urge Congress to pass the Cyber Warrior Mission.

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

NR13-10

TITLE: Funding the National Guard Counterdrug Program

SHORT DESCRIPTION: Funding the National Guard Counterdrug Program and the five National Guard Counterdrug Training Centers

PROPOSAL TYPE: New Submission

COMMENTS / PLACEHOLDER NOTES / LEGISLATIVE HISTORY: See Business Case

SUBMITTER: Pennsylvania

BUSINESS CASE: The Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Counter Narcotics and Global Threats continue to decrease the total funding to the 54 National Guard Counterdrug Programs and the five National Guard Counterdrug Training Centers (NGCDTCs) putting these programs at risk. The Northeast Counterdrug Training Center (NCTC) serves the military, law enforcement, and community-based organization's Counterdrug training needs throughout the state.

NCTC provides the most cost efficient and effective advanced counterdrug training available in the nation. Last year, the NCTC conducted 436 courses and training support missions reaching more than 12,800 law enforcement officers, 370 coalition members and 3515 military members, for a total of 16,773 participants. Evaluations conducted six months after training indicate that 97% of participants believe the course improved their ability to do their job. NCTC is one example of the five National Guard Counterdrug Training Centers throughout the nation. I encourage you to reach out to law enforcement agencies in your district to hear firsthand the impact that NCTC has across the state.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urge the Department of Defense to continue to fully fund the National Guard Counterdrug Program and the five National Guard Training Centers.

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

NR13-11

TITLE: Correct Early Retirement Credit

SHORT DESCRIPTION: Correct the early retirement credit to include all Guard and Reserve members who have served on active duty tours of at least 90 days retroactive to Sept. 11, 2001

PROPOSAL TYPE: NEW-SUBMISSION

COMMENTS / PLACEHOLDER NOTES / LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

SUBMITTER: Pennsylvania

BUSINESS CASE: The 1940s-vintage reserve retirement system assumed Guard and Reserve would have full civilian careers. But new “operational reserve” policy requires them to spend 25% of working lives on active duty. Over 875,000 have been called up since 2001, many for multiple combat tours significantly reducing their opportunity to build a full civilian retirement.

Congress acknowledged this national service demand by reducing the normal Reserve retirement age (60) by three months for each cumulative 90 days served on active duty. But credit was limited to service after January 28, 2008 (the date of the law change) and only if any 90 days of duty was served in a fiscal year. This denies credit for hundreds of thousands of combat tours between 2001 and 2008 and for any tour quarters that span Sept-Oct.

RECOMMENDATION: The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States urge Congress to pass legislation and the President to enact said legislation to Correct the early retirement credit to include all Guard and Reserve members who have served on active duty tours of at least 90 days retroactive to Sept. 11, 2001.

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

NR13-15

TITLE: End Strength of the National Guard

SHORT DESCRIPTION: Maintain National Guard Strength and increase its role in National Security

PROPOSAL TYPE: New Submission

COMMENTS / PLACEHOLDER NOTES / LEGISLATIVE HISTORY: See Business Case

SUBMITTER: Pennsylvania BUSINESS CASE: Senator Patrick Leahy and Senator Lindsey Graham wrote in National Guard Magazine, “The size of the active component will contract under the weight of current budgeting realities and to reflect the Framers’ constitutional vision of a small standing army augmented by a large cadre of citizen soldiers. Simultaneously, the guard and reserve must grow so that those cuts to the active force can be quickly and easily reversed if circumstances demand it.” The Army and Air National Guard are an operational force. In recent testimony on Capitol Hill, General Frank Grass reminded legislators that “today’s Citizen-Soldier is likely to have deployed at least once since 9/11, with an expectation that he or she will deploy again.” The National Guard is an accessible force; General Grass further stated, “Throughout history the National Guard has answered every call, participated in every contingency and supported the full spectrum of international responses. As a part-time force that has met or exceeded established readiness and proficiency standards, the National Guard is a crucial operational asset.” The National Guard is the military first-responder serving the governors and citizens of our nation; the National Guard responded to more than 100 natural disaster missions in 2012 and supported events such as the national political conventions and international summits.

Both Secretaries of Defense Leon Panetta and Robert Gates expressed significant concern about the “unsustainability” of cost growth in the personnel and benefits area, including deferred compensation. MG Wesley Craig, Adjutant General of Pennsylvania, has written, “The Army must be affordable yet scalable to successfully deal with unforeseen contingencies. Adequate military forces are an absolute necessity for national survival. “

Following a meeting on April 3, 2013, the Reserve Forces Policy Board conveyed some key observations to the Secretary of Defense:

“The steadily increasing fully-burdened and life-cycle costs of the active duty military manpower and the “all-in” support costs of the volunteer force will either drive further reductions in active component structure or result in unwise trade-off among personnel, training and modernization. The Department must make smart decisions about military end strength and force mix. The Reserve Components offer an affordable option, retaining capability and capacity that can be used when needed. Making arbitrary cuts, for the sake of equity, does not make sense. The Board strongly recommends the preservation of Reserve Component capabilities and that the Department should actively consider the Reserve Components to mitigate the increased risk associated with further Active Component end strength reductions either intentional or unavoidable as a result of declining resources.”

The National Guard is the cost effective solution in the optimal force to meet the threats of the future.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States opposes any reduction to the National Guard end strength and supports the expansion of the National Guard in the development and cost effective force to meet the threats of the future.