



The Desert Chronicle

EANGA President's Message...



I would like to start by first thanking EANGUS and all the members from across the United States who attended the 2016 National Conference in New Orleans, LA from August 21-24th. This includes thirteen Arizona Enlisted Association members and spouses. As a reminder, there were initially some rumors about this conference being cancelled as a result of the flooding and relief efforts going on around Baton Rouge, LA at that time. However, despite all of the Louisiana National Guardsmen being pulled from conference support to assist in flood relief, the 2016 National Conference was a great success and a great demonstration of who the Guard is and what we do. Conference attendees from other States, including our Arizona members, pitched in to man the registration booth, work in the operations center, drive vehicles to pick up other attendees at the airport, cook and serve southern food at evening activities, as well as a myriad of other tasks which have to be done to put on a conference. Additionally, EANGUS worked with the local Red Cross, United Way, and other relief organizations to provide volunteer opportunities so our attendees could lend a hand to the local community. Over 100 attendees from 33 different States volunteered to pack clothing and food donations for the victims of

the flooding, clean a bunk house for relief volunteers to stay, and provide other community support. Also, with the generosity of our EANGUS members and exhibitors, over \$80,000 was collected for the We Care for America Soldier and Airmen Relief Fund; these funds have been earmarked for distribution to approximately 33 Louisiana National Guard members who suffered flood damage to their homes and personal property. After seeing the outstanding level of support and outpouring of help given to the State of Louisiana and our Louisiana Guardsmen in need, I am very proud to say that I'm a member of EANGUS!

I also want to thank former State Command Sergeant Major Karen Craig, who was recognized during the National Conference in New Orleans. She is the editor of the Desert Chronicle, which won 1st Place in the Non-Commercial Category of the EANGUS Publications Contest. She has put untold hours into this publication, but was also just re-elected as the National Secretary and sits on the Executive Council of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States. It goes without saying, she is extremely busy, and her dedication to both the state and national associations is outstanding. Her years of service, efforts and profes-

sionalism were recognized at the National Conference, as she was presented with the EANGUS Minuteman Trophy, the highest award given by the association.

Speaking of conferences, although April 2017 seems like a long way off, we are already beginning to plan the 2017 State Conference which will be held at the AZ Grand Resort on 22 April 2017. I encourage all of you to get involved in some way or other; volunteer before or during the conference, run for office or attend the conference. Your input and participation are welcome.

Finally, please take a few extra minutes to read the rest of the articles in our "award winning" newsletter. See the information on page 4 about our Firearms Raffle. The proceeds from this program will be used to fund EANGA scholarships and the costs of our legislative efforts. Don't miss the Legislative Update and the story about SMSgt Ginther's receipt of the EANGUS Heroism Award which are both on page 3.

If you are interested in getting involved or have any ideas or questions, please feel free to contact me at tandmmatthew@cox.net. Thank you for being an EANGA member!

Tom Matthew, CSM-Ret
EANGA President

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EANGA Conference Attendees—August 2016

2016 National Conference Report

As reported on page 1, the 2016 National Conference in New Orleans was a huge success attended by over 1,100 personnel. Despite the impact of the flooding in Baton Rouge, several key leaders attended, providing briefings and comments. Speakers included SGM Luther Thomas, 11th Senior Enlisted Advisor (SEA) to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs; BG-Ret Kenneth Ross from NGAUS; Mrs. Holly Petraeus; Assistant Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Agency; SGM John Edwards from the National Guard Bureau Legislative Affairs Office; representatives of the TRICARE Defense Health Agency; and Mr. Doug O'Connell, Attorney, who provided a brief on G-RAP. Additionally, even though the current SEAs of the National Guard did not make it, CSM Brunk Conley, former ARNG CSM, and CMSgt-Ret Denise Jelinski-Hall, former SEA to the Chief, NGB and several current State Enlisted Leaders held an informative panel discussion with attendees and over 80 Professional Development Soldiers and Airman.

In addition to these speakers, EANGUS members attended committee meetings and conducted business which included the passage of twenty-three Resolutions which will form our Legislative priorities for next year. EANGUS also held elections for the National Officers and the At-Large Director in each of the seven Areas. President CMSgt-Ret John Harris (LA) was re-elected, as was Secretary CSM-Ret Karen Craig (AZ). Elected to the position of Vice-President was 1SG-Ret Brad Howell (UT) and Treasurer, CMSgt Stephen Burris (AK).

Another special event this year was the recognition of the EANGUS "Pioneers and Founders." EANGUS was formed in 1972 by a small group of

enlisted members who recognized the need for enlisted National Guardsmen to have a voice on Capitol Hill. These members had a vision and through their dedication and determination, the Association was formed. Each State had the opportunity to nominate its members who participated in the initial formation of EANGUS, Pioneers and Founders from AZ include: CMSgt-Ret John Dytrt, 1SG-Ret Conrad Ericson, SMSgt-Ret Paul Fuetterer, CSM-Ret Harry Hensell, CMSgt-Ret Fred Spears, and CMSgt-Ret Bobby White. Although none of these Arizona members or family were able to make it to New Orleans, about two dozen of the Pioneers and Founders or their descendants were present. Each Pioneer and Founder received a medallion and certificate in recognition of the part they played in EANGUS' history.

EANGUS attendees were also able to enjoy the local area to include a great Welcome Night event held at Mardi Gras World. All in all, it was a very informative conference, a great opportunity to visit with friends from across the US, and a rewarding experience as our members helped those in need due to the flooding in Louisiana. We hope that you can attend the 2017 National Conference in Reno, NV, 27-30 August 2017.



The EANGUS App is here!



Check out the new EANGUS App! It was a hit at the recent 45th Annual Conference and will continue to provide information to our membership all year long. Some of the information currently on the App includes: the National Guard Almanac and Education Guide, the New Patriot Magazine, 2016 EANGUS Corporate Exhibitors, the EANGUS Document Library, 2017 Conference "Early Bird" registrations, and a link to the new EANGUS Apparel store. Also, check out the Activity Stream where members can post association-related photos and comments. There will be more information added over time and we look forward to your comments. Get the app by going to one of the links below:
 For the iPhone: <https://itunes.apple.com/app/id1137540996>
 For Android: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.attendify.conf5f6f3e>



Arizonan wins University of Phoenix Scholarship

Congratulations to Julio Romero III who was named as one of the 2016 University of Phoenix (UoFP) full-ride scholarship recipients. Julio is the son of SGM Julio Romero, 198th Regional Support Group and EANGUS member.

Julio recently graduated from Phoenix Community College with an Associates in Administration of Justice. Upon notification from EANGUS that he won, he started taking classes at the UoFP in July and is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Administration of Justice with a Certificate in Human Services and Criminal Justice.

Julio has been an Honor's student throughout high school as well as at Phoenix College and also works fulltime at CVS Pharmacies. EANGUS is proud to see that UoFP selected such a deserving winner and we wish Julio the best.

Scholarships are just one benefit of your EANGUS membership and SGM Romero encourages AZNG members, especially those with college-age children, to take advantage of this. SGM Romero reports that between his transferred 9/11 GI Bill benefits and the UoFP scholarship, his son's education hasn't cost them a dime!

Legislative Update



Did you know that only certain military personnel can get a free pass into the Grand Canyon National Park? Did you know that as a retired National Guardsman, you are not eligible for that free pass? Do you think that's fair? The Enlisted Association National Guard of Arizona is working to change that. A resolution was drafted and approved by our state association members during the Arizona State Conference held in April, and was subsequently forwarded to EANGUS for review.

During the 2016 EANGUS National Conference in New Orleans, the EANGUS Resolutions Committee met. Fifty-eight committee members from 26 different States were present. EANGA President Tom Matthew represented Arizona. The EANGUS Resolutions

Committee reviewed thirty-two EANGUS draft resolutions and the committee recommended twenty-three resolutions for approval.

One of those approved resolutions was submitted by Arizona. The resolution was in regards to the free annual pass which is provided to active military members for entrance into Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service sites that charge entrance fees. This currently applies only to those military members who carry a CAC Card or DoD Form 1173. It excludes Medal of Honor recipients, retired members of the Active Duty, Reserves and the National Guard, and their dependents who carry a military ID. The resolution which was approved, urges Congress to change the free annual pass policy to include Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard personnel, all military retirees, Medal of Honor recipients, and their dependents

with proper military ID.

You can get more information about the other EANGUS resolutions passed this year by going to www.eangus.org. Select the Document Library tab and then go to the Resolutions folder. Your EANGA Legislative Committee will stay in contact with EANGUS to track the progress of this resolution and will provide updates as we get them.

As a member of the Enlisted Association National Guard of Arizona, you have a voice to affect change. Do you have an issue that you would like to submit as a resolution for change in our laws or policies? If so, submit it to your EANGA Legislative Committee Chairman, CMSgt-Ret Dean Miller at deanmiller1@cox.net. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain by "sounding off"! HOOAH!!

Air Guardsman Awarded EANGUS Award for Heroism

Senior Master Sergeant Jeff Ginther, a member of the 162nd Wing, AZ Air National Guard, is the recipient of the EANGUS Heroism Award which was presented to him by President CMSgt (Ret) John Harris during the recent 2016 All States Banquet in New Orleans, LA (see photo below). He received the award based on quick actions he took last July when he witnessed a terrible vehicle accident. At the time of the incident, he was assigned to the 144th Fighter Wing, Fresno, CA.

The narrative of the award states that SMSgt Ginther quickly responded after he came upon an accident in Fresno involving a civilian driver who had lost control of his vehicle while trying to avoid hitting a bicyclist crossing in the middle of the road. The driver's vehicle swerved, jumped the curb and ended up submerged in an irrigation canal. SMSgt Ginther immediately parked his vehicle and went into action. While the 12 to 15 bystanders were videotaping the incident on their cell phones, SMSgt Ginther wasted no time and jumped into the swift moving water.

At the time, SMSgt Ginther was a water survival instructor for the Aircrew Flight Equipment section at the 144th FW and reported that "The water was moving a lot faster than I was expecting. The training I've received from the Air Force really helped me to do the right thing."

The driver was still in the vehicle when Ginther swam up. "(The driver) had a look on his face that I'll never forget and I knew at that moment that I was doing the right thing." There was another individual also in the water trying to assist in the rescue. That individual was trying to get the door open and get to the driver. As soon as the door was opened, the driver exited the submerged vehicle, and both he and the other individual went under. Ginther approached the two and got them to the canal bank. Once back up on the canal bank, the driver was checked over by medical personnel, but refused treatment. Ginther further stated, "The Air National Guard is here, whether it is in combat or peacetime, to help our fellow citizens. I feel extremely humbled to be given this situation to pay back the community for all they do for us."

Subsequent to this incident, SMSgt Ginther moved to Arizona on 1 July 2016. He currently holds the position of Aircrew Flight Equipment Superintendent for the Operations Support Squadron of the 162nd Wing Operations Group in Tucson. EANGA extends our congratulations and sincere thanks to SMSgt Ginther for his heroic actions!



EANGA 12-MONTH FIREARM RAFFLE

The Enlisted Association National Guard of Arizona (EANGA) is conducting a 12-month Firearm Raffle. Starting next month, October 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.

No more than 400 tickets will be sold improving your chance to win. There are still tickets remaining and each ticket is \$100 (regardless of when you purchase it during the 12 month raffle period). Pictured below are a few of the firearms on the raffle.

Get your tickets NOW — everyone who purchases a raffle ticket between 1 Oct - 31 Dec gets a free annual EANGUS membership also; see page 5 for details! Tickets can be obtained from the following EANGA members: PPMR: MSG Ben Acosta, CSM-Ret April Schneider, SFC Haffley, SSG Espinoza, 161st ARW: MSgt Swanson; Tucson: MSgt Mary Thompson and SFC Rigoberto Andrade.



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

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

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.



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It's an honor.



**ENLISTED ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL GUARD OF
ARIZONA**

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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.



**Legislative First,
.....Membership Always!**

162d Fighter Wing 60th Anniversary!

On the weekend of 26-28 August 2016, current and previous members of the 162nd Wing, AZ Air NG, celebrated its 60th Anniversary and historical past in Tucson, AZ. EANGA was proud to be included in their Golf Tournament which kicked off the event on Friday at the Sewailo Golf Course at Casino Del Sol.



The full tournament had 144 golfers and was well supported by 88 sponsors (shown on the photo at the right) We particularly want to thank CMSgt Brian Karas and MSgt Eddie Dominguez for working with EANGA’s CMSgt-Ret Dean Miller to make this event a huge success. EANGA members who supported this event were President Tom Matthew and Vice-President Air, MSgt Mary Thompson (shown above), as well as CMSgt-Ret Dean Miller and Past President, MSG Bernardo Acosta.



**EANGA End of Year
Membership Specials!**

Is your membership expiring in the next 90 days? Do you know co-workers who would like to join EANGUS to take advantage of our scholarship program or the other benefits we offer?

Join NOW! If you sign up or renew between 1 Oct - 31 Dec 2016, you will save \$5 on an annual membership. You can join on line at our EANGA website for just \$15.00 - go to www.eanga.org and select the Membership tab at the top, or contact Membership Chair, Karen Craig at krcraig1955@cox.net. Additionally, during the same period, anyone buying a ticket for the 12-month Firearm Raffle, will automatically receive a FREE annual membership...get your ticket now!

**Visit the new
EANGUS Apparel Store**

Get your EANGUS or EANGUS Auxiliary logo-branded shirts and apparel at: http://www.companycasuals.com/eangus_shop/start.jsp



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