



From the Desk of the President



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- If you are not involved**
- Don't complain about:**
- Equipment
 - Pay Raises
 - School Benefits
 - Retirement
 - VA Benefits
 - TriCare
 - Your Job
- Join EANGUS have a Say**

With the elated winning of the Broncos last weekend against the U of O Ducks we celebrate once again the true greatness of Idaho as we know it. Every year there is something we celebrate as a notable accomplishment for our State. This year is also another year to celebrate for your State EANGUS chapter. Membership is four times what it was a year ago. More members attended the EANGUS National Conference in August funded by Professional Development and Recruiting contest resources than ever. EANGUS is no longer a "heard of" organization in the Idaho National Guard. People know who we are and what we do. Look everywhere and you will hear members talking about the goals we set not long ago. We met or surpassed those goals.

Our Educational Bill that passed in the State Legislature proved that we are making positive changes in the Idaho National Guard and we have now chosen new legislative proposals for support from MG Lafrenz and the Governor. Our support on Capitol Hill in Washington has improved with members of congress joining the National Guard Caucus. The challenge continues with

many unsettling ideas that may have a severely negative impact on us in the National Guard. Anyone can continue to be aware through email and newsletters regularly by contacting our Legislators through the EANGUS or NGAUS websites to make sure the National Guard as we know it doesn't slip away from a lack of attention. Take a minute and study the current issues through those websites.

As we see the chapter grow and the State and National numbers increase we know we are on the right track. More Idaho EANGUS members than ever attended the National Conference for many years. More funding is available. The enthusiasm and activity has truly changed our Idaho National Guard culture from people who have only heard of EANGUS. We are now developing members from the retirement rolls. Join now, bring a friend and take part in changing your future for the better and for those who follow after us. If everyone does a little, we will accomplish a lot.

Thank you once again to all those who spend a spare minute each day doing something to help the Na-



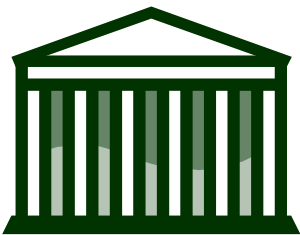
tional Guard through EANGUS and I invite all those as does MG Lafrenz. See you at our next meeting.

1SG Patrick Flaherty
 President
 EANGUS-IDAHO
 272-4435

What a Year and What's to Come



Corporations advertise here and reach over 4,000 potential customers with EANGUS's Corporate Sponsorship Program. Contact us today to see how to boost your sales income and support your Idaho National Guard. See page 6. for contact info.



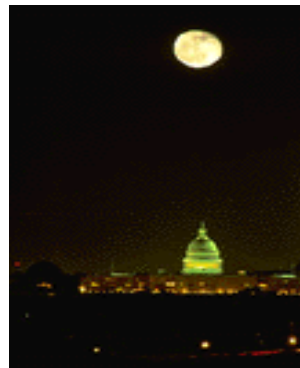
On October 1st fiscal year 2008 will be a distant memory and we will begin preparations for another challenging year. In our rush to close out one year and begin another we often forget what we have already accomplished so I would like to take a little time to reflect on FY 08. Future generations of Enlisted Association devotees will surely look back on 2008 as one of the most successful in our organization's history.

Let's start off with one of the biggest issues we are hearing about this election cycle, healthcare. Despite their best efforts and hard work many Americans remain uninsured and this issue is quickly coming to a head. The Enlisted Association of the National Guard tackled this issue and fought for many improvements to the healthcare dilemma facing our traditional soldiers and airmen.

The biggest victory on the healthcare front was getting Tricare Reserve Select (TRS) signed into law. TRS is a premium-based health plan that qualified National Guard and Reserve members may purchase. TRS, which requires a monthly premium, offers coverage similar to Tricare Standard and Extra. This plan allows guardsmen to purchase Tricare at an extremely low rate so they remain covered 24/7 regardless of status as long as they are an active guard member. This is ideal for traditional guardsmen who go to school full-time or who may not have health insurance through their full-time employer.

Another big achievement on the healthcare front perhaps saved the Tricare system as we know it. Earlier in the year President Bush decided to reduce the amount of money paid to Medicare/tricare doctors by 10.6% with several

more cuts imminent. These cuts would have destroyed tricare and Medicare because doctors could not afford to be part of the program at such a reduced rate. The first round of cuts was set to go into effect on July 1st but many key legislatures came up with a controversial bipartisan bill to halt them. President Bush quickly vetoed the bill in order to maintain the cuts but congress was able to overwhelmingly override his presidential veto by vote of



383-41 in the House and 70-26 in the Senate! Many Republicans who had originally voted against the bill changed their mind after Senator Ted Kennedy briefly returned to the Senate floor despite undergoing treatment for a brain tumor to passionately speak in favor of the legislation. EANGUS members played a large part in the veto as well by emailing their legislatures to vote in favor of the bill. The bill expires in 2010 so we may have to fight to prevent cuts again in the near future.

The other major item that EANGUS fights for is education benefits. Originally

guard members were receiving roughly 47% of the active duty Montgomery GI Bill benefit which is certainly fair. Now with the increased ops tempo we are only receiving about 27% of the active duty benefit. It seems kind of unfair since we increased our workload yet we are receiving less money for school!

Each year there are several pieces of legislation to increase GI Bill benefits for guard members and on June 20, 2008 President Bush signed one of those bills into law! The new GI Bill greatly enhances the active duty benefit but there are also key provisions for guardsmen. Here are the main benefits we gained: 1. Guardsmen serving 3 years or more overseas will get the full active duty GI Bill benefit 2. If you served less than 3 years but more than 3 months overseas you will receive the active duty benefit on a sliding scale between 40 and 90 percent based in time overseas. 3. The new GI Bill can be used for up to 15 years past separation unlike the current one which requires you to use it while you are an active guard member. We are obviously fighting for more but this is definitely a great start!

We also saw our Education Bill get signed into law here in Idaho. On July 1st Governor Otter signed HR 385 into law giving Idaho Guardsmen living out of state full in-state tuition benefits. Our next step is to fight for full tuition

Idaho Army National Guard Senior Enlisted Advisor

I am extremely honored and humbled to be in the position of the Idaho Army National Guard Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Deputy Commanding General, BG Gayhart. I am looking forward to the interesting and challenging times that lie ahead.

My main priority as it should be with all NCOs is to "Take Care of Soldiers". However we all need help in performing that mission. One of the best avenues for our Soldiers to be heard at the highest levels is through the efforts and hard work of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS). This is the only organization that entirely represents the interests of the enlisted Soldiers of the National Guard in Washington

D.C.

To many times Soldiers are not aware of what EANGUS is. They are not informed of what EANGUS has accomplished in the past and what they are aggressively pursuing for the future. It is critically important that our Soldiers are informed and educated on the legislative issues that EANGUS fights for every day.

The Commanding General of Idaho National Guard set a goal of 80% membership by October 2008. This is an aggressive but very attainable mark. It will however require NCO leaders at all levels to educate their Soldiers on the benefits of belonging to this valuable organization. The level that is most effective to reach our goal is at the section or squad leader level. The squad leader is the first line mentor to their Soldiers. They

are the prime examples their Soldiers look up to and respect. I challenge NCO leaders at all levels but especially at the squad levels to inform and encourage their Soldiers to attain an 80% membership rate. Power is in the numbers and the Idaho chapter of EANGUS is and will continue to be a strong voice at the national level but we need your help to make that voice stronger to protect the interests of the enlisted force of the National Guard. I encourage everyone to be informed and join this great organization and ensure the voice of Idaho Enlisted Soldiers is heard.

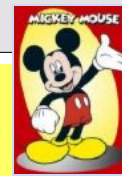
KENNETH L. DOWNING Command Sergeant Major, IDARNG



**"My Priority
Is to Take
Care of
The Soldiers"**



Discount Disney



From Guard Experience (GX)

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. - Military families who are unable to travel to a base to buy specially priced Walt Disney World Theme Park tickets have a new option. Retired, Active, National Guard, Reservist and DoD personnel are now able to purchase these specially priced tickets over the phone.

"Many military families don't live near a

base. We wanted to make sure they were able to take advantage of the savings on Disney Theme Park tickets without having to travel for hours to their nearest base," said Randy Gerber, Disney Military Sales director.

This year is a special time to visit as the Disney Parks celebrates the "Year of a Million Dreams". Randomly awarded, these dreams include such "money can't buy" experiences as a Dream FASTPASS badge with unique access to some of Disney's most popular attractions; private meetings with favorite Disney characters; shopping sprees; and a variety of unique Disney vacation experi-

ences, including the chance to spend the night in a special suite inside Cinderella Castle at Walt Disney World.

Disney Military Sales has offered discounted tickets to military families for more than 20 years. The proceeds directly support the base community and the programs offered to the military personnel stationed there. Discounted tickets for qualifying military families may be purchased via mail-order by calling the Commander, Navy Region Southwest at 619-767-6000 or Air Force Central Ticket Program at 210-652-2855.

Senate Passes Defense Bill



By Laurie Kellman - The Associated Press
Posted : Friday Sep 19, 2008
12:25:05 EDT

WASHINGTON — The Senate passed a massive defense bill Wednesday that includes a pay raise for military personnel, despite Republican objections to billions of dollars in special projects lawmakers had added.

Seven weeks from Election Day, blocking the measure in wartime was not a political risk many senators were willing to take. The measure passed 88-8 after negotiations on amendments failed at midday.

Retiring Sen. John Warner of Virginia led the negotiating for Republicans who objected to the added projects, called earmarks. But he, too, said he could not cast a vote that implied disrespect for soldiers fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Warner said Democrats and Republicans alike objected to parts of the bill or proposed amendments.

The bill passed Wednesday because it earlier had attained the support of 61 senators — barely clearing the required 60-vote threshold — on a

test vote. Following Warner's lead, a dozen Republicans voted to advance the measure, many of them in tough re-election bids.

Many more switched from opponents to supporters on the final vote. Of the eight who voted no, only five were Republicans: Sens. Wayne Allard of Colorado, Tom Coburn of Oklahoma, David Vitter of Louisiana and Jim DeMint and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina.

Also voting no were Democratic Sens. Robert Byrd of West Virginia and Russell Feingold of Wisconsin, as well as Bernard Sanders, an Independent from Vermont.

The measure would permit \$612.5 billion in spending for national defense programs in 2009, including \$70 billion for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. It also includes a 3.9 percent pay increase for military personnel, half a percentage point more than President Bush requested. A

separate bill will have to be passed to actually appropriate the money.

The House passed its own version in May, which will have to be reconciled with the Senate version before the legislation is sent to the White House for Bush's signature.

Republican opponents objected to \$5 billion in pet projects that Congress added to the bill. But proponents characterized "no" votes as showing disrespect for military personnel. On Election Day Nov. 4, voters will choose a new president, all 435 members of the House and a third of the 100-member Senate.

Those absent included three senators engaged in the presidential race: Republican nominee John McCain of Arizona and his Democratic rival, Barack Obama of Illinois, along with Obama's running mate, Joe Biden of Delaware.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., was absent as he recovers from treatment for a brain tumor.



**When was your
Last real
Vacation???**



Take a Cruise



Hop to London



Explore the Netherlands

EANGUS has it's own Travel Site.

EANGUS has a new travel site that is dedicated in helping all Enlisted Association members and their families with their travel plans. YTB Travel is a fully functioned travel site where you can book a flight, motel room, and rent a car. YTB is honored to be working

with the EANGUS, and as a reward for each vacation, flight, rent a car and hotel stay booked. YTB will give up to 40% of the booked fare back to EANGUS.

Now we can book our flights and earn EANGUS bonus money to support our troops in

Enjoy Cancun



the fight on Capital Hill. Fell free to check it out, the site is located at:

<http://www.ytbtravel.com/3133eangus>

Or click on the link below.

[Travel Service](#)



Success! The Enlisted Association is Riding a Wave of Victory

Where should I begin? The Idaho Enlisted Association of the National Guard has been experiencing an incredible amount of successes lately! Our committees are forming up, our legislation is moving forward, and our numbers are slowly growing. Best of all on March 5th 2008 Governor Otter signed our first Association sponsored local piece of legislation into law! House Resolution 385 (and now Idaho state law) allows Idaho guard members living in neighboring states to attend state institutions of higher learning without having to pay non-resident tuition fees. This is huge because it cuts the cost of attending an Idaho college by nearly a fourth for non-resident students serving in the Idaho Guard. Now that this bill is a law we have several other resolutions we are working on for next year including full state tuition assistance and reimbursement for state employees riding the commuter van to Gowen. We still have room on our resolutions and legislative committee if anyone is interested in working on these issues with us.

We are also working with our National Office on several pieces of legislation that will benefit all guard members. The main issues we are working on are reciprocity to 2001 for the early retirement benefit passed on January 31st in the National Defense Authorization Act, increased Montgomery GI Bill benefits for guardsmen (47% percent of the active duty amount rather than the 27% we are at right now), and Tri-care benefits for gray area retirees.

In order to help move the national legislation forward MSgt Chris Brearley, TSgt Darren Burnett, and CMSgt Daryl Elliott just returned from a 4 day trip to Washington DC. During this trip we visited with Senator Crapo and the staffs of Senator Craig and Representatives Simpson and Sali. We stressed the importance of the National Guard and we encouraged all our congressman to vote in favor of our national legislation. We even convinced Representatives Sali and Simpson to join the National Guard Caucus!

While in Washington we also met with the head of the National Guard Bureau, Lieutenant General Steven H. Blum, NGB Senior Enlisted Advisor CSM David Hudson, ANG CCM Dick Smith, and the Army National Guard CSM John Gipe. All of our National Guard leadership is very proud of the work being done by our Association and they are standing by us one-hundred percent. On the final day of our trip we visited the office of the Secretary of the Interior and former Idaho governor, Dirk Kempthorne. His staff was very hospitable and they gladly gave us a tour of his new office, we even convinced one of his staff members to attend our legislative reception that night!

I can say with all confidence that there is no other association doing the amount of work we are doing right now. With all of our successes we hope to begin seeing a large increase in membership. Our committees are beginning to form and we are looking for new energetic members to serve on these committees. If you are inter-

ested in the legislative process or you are ready to make real changes to your National Guard please join the Idaho Enlisted Association by going to www.eangus.org and signing up. We need your help! As General Blum says, "The National Guard will protect our country; the Associations will protect our National Guard."



Owner your own Business? Advertise here and reach over 4,000 potential customers with EANGUS's Corporate Sponsorship Program. Contact us today. See page 6.

2008 EANGUS National Conference Attendees. Savannah GA.



Fund Raising

The Fundraising Committee is looking for hardworking, energetic volunteers to help reach some new goals this year. The Insider Pages Fundraising Project was a huge success, plan on seeing this again in the future. The 50/50 raffles conducted over Drill weekend have been great, Congratulations to Col Skotte the latest BIG winner! Currently we are seeking **Corporate Sponsorship**, as a corporate sponsor you will open your businesses market up to over 4,500 enlisted members and their families per ad space given in our newsletter that comes out at least twice a year. Depending on the

package you select your business may also be advertised on our web site with a direct link connecting our visitors to your home page. Additionally your business will be invited to attend the Enlisted Associations State Conference so you can personally meet the men and women that that take on Capital Hill and fight for your Idaho Guardsman rights. We ask you to support our nonprofit organization today so that we and our children have a better tomorrow. Please forward any ideas or questions to TSgt Jennifer E. Davis at 272-3749 or emailed to jennifer.davis@idbois.ang.af.mil.



Corporations advertise here and reach over 4,000 potential customers with EANGUS's Corporate Sponsorship Program. Contact us today to see how to boost your sales income and support your Idaho National Guard. See page 6. for contact info.

Why do you Serve?

This year your Enlisted Association sent 19 members to the annual conference in Savannah Georgia. Here Legislative resolutions were voted on to go before the US Congress in hopes to become law. This year's conference saw many new faces and many great old faces. Savannah gave us a taste of the South Col Sanders would have been proud of. Our speakers came from far and wide to give us hope and inspiration for the years to come. They spoke about the Guard and how it recruits people but retains families, and since the attacks have happened over 650,000 troops have been mobilized. Our citizen soldier has taken on the responsibilities to be ready at all times; for the call will come and could come at any time. The Guards roll has increased to the point in which we now train as much as our brethren in the active roll yet we must maintain a civilian roll and continue to successfully make strides in our own careers outside of the Guard. Yet we must not forget our families for it is they that make the biggest sacrifice. They are the ones left behind when we deploy everyday, whether it is to our job site or our Guard site. It is they that lay awake at night waiting for our return. The Enlisted Association is proud to serve those that serve our Nation and those that they serve for as well. Their future is important to us, and for that one reason alone we need your support. Lets make sure they are take care of.

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EANGUS Presentations—Josh Zimmerly & Tisha Larson

“To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here.”




The new GI Bill (Chapter 33) or so-called “GI Bill for the 21st Century, ” boasts the most comprehensive education benefits package since the original GI Bill was signed into law in 1944.

Many post 9/11 veterans and service members will soon see a new package of education benefits. This new Post 9/11 GI Bill, or so-called GI Bill for the 21st Century, boasts the most comprehensive education benefits package since the original GI Bill was signed into law in 1944.

The new bill goes well beyond helping to pay for tuition; many veterans who served after Sept. 11, 2001, will get full tuition and fees, a new monthly housing stipend, and a \$1,000 a year stipend for books and supplies. The new bill also gives Reserve and Guard members who have been activated for more than 90 days since 9/11 access to the same GI Bill benefits.

The
New
GI
Bill



Deployed troops receive FREE benefits from loving Americans

If you have troops who are deployed and you want to get them stuff for free here are some web sites where all these people live for is to do things for us at no cost to the military member with no strings attached. The link <http://bluestarmoms.org/care.html> is an excellent site and very well organized. Note that some of these organizations offer things to the families of members deployed as well. Free Stuff for Troops and Their Families.

<http://www.operationhomelink.org/> - Free computers for spouses or parents of deployed soldier in ranks E1-E5.

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2004/2/prweb106818.htm> - Free mail and gifts sent to children of deployed soldiers.

<https://www.operationuplink.org/> - Free phone cards.

<http://anysoldier.com/ForSoldiersOnly.cfm> - To sign up for sponsoring soldier care packages to theater.

<http://www.appreciateourtroops.org/forourtroops.shtml> - To have commander sign up for mugs for unit troops.

<http://www.operationshoebox.com/> - Free shoebox care package.

<http://www.treatthetroops.org/> - Free cookies.

<http://bluestarmoms.org/airfare.html> - Lowest airfare available.

<http://bluestarmoms.org/care.html> - Free care packages.

<http://www.heromiles.org/> - Free air travel for emergency leave, and for the family members of injured soldiers to travel to medical facility.

<http://www.booksforsoldiers.com/forum/index.php> - Free books, DVDs, CDs.

<http://operationmilitarypride.org/smsignup.html> - Free care packages.

http://www.soldiersangels.org/heroes/submit_a_soldier.php - Get adopted to receive stuff.

<https://www.treatsfortroops.com/registration/index.php> - Free gifts and care packages