

The Desert Chronicle

Newsletter of the Enlisted Association National Guard of Arizona



P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

As I assume the position of the EANGA President, I want to thank each of you for your continued support of the Arizona Enlisted Association. I also want to thank MSG Bernardo Acosta for his leadership as your President over the last three years. I look forward to working with YOU, as well as our newly elected EANGA Board of Directors (shown on page 7) and our Senior Enlisted Leaders. As we work to increase membership and participation, I am open to any ideas you have and want to hear from the AZNG Soldiers and Airmen that we represent. As you can see by the articles in this newsletter, the Arizona Association has been busy working for you; I hope you take a few moments to catch up on what's going on. If you're interested in getting involved, contact me!

Tom Matthew, CSM-Ret, EANGA President

Photos below were taken at the AZNG Professional Development Program and Joint EANGA / NGAZZ State Conference held on April 30, 2016. From L to R: MG Michael McGuire addresses the attendees, as does State SEL CMSgt Shane Clark, and a panel of senior leaders. A joint color guard participated in the opening ceremonies which were attended by over 800 AZNG personnel. The conference was supported by over 35 exhibitors.



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2016 AZ STATE CONFERENCE REPORT

On April 30, 2016, the Annual State Conference for the AZ Enlisted Association was held at the Arizona Grand Resort in Phoenix. This year's event was planned and held jointly with the Officer's Association, and followed the Professional Development Program sponsored by the Arizona NG.

Over 800 military members attended the PD portion of the event on a paid status and enjoyed hearing from several speakers, to include Major General Michael McGuire, The Adjutant General, and our Senior Enlisted leaders. Attendees also supported the 36 exhibitors who were on site. EANGA appreciates the many Soldiers and Airmen who stopped by our booth to become a member and/or buy raffle tickets.

Upon conclusion of the PD program, lunch was provided for everyone staying for the Associations' business sessions. The joint business session included comments by MG McGuire, as well as remarks by State Representative Richard Andrade, and video remarks from most of our elected Congressional members.

A separate breakout session was held at the conclusion of the day to allow each Association (Officer and Enlisted) to conduct their business, vote on their own resolutions and to elect officers. Although attendance at the enlisted breakout was low, we appreciated having the State SEL, State CSM, and State CCM with us. Reports were provided by EANGA President MSG Bernardo Acosta, and Legis-

lative Chair CMSgt-Ret Dean Miller. In addition to a report on legislative activities over the past year, Chair Miller also presented one resolution for vote by the members. AZ Resolution 2016-01 was passed unanimously; it asks the US Congress to enact legislation to allow a free annual pass to all national parks for all military members. The current law excludes Reserve Component members and Retirees. With its passage, this resolution will be forwarded to the EANGUS Resolutions Chair for consideration and adoption at the national level.

Elections for officers were also held. President Acosta stepped down mid-term due to time constraints and his membership on the EANGUS Executive Council. We are

pleased to announce that CSM-Ret Tom Matthew was elected to serve the one-year remaining on the former President's term. Additional officers elected to the board for EANGA were: Vice-President Air, MSgt Mary Thompson (re-elected); Vice-President Junior Enlisted, SSG Lance Spencer; Secretary, CMSgt-Ret Dean Miller; Army Director, SFC Shannon Bishop; and At-Large Director, SFC Rigoberto Andrade (re-elected).

We also elected delegates to the National Conference which will be held in New Orleans, LA in August. Those elected were MSgt Mary Thompson (Air) and SSG Lance Spencer (Army), in addition to President Tom Matthew. Congratulations and thank you for representing our enlisted members!

EANGA SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The Arizona Enlisted Association is pleased to announce the winners of our annual Scholarship program. Recipients were selected based on academics, character, leadership and need.

Congratulations to this year's winners, who are as follows:

Hannah Sweet, daughter of SMSgt Kindra Sweet, 161st ARW, AZ ANG. Hannah was awarded the CMSgt Gerald R. Guild Memorial Scholarship for \$1,500. Hannah attends Northern Arizona University and is pursuing a degree in Secondary Education with an emphasis on

History. Her goals include teaching Social Studies to High School students.

The second scholarship was awarded to **Tristin Garcia**, daughter of SFC (Ret) Annette Garcia. Tristin is the recipient of the \$1,000 CSM (Ret) Harry & Mary Hensell scholarship which is supported by USAA. Tristin will be transferring from community college to pursue a degree in Global Studies at Arizona State University.

We were happy to have Tristin and SFC (Ret) Garcia attend the 2016 EANGA/NGAAZ State Con-

ference on April 30th so that EANGA President Bernardo Acosta could award this scholarship to her personally.

Both recipients also applied for the EANGUS CSM Virgil Williams Scholarship program; those scholarships will be awarded in August at the EANGUS National Conference. We wish them the best of luck in that competition and with their educational goals.

Additional information on other EANGUS scholarships can be found on the next page.



Tristan Garcia



Hannah Sweet

CONGRATULATIONS TO ARIZONA'S TOP SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN

The tradition continues as members of the Arizona National Guard came together on the evening of April 30, 2016 to recognize the most Outstanding Soldiers, Airmen and Civilian employees for 2015. The banquet was held at the Arizona Grand Resort & Spa in Phoenix upon conclusion of the Joint NGAAZ and EANGA State Conference and AZNG Professional Development Program which was held earlier that day.

As a host of the banquet, the Arizona Enlisted Association is pleased to recognize the enlisted winners again this year. Each enlisted winner will receive an annual EANGUS membership and award to be presented by EANGA at their unit in the near future.

The 2016 Outstanding Soldiers and Airmen are:

Arizona Army National Guard (pictured above right):

1SG of the Year: 1SG Robert McMahon, R&R Battalion

NCO of the Year: SFC Rolando Torres-Diaz, R&R Battalion (see special note on the next page!)

Soldier of the Year: SPC Anthony Chagolla, 856 MP Company

Arizona Air National Guard (pictured below right):

Senior NCO of the Year: MSgt Sean Pierce, 162nd Wing / MXG

1SG of the Year: SMSgt Jack Minaya, 162nd Wing / 214 RS

NCO of the Year: TSgt Peter Sullista, 161st ARW / SPS

Airman of the Year: SSgt Brian Hatley, 162nd Wing / OSS

CCMSgt Award: TSgt Rose Cormier, 162nd Wing / OSS

Additionally, we would like to congratulate the other AZNG officer and civilian personnel who were honored, as follows:

AZARNG Junior Officer of the Year:

CPT Jarrett Burman, 850 MP Bn;

AZARNG Junior Warrant Officer of the Year: CW2 George Wade, 158th MEB;

AZANG Junior Officer of the Year: Capt William Johnson, 161st ARW/OSS.

Also recognized at the banquet on April 30th were the following DEMA employees.

DEMA Employee of the Year: Ruben Galvan, Firefighter Crew Chief;

DEMA Supervisor of the Year: John Dirikson, Preparedness; and the DEMA Team of the Year from Grants & Finance: Ana Menjivar-Hamm, Londa Huwa,

Vanessa Moreno, Stacy Manning,

Teresa Arreola, and Nicole Elmer.



*Congratulations to all;
EANGA is proud to
recognize your hard
work and this
significant achievement
in your career.*

MORE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to the EANGUS CSM Virgil Williams \$2,000 cash scholarships that are given annually, EANGUS also offers the following scholarships with deadlines coming up in the near future. For more information on Scholarships offered by EANGUS, check out their website at: <http://eangus.org/we-care-for-america/scholarship-information/>

American Military University (AMU) is a leading provider of affordable, quality online education to motivated students worldwide. AMU will provide one (1) full-academic undergraduate scholarship (tuition only) for the EANGUS Member whose application and essay best demonstrates the need for educational support through this scholarship. Apply on line at: <http://eangus.org/2016-amu-scholarship-application/> NLT June 30th.

Grand Canyon University is offering one full ride scholarship to a NG member or dependent. The deadline to apply for the American Hero Scholarship is June 30th. Apply online at: <http://pages.gcu.edu/mil/american-hero.php>

American Intercontinental University is offering one full tuition scholarship which will allow a new student to complete a bachelors or masters degree. Apply NLT July 15th at: <http://eangus.org/2016-american-intercontinental-university-scholarship/>

Other universities offering EANGUS scholarships this year were University of Phoenix, Grantham University and Kaplan University. Their deadlines have passed and winners will be announced soon.



2016 EANGA GOLF CHALLENGE

EANGA's 3rd Annual Golf Challenge was held on Saturday, May 21st at The Links at Queen Creek in Phoenix. A total of 35 golfers participated and enjoyed a beautiful day despite it being a little windy.

After play, everyone enjoyed lunch and prizes, and the winners of the tournament were Team MSG from the 161st ARW. They are

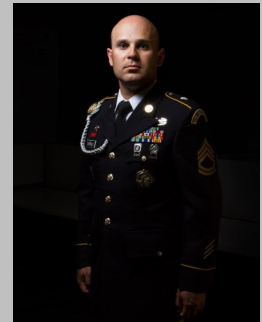
shown above right and the team members were Eric Queddeng, Jeff Lowe, Scott Choronzky, and Bob Boudro.

We appreciate the great support of our Senior Enlisted Leaders, CMSgt Shane Clark, CSM Patrick Powers, and CMSgt Daniel Gutierrez, pictured below, bottom left. We also want to extend a special thank you to MSgt Steve Mason from the

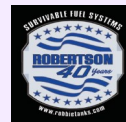


161st ARW, who donated his time to coordinate our golf tournament. We also thank all our corporate sponsors (their logos are shown below).

Congratulations SFC Rolando Torres-Diaz, AZARNG and Region VII NCO of the Year!



As a result of his selection as the AZARNG NCO of the Year, SFC Rolando Torres-Diaz (pictured above) of the Recruiting & Retention Battalion, also represented Arizona in the Region VII Best Warrior Competition and won there too! SFC Torres-Diaz competed against the best NCOs in Region VII—they hail from the States of California, Guam, Hawaii, New Mexico, Nevada, and Utah. This regional battle was conducted at Camp Navajo in May. As the Region VII NCO of the Year, he will now advance to the next level and compete for the title of ARNG NCO of the Year in the national Best Warrior Competition at the end of June in Boston, MA. Good luck and Congratulations!



EANGUS NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2016 NEW ORLEANS HERE WE COME!

New Orleans is the site of the 2016 EANGUS National Conference!

The 45th Annual EANGUS Conference will be held from 21-24 August 2016, at the Hilton Riverside Hotel on Canal Street in downtown New Orleans, LA. If you've not attended a National Conference before, this is the year to go as it is sure to be a great one and highly attended.

In addition to great speakers and good information to be provided during the Business Sessions, the Louisiana Association has some great activities planned for us to include a golf tournament at TPC Louisiana, Welcome Night at the Grand Oaks Mansion at Mardi Gras World, All Area Hospitality Night at Heritage Park in downtown New Orleans and the All States Banquet on Wednesday evening.



www.eangus2016.org

EANGUS 45th Conference New Orleans, LA 21-24 Aug, 2016

More information can be found at: www.eangus2016.org. Lodging at the Hilton is \$107.00 per night. Current conference registration price is \$175.00 up to July 1st when the price will increase to \$200.00 per person. If interested in attending, contact EANGA President Tom Matthew at tandmmatthew@cox.net for more details.

EANGUS LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

EANGUS has been hard at work influencing the House and Senate during their considerations of the National Defense Authorizations Act. Below you will find an overview of the legislation and EANGUS successes.

H.R. 4909, the Fiscal Year 2017 National Defense Authorization Act On Wednesday, May 18, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 4909, the Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17) National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) by a vote of 277-147. Many Democrats voted against the annual legislation because it shifts \$18 Billion in temporary, Overseas Contingency Operations funds into the base defense budget, which caused President Obama to issue a veto threat. Representative Poliquin's (R-ME) amendment #30 to assist members of the National Guard who travel long distances to report to active duty training was adopted by voice vote. The amendment calls for a DOD study on the annual travel distances of Reserve Component members and stemmed from a 2016 EANGUS Legislative Workshop point paper. The adoption of the amendment is a big win for EANGUS members. Other successful Guard-friendly amendments include amendment #4 to fund the National Guard Youth Challenge Program, amendment #47 National Guard Counter-Drug Programs funding, and amendment #48 reauthorizing funds for an existing suicide prevention and resilience program. The bill authorizes a 2.1 percent military pay increase.

Section 624 *Equal Benefits Under Survivor Benefit Plan for Survivors of Reserve Component Members who Die in the Line of Duty during Inactive-Duty Training*, amends Title 10 United States Code, to eliminate the different treatment under the Survivor Benefit Plan afforded to members

of the Reserve Component who die from an injury or illness incurred during Inactive-Duty training compared to members of the Armed Forces who die while on AD.

S. 2943, the Fiscal Year 2017 National Defense Authorization Act During the week of May 9, the Senate Armed Services Committee marked up S. 2943, the Senate version of the FY 2017 NDAA. S. 2943 authorizes \$543 billion in base activities and \$59 billion in the Overseas Contingency Operations account. The Senate will resume consideration of S. 2943 during the week of June 6. Consideration is expected to last until mid-June and Senate Democrats might delay a final vote on the legislation, in light of the election. The bill authorizes a 1.6 percent military pay raise across the board.

To appease criticism from some of the TAGS and the National Association of Governors, section 1048 of the bill delays the conversion of some military technicians to Title 5 civilians until October 1, 2017. It also directs the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, to submit to SASC and HASC a report on the feasibility and advisability of converting remaining military technicians (dual status) to personnel performing active Guard and reserve duty under section 328 of title 32, United States Code, or other applicable provision of law. The report is due on March 1, 2017.

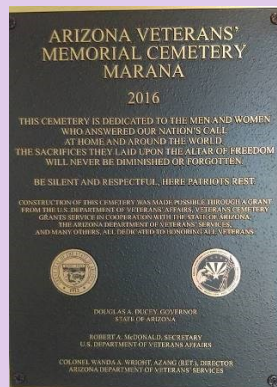
Section 707, a *Pilot program to provide health insurance to members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces*, would authorize the Secretary of Defense to carry out a 5-year pilot program in conjunction with the Director of the Office of

Personnel Management (OPM), to provide commercial health insurance coverage to eligible reserve component members who enroll for either individual, self plus one, or self and family coverage. If DOD or OPM determine that a pilot program is feasible, OPM could contract with qualified health insurance carriers to provide beneficiaries with a variety of health benefits plans, varying in design, covered benefits, geography, and price. Please note that RC members already eligible for FEHBP will not be allowed to enroll in said pilot. Section 707 is a direct win for EANGUS, following testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee's Personnel Subcommittee in March 2016.

S. 2921, Veteran First Act Chairman Isakson and Ranking Member Blumenthal, of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, recently announced Senate Bill 2921, the Veterans First Act. Section 403 will ensure that National Guard and reserve members ordered to active duty to receive medical care and National Guard and Reserve members serving under sections 12301(g), 12304(a) and 12304(b) accrue time toward Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility. Section 408 will ensure that reservists can regain lost entitlement to MGIB-SR when activated to active duty and section 409 ensures that reservists who lost eligibility for REAP can gain credit toward the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Section 905 would honor as veterans certain individuals who performed service in the reserve components of the Armed Forces. Section 905 is honorary veteran status legislative language that has proven so elusive for EANGUS. The U.S. Senate is slated to finally pass honorary veteran status for members of the Reserve Component who served 20 years, but never 180 consecutive days of active duty service.

NEW STATE VETERANS CEMETERY OPENS IN SOUTHERN ARIZONA (MARANA)

EANGA is happy to report that the new State Veterans Cemetery in Marana has opened. Members of our association were active in lobbying for its development, attended the ground breaking, and were present on March 26, 2016 when the dedication occurred. Photos show James Kai whose family donated the land, as well as Paul Marsh, a Veteran and former Pima County Supervisor who was instrumental in making this happen.





EANGA FIREARM RAFFLE

The Enlisted Association National Guard of Arizona (EANGA) will be conducting a 12-month Firearm Raffle. Starting in October of 2016, a drawing will be held each month and a predetermined firearm will be awarded to the winner. Each of the numbered tickets will remain in the raffle for the entire 12 months giving you 12 chances to win, even if you have already won in a previous month. Tickets are \$100 each (regardless of when you purchase it during the 12 month raffle period), and only 400 tickets will be sold. Get your tickets NOW! Tickets can be obtained from the following EANGA members: Phoenix: MSG Ben Acosta or CSM-Ret April Schneider or Tucson: MSgt Mary Thompson or SFC Rigoberto Andrade.



NOTE: Personnel must be 21 years of age to purchase a ticket. Winners will go through a background check unless they already possess a CCW permit. Firearm transfer is mandatory. If winner is ineligible or unable to accept transfer of the firearm for any reason, another winner will be drawn.

Firearm Details

- October - Bersa Thunder .380
- November - Pink Kahr CW9
- December - Mossberg 808 .22LR Rifle
- January - Glock 23 .40 Cal
- February - Choice of Chiappa 1911-22LR or Hi-Point C9
- March - Beretta PX4 Storm Sub-compact 9mm
- April - Choice of Taurus 845, 45 ACP or Hi-Point C9
- May - Taurus 24/7 9mm
- June - Taurus PT22
- July - S&W 22A
- August - Taurus PT709 Slim, 9mm
- September - Surprise! Mystery firearm to be drawn

NOTE: Each month's firearm package will include ammunition and extras that are normally not included when purchasing these firearms separately.

EANGA extends our thanks to the following businesses who made contributions to support this raffle: Crossfire Guns, United Nations Ammo, Alvarez Combat Essentials, and Home Plate Sports & Guns.

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OUR MISSION:

The Enlisted Association National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) and the Enlisted Association National Guard of Arizona (EANGA), exist to “promote the status, welfare, and professionalism of the enlisted members of the National Guard” and to “promote adequate National Security”. The Association lobbies to provide adequate full-time staffing, adequate pay and allowances, adequate health, medical, family and death entitlements, incentive benefits, first line equipment, resources, and weapons systems, and military construction.



Enlisted Association National Guard of Arizona

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Legislative First, Membership Always!

Contact Us! EANGA Executive Council Contact Information

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Vice-President Air: MSgt Mary Thompson, mary.k.thompson63.mil@mail.mil
Vice-President Army: CSM-Ret April Schneider, april.y.schneider.civ@mail.mil
Vice-President Junior Enlisted: SSG Lance Spencer, lance.r.spencer@gmail.com
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Director Retiree: CSM-Ret David Austin, csm.austin.ret@gmail.com



The Modern Minuteman represents EANGUS and our members.... Posters suitable for framing and t-shirts are available for purchase from the artist on line at:
www.tacticaldrawings.com

MEMBERSHIP

Join EANGUS / EANGA today — an annual membership for AZNG personnel is just \$20; a life membership is just \$185. Joining is simple—go to www.eanga.org and select “Membership” and follow the prompts to pay with a credit card on line. If you have any problems with the online membership process or questions about your membership, please contact Membership Chair CSM-R Karen Craig, at krcraig1955@cox.net



Grand Canyon University is proud to support the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States

Since 1949, Grand Canyon University has been helping students find their purpose and achieve their potential by preparing them to pursue their chosen career, advance in the current career, or re-career into a different field. GCU offers more than 150 academic programs in high-demand employment areas, such as nursing, IT and hospitality.

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- **Transfer-friendly** – Transfer up to 90 credits. Submit your transcripts and a military enrollment advisor will be able to determine your estimated tuition costs and anticipated graduation date within 24 hours.
- **Special Military Rates** – GCU offers a special reduced military rate per credit hour for National Guard members and their spouses.
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**As a benefit of this partnership, when you submit your information,
GCU will make a donation to your National Guard association!**



For more information visit: gcu.edu/EANGA