

THE VOICE



# FIRE FIGHT



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OHIO NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED ASSOCIATION  
SUMMER 2015, VOLUME XLI ISSUE II

## Retirement, ARNG Force Structure under review

To all our current members, I would like to say thank you for your continued support of the Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association. In return, I pledge my unwavering commitment to the Association and promise to finish my two-year term during my deployment to Kuwait. I proudly answer my call to duty as a Citizen-Soldier and first sergeant of the 1194th Engineer Company. I will keep the lines of communication open while I serve, with both you, the membership, and the ONGEA Executive Board. My mobilization will take place shortly after the national conference in August.

As always, feel free to email me at [president@ongea.org](mailto:president@ongea.org) to suggest legislative actions that our Association needs to pursue. These suggestions can lead to passing laws that provide benefits to our enlisted men and women. Reach out to your legislators through EANGUS' Legislative Call-To-Action links -- these timely updates are sent directly to members' email accounts and provide direct access to legislators associated with guardmember's zip code. EANGUS makes showing your support of pending legislation an easy few clicks on the keyboard - via email, Twitter or Facebook!



Tony McGraw  
President, ONGEA

One issue that is garnering a lot of attention lately is the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC) retirement recommendation. The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) and several other professional associations support modernizing the current 20-year retirement package afforded to Servicemembers. Soon, the Senate and House of Representatives will craft legislation to modernize military retirement. If enacted, the legislation could ensure that current Servicemembers and Veterans can choose to grandfather themselves into, and remain in, the current 20-year retirement plan. Future Servicemembers (and current Servicemembers, who opt for the new retirement plan) will be given a civilian-style Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) account similar to those given

to federal, civilian employees. In doing so, those who choose to transition out of military service before 20 years will be provided with a retirement account. The Federal Government could match the Servicemember's retirement contributions up to five per cent (click <http://p2a.co/vRiE27K> to take action).

Due to the National Commission on the Future of the Army, there is still much uncertainty as to the size of the National Guard as it relates to personnel strength in the Army National Guard; see NGAUS' recommendations on page 7 - EANGUS is set to testify in June. There is equal uncertainty with the Army's Aviation Restructuring Initiative that includes a proposal by the active duty to transfer all Apache helicopters to the Active Army as well as the possible loss of another 50 Lakota Light Utility Helicopters after 2016.

Now more than ever, we need strong membership in the Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association to call on our elected officials in Washington to tell the story of how our National Guard is a modern, accessible and interchangeable force that trains and performs to the same standards as its active duty counterpart. We also need to be the voice for our retired members, and address issues such as redefining the term "veteran" in Title 38 to include retirees of the Guard/Reserve components who have completed 20 or more years of service, but are not considered to be veterans under the current statutory definitions.

In closing, I challenge each unit within the state to obtain 100 percent membership within their organization. Membership is our strongest friend when it comes to getting things done in Congress and here in the Buckeye State. Our new website, which is integrated with the membership database, allows registered members to see who is current members of ONGEA. Be sure to register on-line, review you unit's membership roster, and share with non-members the reasons to join.

**Tony McGraw, ONGEA President**

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**ON THE COVER:** Airmen with the 121st Civil Engineering Squadron Fire Department put their firefighting skills to use during a live fire training exercise April 19, 2015, at Rick-enbacker Air National Guard Base. *Photo by Airman Ashley Williams / 121st ARW*

ONGEA, and our national organization, the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS), are non-profit, independent, professional military associations promoting the understanding of the enlisted National Guard member and the pivotal role they play in the security of our nation.

As the professional Association of all enlisted members in the National Guard, EANGUS/ONGEA membership provides situational awareness of our National Guard through the "New Patriot" magazine, "The Voice" state newsletter, Facebook updates, and emails from both our national and state organizations.

Membership also plays a pivotal role in the professional development of our Soldiers and Airmen as you interact with leadership from across the National Guard. Continue to "tell our story" to your fellow Airmen and Soldiers on the importance of membership so that we can carry on the mission of advocating for them and the rest of the National Guard!

### MEMBERSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

ONG ENLISTED MEMBERS: 13,381

ONGEA MEMBERS: 1209

OHARNG: 463

OHANG: 746



# Guard Bureau Chief speaks at Dinner Dance

For the second year, Ohio's officer and enlisted associations joined together for a "Spring Events Weekend," April 23-25. Taking into account the golf outing on Thursday, the mixer at the Clippers game Friday night, and the association business sessions on Saturday afternoon, the highlight of the weekend undeniably was the Saturday evening appearance of Gen. Frank J. Grass, who currently serves as the 27th chief of the National Guard Bureau and also is a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

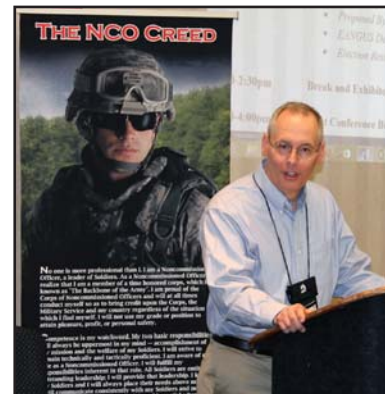
The featured guest speaker at the Spring Dinner Dance, Grass said the annual ONGA/ONGEA conference provides an opportunity for members of the Air and Army National Guard to get together, away from their jobs, and reflect.

"We are able to gather and talk about issues. What's in the future? What are the things we're going to need be able to do our homeland mission as well as our overseas mission and our partnerships in the future," he said.

And paving the path for successful careers for members of the Ohio National Guard dominated the discussions at both the joint and break-out business sessions Saturday afternoon. Concerns about the National Commission on the Structure of the Army and the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission were discussed, specifically in regard to impact on members of the National Guard.



ABOVE: 16th ENG BDE CSM Steve Shepherd poses with NGB Chief Gen. Frank J. Grass during the ONGA/ONGEA Dinner Dance. ABOVE RIGHT: State CCM Philip Smith addresses attendees at enlisted breakout. LEFT: ONGEA President Tony McGraw thanks Jarrod Krietzer for chairing the 2015 ONGEA State Conference.



The ONGEA conference began this year with an informal morning Caucus, which took place at the same time as the Joint Senior Leader Conference - both at the Downtown Hyatt Regency. Committee forums prevailed, with the following topics discussed:

- ▶ **Awards Banquet** (July 18 at Longeberger Alumni House, Columbus): Plans underway with invites due and tasting party scheduled.
- ▶ **EANGUS Conference** (Aug. 9-12 in Indianapolis, Ind.): Discussion of five EANGUS-

approved delegates and potential nominees for professional development. Since the location is neighboring state, ONGEA is planning to fund additional attendees.

▶ **New ONGEA website:** On-line membership managed at the state-level, with member access to unit membership rosters and mobile device capabilities.

The order of business in the afternoon included President Tony McGraw presenting his "State of the Association" address, a senior leader briefing from Command Chief Philip Smith, and the Auxiliary Report from Kim McGraw, who also announced this year's scholarship winners. Election of Officers took place, which reinstated Nelson Spitler as VP-Air and Trish Robinson as VP-Army. About half the Regional Director slots were filled, with appointments for the remaining vacancies being addressed by President McGraw and the VPs. No Resolutions or modifications to the By-laws were submitted prior to the start of the joint session.

LEFT: ONGEA members pose for a group photo at the ONGA/ONGEA Spring Dinner Dance. From left to right, VP-Army Trish Robinson, Auxiliary President Kim McGraw, ONGEA President Tony McGraw, Auxiliary member Sue Ford, ONGEA member Fred Ford, Kristina Krietzer, Area 2 Regional Director Jarrod Krietzer and State Editor Diane Farrow.



# ONGEA names 2015/16 scholarship award recipients

Congratulations to the ONGEA/ONGEA Auxiliary Scholarship Program winners for 2015-16. Nine \$1,000 scholarships were made possible through a \$4,000 donation from the First Cleveland Cavalry Association, a \$500 donation from United Services Automobile Association (USAA) and donations from ONGEA members. The 2016-17 scholarship application is due to ONGEA by April 1, 2016, and can be found at [www.ongea.org](http://www.ongea.org).



## Charles DeRaedt

Sponsored by father CCMSgt John DeRaedt, at the 180th Fighter Wing, Charlie is a senior at University of Toledo, majoring in mechanical engineering. A full-time student, he is a Flight Line Avonics Technician with the 180th FW and is an assistant coach for the Sylvania Southview High School lacrosse team. After earning his degree, Charlie's goal is to obtain a pilot's license and fly for both the U.S. Air Force and a commercial airline.

## Reese Farrow

A 2015 graduate of Westerville South High School, Reese is sponsored by his mother, Diane Farrow, retired Army National Guard. Reese served as a youth mentor and is a summer camp counselor. He was the linebacker coach for his high school football team, and plans to pursue a career in coaching. A member of the National Honor Society, Reese will attend the Fisher College of Business at Ohio State University.



## Amanda Garrett

Amanda plans to pursue a degree in Graphic Design at the University of Cincinnati. During her two years at Miami Valley Career Technology Center, Amanda earned many academic honors and was active in the band program at Wayne High School. She volunteers at a local nursing home and a summer camp for children with special needs. She is sponsored by her father,

CMSgt Nolan Garrett, with the 121st Air Refueling Wing.

## Logan Gordon

A 2014 graduate of William V. Fisher High School, Logan is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Geology at the Ohio University Lancaster campus. While in high school, he was a multiple-sport athlete, and also served as the head of the School Play Sound & Lighting Department. Sponsoring himself, Logan was an honor grad at Civil Engineering Structures Technical School and is currently assigned to the 121st Air Refueling Wing.



## Kaitlyn Hutt

A 2015 graduate of GlenOak High School, Kaitlyn will pursue a degree in Nursing at the University of Akron. Accomplished in flute and piccolo, she was an active musician and mentor in various performance groups at school. An honors student and avid volunteer, Kaitlyn is sponsored by her father, CSM Scott Hutt of the Recruiting and Retention Battalion.



## Sara Ingle

Sponsoring herself, Sara is traditional guardmember who serves as an aerospace medical technician with the 121st Air Refueling Wing in Columbus. SSgt Igle is an active member of Vineyard Columbus Church and volunteers at a local food pantry. She is enrolled in the Dental Hygiene Program at Columbus State Community College.

## Judy Powers

Having earned her Associate's degree 18 years after graduating high school, Judy now is seeking a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration at the University of Akron, Wayne College, in part show her son Jacob the importance of education. An active member of her church, Judy is sponsored by her father, Neal Powers, retired Army National Guard.



## Hannah Walters

A recent graduate of Hilliard Darby High School, Hannah was a varsity cheerleader for her school's football, basketball and competition teams. An honors student and church volunteer, she will pursue a degree in Elementary Education at the University of Cincinnati. Hannah is sponsored by her father SMSgt Darryl Walters, with the 164th Weather Flight.

## Virginia Willis

Sponsored by her father John Willis, retired from the 179th Airlift Wing, Virginia graduated first in her class at Ashland High School. She was a member of the National Honor Society, and was active in school clubs and church youth group. Virginia plans to attend Grace College, where she will double major in photography and linguistics.





# TOP TROOPS ARMY & AIR 2014



Soldier of the Year  
PFC Mark A. Horton II  
945th Engineer Company



NCO of the Year  
SSG Matthew D. Shafer  
Troop C, 2-107th Cav Reg



Airman of the Year  
SrA Brittney Khayo  
123rd Air Control Squadron



NCO of the Year  
SSgt Andrew Leshner  
200th RED HORSE



Senior NCO of the Year  
MSgt Dennis Folk  
179th Airlift Wing



1st Sgt of the Year  
MSgt Stacey Jefferson  
121st Air Refueling Wing

## ONGEA Banquet celebrates NCO excellence

Please join the Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association at our annual banquet, where we will recognize the Servicemembers of the Year for 2014, both Air and Army National Guard. ONGEA and AMVETS will make presentations to these Soldiers and Airmen who are distinguished as “the best of the best.” Additional state-level Air National Guard award winners will be recognized, as well as Soldiers who were selected to represent their Major Subordinate Command at state competition. Recipients of the ONGEA/ONGEA Auxiliary Scholarship also will be recognized for meeting the academic and community service requisites which earned them ONGEA’s grant for furthering their education. Be sure to promote this event at your units and invite your brothers and sisters in arms. Questions can be directed to [banquet@ongea.org](mailto:banquet@ongea.org).

### ONGEA AWARDS BANQUET

- Date:** July 18, 2015 – Saturday Night
- Time:** 6:00 pm - Social / 6:30 pm - Dinner
- Uniform:** Air Force Mess Dress or Semi-Formal Army Service Uniform or Mess Dress (with white shirts and bow tie) Semi-Formal Civilian Attire
- Location:** Longaberger Alumni House  
2200 Olentangy River Road  
Columbus, OH 43210-1035
- Cost:** \$35 per person (plus cash bar)

**RSVP no later than July 14th**

### YES, I PLAN TO ATTEND

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Unit or Affiliation

Number of Guests: \_\_\_\_ (x\$35) Payment Enclosed: \_\_\_\_

### Payment Options:

**CHECK:** Make payable to ONGEA; mail registration form & check to ONGEA, 1299 Virginia Ave., Columbus, OH 43212

### PAY ONLINE:

<https://eventgrid.com/Events/17342/2015-ongea-awards-banquet/Dates/17645>

# SWITCH TO THE INSURANCE WHERE 92% OF MEMBERS PLAN TO STAY FOR LIFE<sup>1</sup>

*USAA members Brett Bonifay  
Commander, U.S. Navy, Ret.  
and his daughter*

## USAA Auto Insurance rates beat the competition 3 out of 4 times<sup>2</sup>

In fact, members who switched to USAA saved an average of \$434 a year.<sup>2</sup> Competitive rates: just one reason our members are as loyal to us as we are to them.

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<sup>1</sup>92% based on 2014 member communications trend survey. <sup>2</sup>Savings based on countrywide survey of new customers from 11/1/2013 to 10/31/2014, who reported their prior insurers' premiums when they switched to USAA. Use of the term "member" or "membership" does not convey any eligibility rights for auto and property insurance products, or legal or ownership rights in USAA. Membership eligibility and product restrictions apply and are subject to change. Automobile insurance provided by United Services Automobile Association, USAA Casualty Insurance Company, USAA General Indemnity Company, Garrison Property and Casualty Insurance Company, USAA County Mutual Insurance Company, and USAA Ltd. (Europe), San Antonio, TX, and is available only to persons eligible for P&C group membership. Each company has sole financial responsibility for its own products. © 2015 USAA. 207910-0515





## NGAUS recommendations

AT the end of May, the National Guard Association of the United States offered the National Commission on the Future of the Army five basic recommendations to fully leverage the capabilities and cost-effectiveness of the Army National Guard.

Retired Maj. Gen. Gus Hargett, NGAUS president, made the recommendations during testimony to the commission in Alexandria, Va.

The commission will examine a variety of issues, including roles, missions and the best mix of active component and reserve component forces. It has a Feb. 1, 2016, deadline to submit recommendations to lawmakers, who will make the final decisions.

“The Army National Guard contributes much to our nation and our Army, but we can do even more, and we think the nation needs us to do more in the future,” Hargett said. “We wanted to be upfront with the commission as to what we think needs to be

done to get the full potential from our force.

“Ideally, these five recommendations will generate dialogue not only from the commission, but among all those who will contribute to final decisions on how best to move our Army forward.”

- 1) Sustain the combat role of the Army National Guard as an integral part of our nation’s first line of defense;
- 2) Sustain the ARNG personnel end strength;
- 3) Continue the operational employment of Army National Guard units in missions overseas to sustain a base of operational experience;
- 4) Assure the Army National Guard receives modern equipment in order to bolster interoperability with the active component; and
- 5) Shape the Army leadership culture to assure that senior leaders have Total Force experience.



SSG David Frederick was one of 10 members of the Ohio National Guard that was inducted into the Ohio Military Hall of Fame on April 24. Assistant Adjutant General for Army MG John Harris Jr. presented recipients with their medals. *Photo by SFC Josh Mann / ONG Historian*

## EANGUS Legislative Priorities

Members often want talking points they can use when their fellow guardmembers ask “Why should I belong to the Enlisted Association?” At the Legislative Workshop hosted by EANGUS in Washington D.C. last February, the following priorities were identified:

- ▶ **Veteran Status:** Amend Title 38 to include in the definition(s) of ‘veteran’ retirees of the Guard/Reserve components who have completed 20 or more years of service, but are not considered to be veterans under the current statutory definitions.
- ▶ Educate Congress about the dangers of Sequestration:
  - *Aviation Restructure Initiative (ARI)*
  - *Work to prohibit transfer of Apaches in FY16*
- ▶ Brief the National Commission on the Future of the Army
- ▶ Early access to TRICARE for Guardsmen mobilized for non-contingency operations
- ▶ Tuition Assistance:
  - *Change requirement that all service members must wait a period of 1 year after training before becoming eligible for the Army’s Tuition Assistance Program*
  - *Fix DOD/VA rule change that service members are no longer authorized to use both TA and DVA benefits from the Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve program*
- ▶ Fix rule that Military Technicians, serving in a temporary capacity, are required to enroll in FEHB health plan and drop TRICARE Reserve Select
- ▶ CLEP and DSST Testing: Restore funding for ANG spouses
- ▶ Fund Counterdrug Task Force
- ▶ Fund Youth Challenge Program

Stay current on the issues by signing up for the “Roll-Call” email blast by texting “RollCallWrapUp” to 528-86.



**LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST:** ONGA and ONGEA hosted a breakfast for legislators at the Capitol Club in downtown Columbus, May 13. Adjutant General MG Mark Bartman was the featured speaker, thanking lawmakers for their support and discussing current ONG legislative priorities. ONGEA President McGraw and ONGA President Wilson pose with Kathy Wellington, legislative staffer for Ohio Representative Hearcel Craig (26th District).



## Ohio leadership positions finalized

On March 30, Gov. John R. Kasich announced the appointment of Maj. Gen. Mark E. Bartman as Ohio's 82nd adjutant general. Bartman had been serving as interim adjutant general since Jan. 10.

Bartman is a member of the governor's cabinet and is responsible for the command of the Ohio National Guard, which consists of the Ohio Army National Guard, Ohio Air National Guard, Ohio Military Reserve and Ohio Naval Militia, totaling more than 16,000 personnel. Bartman supervises the commanding officers of these components in day-to-day operations and management of readiness as well as the fiscal, personnel, equipment and real property resources within their organizations.

"It is an honor to be selected as the 82nd adjutant general for the State of Ohio. The Ohio National Guard has a long tradition of excellence, and I am excited to have the opportunity to lead such an outstanding group of service men and women," Bartman said. "The Ohio National Guard is ready to respond to any call for help from the citizens of this great state or the nation."

Stepping into the role of Assistant Adjutant General for Air is Col. Gregory Schnulo, who was formerly the commander of the 178th Wing, at Springfield Air National Guard Base. As "ATAG-Air," Schnulo will be responsible for directing operations and establishing policy to ensure the mission



Col. Gregory Schnulo

readiness of more than 4,500 Airmen in four flying wings and six support units.

"Colonel Schnulo has over 34 years of service and brings to this position a wealth of knowledge and experience," Bartman said. "I look forward to his continuing contribution to the success of the Ohio National Guard."

## Ohio Army National Guard earns top Army award for fifth time

The Ohio Army National Guard has been selected by the Department of the Army as the 2015 Army Communities of Excellence Overall Winner, Army National Guard category. The award recognizes the organization's ongoing efforts in delivering value, improving performance and sharing innovation.

The Army Communities of Excellence (ACOE) award was presented April 29 during a ceremony at the Army National Guard Readiness Center in Arlington, Va. This year, 41 of 54 U.S. state/territory National Guard commands submitted entries. This year's award marks the fifth time Ohio has won the competition, in addition to 2003-04, 2006 and 2009. Ohio also was NGB's 2002 Rookie of the Year.

"This achievement recognizes the hard work of our Soldiers in maintaining an organization that operates at the highest standards," said Maj. Gen. Mark Bartman, Ohio adjutant general. "The benefit of participating in the ACOE program goes beyond competition. Applying the ACOE principles has served as our approach by which we assess the Ohio Army National Guard, plan for the future, evaluate performance and continually improve work processes."

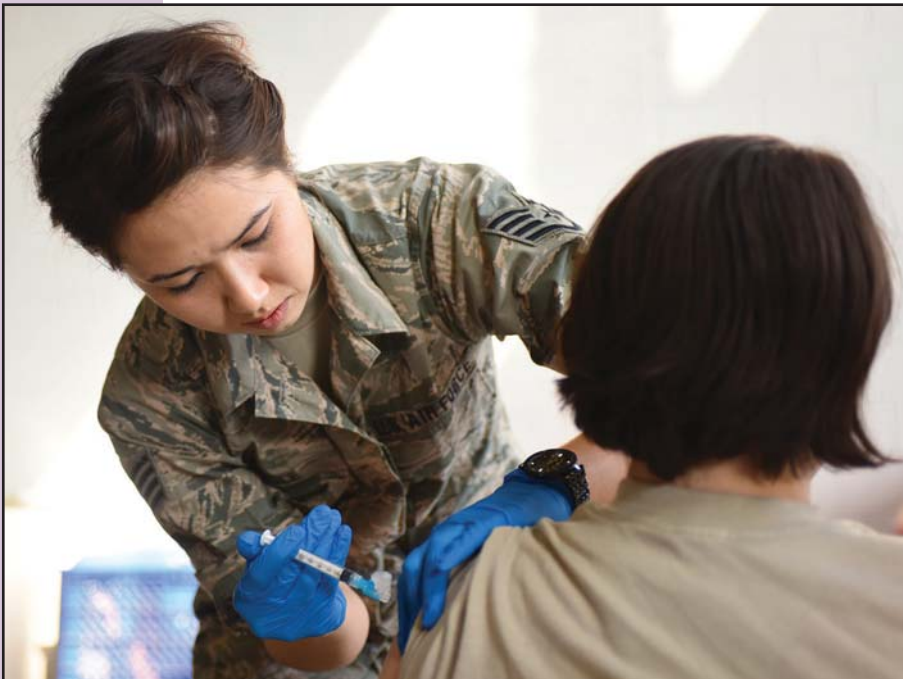
Ohio's award submission packet was evaluated by a team of certified examiners who scored the submission in the seven categories of the Army Performance Improvement Criteria (APIC) — Leadership; Strategic Planning; Customer Focus; Measurement, Analysis and Knowledge Management; Workforce Focus; Operations Focus; and Results.

## Ohio among first to host Cyber Protection Team

Army National Guard officials at the National Guard Bureau announced the location plan today for the first three of an eventual 10 new Army National Guard cyber protection teams to be established over the next three fiscal years.

The first of three CPTs to be activated in FY16 will be hosted by five states. The first CPT will be hosted by Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio. The two other CPTs will be hosted by Georgia and California respectively. The stationing plan for the remaining seven of ten Army Guard CPTs will be announced at a later date.

"This is a significant step helping to boost state and federal cyber defense capabilities," said Maj. Gen. Judd H. Lyons, acting director of the Army National Guard. "It reflects the tremendous



SSgt. Sara Ingle, 121st Medical Group, delivers a shot during a weekend training event May 1, 2015, at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base. The 121st Medical Group's homeland response force spent the weekend practicing an emergency response to ensure readiness and to prepare for an upcoming inspection. Ingle is one of this year's recipients of the ONGEA/ONGEA Auxiliary Scholarship. *Photo by Master Sgt. Ralph Branson / DVIDS*



momentum well under way across the Army to organize, train and equip cyberspace operations forces.”

These CPTs will be stationed around the country and will be staffed by National Guard citizen-soldiers. Soldiers assigned to them will train and operate on a traditional part-time basis in support of their respective states National Guard and governors. When mobilized for federal active duty, the teams will provide surge support to Army Cyber Command and support defensive cyberspace operations as assigned.

The stationing plan followed a careful review and evaluation of 32 detailed nomination packets, representing 45 states, territories and the District of Columbia seeking consideration for one of the 10 CPTs.

A 12-member advisory committee headed by an independent general officer and consisting of representatives from state and territory advisory committees convened to review and evaluate the packets in accordance with senior leader guidance and timelines.

The ARNG will establish four additional CPTs in FY17, and the remaining three of 10 in FY18.

Once established, citizen-soldiers in each of the 10 CPTs will undergo specialized Cyber training to qualify as Army Cyber Soldiers. Many of these cyber courses are 4-12 months in duration and are very academically challenging.

The Army National Guard had been working closely with the Army Cyber Command, Headquarters Department of the Army, and the 54 states and territories and the District of Columbia to develop ARNG cyber forces that would support and be responsive to Joint, Army, and domestic cyber requirements.

“The Army is actively developing a total force of elite, trained, trusted and disciplined cyber professionals. The Army National Guard’s CPT stationing decision is another step in the right direction as we build and field the cyber force across the Total Army,” said Lt. Gen. Edward Cardon, commanding general of the U.S. Army Cyber Command at Fort Belvoir, Va. “Citizen Soldiers are already an essential part of the Total Army, so these cyber professionals, many of whom bring private sector



**Pfc. Mark A. Horton II from the Ohio Army National Guard charges to the finish of the 12-mile ruck march during the Region IV Best Warrior Challenge at Camp Atterbury, May 14. Horton was the first competitor to complete the challenge with a time of 2 hours 27 minutes. Photo by Sgt. Katherine M. Forbes / DVIDS**

experience, will enhance the Army’s cyberspace capabilities and capacities.”

The ARNG currently has one full-time CPT established under federal control that is currently attached to and training at ARCYBER in preparation for future missions. The full-time Army Guard CPT was established in fiscal year 2014 and is composed of Soldiers from 19 states and two Territories.

Guard Soldiers are uniquely postured to support the CPT mission, having a large number of Soldiers who work within the Information Technology or academic sector, and who may offer expertise and competencies on cutting-edge cyber defense policies, tactics, techniques, and procedures.

There are currently no plans to establish additional CPTs beyond the 11 currently approved according to ARNG officials.

## Driving Distance now determines Veterans Choice Program eligibility

In order to expand eligibility for the Veterans Choice Program, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that it will determine eligibility for the program based on the distance between a Veteran’s place of residence and the nearest VA medical facility, using driving distance rather than straight-line distance.

The change from straight-line to driving distance roughly doubles the number of eligible Veterans. Letters are being sent to the newly eligible Veterans to let them know they are now eligible for the Veterans Choice Program under this expansion.

Since its start on Nov. 5, 2014, the Veterans Choice Program gives many Veterans the option to receive non-VA health care rather than waiting for a VA appointment or traveling to a VA facility. Eligibility criteria for the program includes a more than 30-day wait, a more than 40-mile drive, need to travel by plane or boat, and any unusual or excessive travel burden.

If a Veteran does not remember receiving a Veterans Choice Card or has other questions about the Choice Program, they can call (866) 606-8198 or visit [www.va.gov/opa/choiceact](http://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact).



Members of the Ohio National Guard Computer Network Defense Team conduct cyber defense operations during Cyber Shield 2015 on March 20 at Camp Atterbury, Ind. Photo by SSG George Davis / AGOH-PA



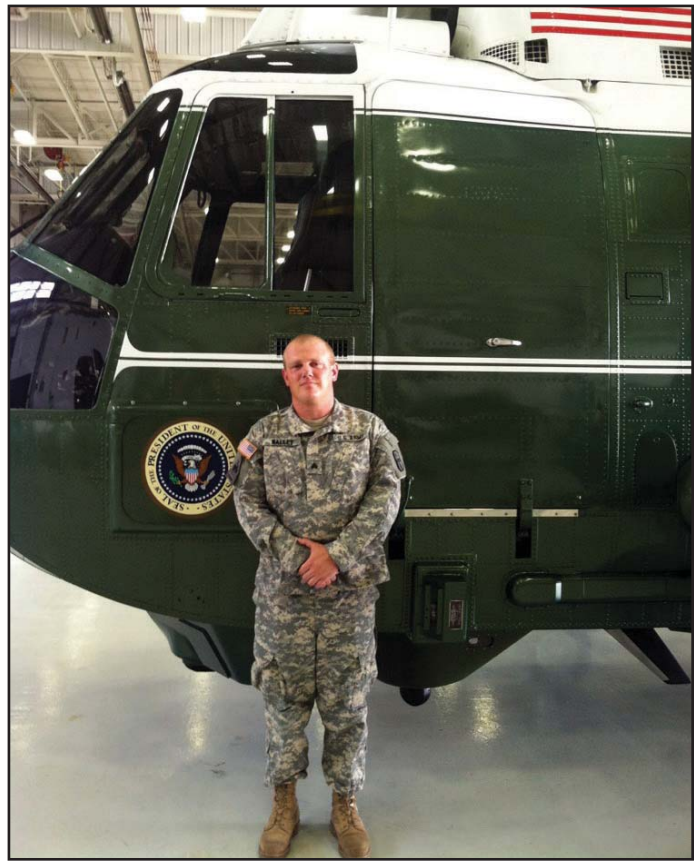
## 2015 EANGUS: Race to Indy

The National Guard Association of Indiana will host the 44th EANGUS Conference and Expo in Indianapolis, Aug. 9-12. Those arriving early are welcome to join the EANGUS Golf Outing at Deer Creek Golf Course on Aug. 7; many other tourism activities will be available during the week, including the famed Canal Walk, the 250-acre White River State Park and access to Pacers Bike Share, for those who prefer the two-wheel approach to visiting sites throughout the capitol city. States within Area II, IV and VI will stay at the Westin, while Area I, III, V and VII will book rooms at the Hyatt.

Area caucuses, general sessions, and committee workshops will run daily at the Indianapolis Convention Center. Opening session will take place on Sunday, and senior leaders from the National Guard are expected to attend. In addition to a full business agenda, our hosts have lined up plenty of opportunities to relax and enjoy the sites. Some of the Association-sponsored events include the following:

- Sunday** - Welcome Night, *Indiana War Memorial*
- Monday** - Open Evening
- Tuesday** - All Area Hospitality Night, *Military Park*
- Wednesday** - All States Banquet

Remember to register for the conference at the national conference link at [www.eangus.org](http://www.eangus.org) (\$175 before July 1) and book your hotel room soon. ONGEA will host five delegates this year, and we are seeking individuals available to attend on professional development orders (training dollars). Senior leaders are encouraged to look at their organizations for junior enlisted who can benefit from the opportunity; it's key to help young guardmembers understand the value of our Associations to ensure sustainability.



ONGEA's new legislative chair Justin Nalley poses in front of Marine 1, the President's helicopter, at the North Canton flight facility when Barack Obama was on the campaign trail in 2012. *Courtesy Photo*

## ONGEA welcomes new legislative chair

ONGEA is always on the look-out for new members who want to engage in a meaningful way. At April's state conference, President Tony McGraw was introduced to Justin Nalley, who volunteered to serve as our legislative chair. In this position, he will keep the ONGEA board informed on state and federal legislative issues which could impact members of the Ohio National Guard.

Currently a sergeant assigned to HHD, 112th Motor Transport Battalion, North Canton, Justin is finishing his bachelor's degree at Kent State University with a double major in History and Psychology and a double minor in Political Science and Sociology. He started the Veterans Club and served as the President at the Kent State Stark Campus from March 2014 to May 2015. He is also active in his local VFW and American Legion.

Nalley recommends [www.govtrack.us](http://www.govtrack.us) to ONGEA members who want to track of Bills and Resolutions that are being worked on at both the federal and state levels. "It is a good site to look up and keep track of not only Veterans Issues, but other issues as well," Nalley said. "I am committed to bringing loyalty and dedication to this organization, as well as a work ethic to continuously help make the ONGEA and veterans benefits better."





# Join or re-new your membership on-line at [www.ongea.org](http://www.ongea.org)

Click on "Membership" tab, or complete and mail in paper membership form below (*online membership processes immediately, while mail-in processing takes a minimum of 30 days*). Mail applications and payment to ONGEA, 1299 Virginia Ave., Columbus, Ohio, 43212; email applications with credit card information to [membership@ongea.org](mailto:membership@ongea.org); or fax applications with credit card information to 419-520-6469.

## 2015 ONGEA/EANGUS Membership Form

### MEMBER INFORMATION

Name (*first, middle initial, last*) \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_

Air or Army? \_\_\_\_\_ Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Guard Status (*Traditional, AGR, Technician, Retired*) \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_

### SPONSORED MEMBER (*OPTIONAL - membership fees apply*)

Name (*first, middle initial, last*) \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_

Guard Status (*Traditional, AGR, Technician, Retired*) \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP TYPE:

\_\_\_ Annual .....\$25

\_\_\_ Associate & Retired .....\$25

\_\_\_ Life .....\$250

**MEMBERSHIP COST: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to "ONGEA"*

### PAYMENT TYPE:

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\_\_\_ VISA/Mastercard\*

\* Card # \_\_\_\_\_

\* Expires \_\_\_\_\_

\* 3-digit Card Security Code+ \_\_\_\_\_

\* Billing Address Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

## ONGEA Auxiliary Membership

Auxiliary Member \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\* DUES: \$15 \*\*\***

\_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_ New

\_\_\_ Associate

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**Is your membership expiring or address changing soon?** Check your expiration date in the mailing address block. If your membership is expiring soon, renew your membership online at [www.ongea.org](http://www.ongea.org) or complete the application form in the inside back cover of this newsletter. If you are moving soon, change your address by updating your profile online at [www.eangus.org](http://www.eangus.org) or email [eangus@eangus.org](mailto:eangus@eangus.org).

## ONGEA EVENTS CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
June 25, 2015	ONGEA Board Meeting	Limited Seating
July 18, 2015	ONGEA Awards Banquet	Longaberger Alumni House
Aug. 9-12, 2015	EANGUS Conference	Indianapolis, Ind.
Sept. 10, 2015	ONGEA Board Meeting	Motts Military Museum
Nov. 12, 2015	ONGEA Board Meeting	ONGEA Office

Event dates/locations are subject to change. ONGEA meetings take place bi-monthly to encourage major command representation and involvement, and to reinstitutionalize the Association into the Ohio National Guard. We do the business of the Guard...we need to be in the line of communication with the command structure. Ensure your MACOM representative attends.

ONGEA Board Meetings are conducted at 1299 Virginia Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43212, unless noted otherwise. A light meal is served at 5:30 p.m. and the meetings begin at approximately 6:00 p.m., adjourning at or before 8:00 p.m. We hope that you will join us to help with the enlisted business of Ohio and our great nation. All members are welcome.

**President Tony McGraw** / [president@ongea.org](mailto:president@ongea.org)  
**VP-Army Trish Robinson** / [vp-army@ongea.org](mailto:vp-army@ongea.org)  
**VP-Air Nelson Spittle** / [vp-air@ongea.org](mailto:vp-air@ongea.org)  
**ONGEA Office** / [ongea@ongea.org](mailto:ongea@ongea.org)  
**The Voice** / [voice@ongea.org](mailto:voice@ongea.org)  
**ONGEA Website** / [www.ongea.org](http://www.ongea.org)  
**EANGUS** / [www.eangus.org](http://www.eangus.org) or 1-800-234-3264  
**Facebook** / [www.facebook.com/ONGEA](http://www.facebook.com/ONGEA)

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

President / TONY MCGRAW  
 Vice President, Army / TRISH ROBINSON  
 Vice President, Air / NELSON SPITLER  
 Secretary / YVETTE WORSTALL  
 Treasurer / JARROD KREITZER  
 Regional Directors

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 AREA II-AIR: VACANT  
 AREA III-AIR: JEANETTE FRASHIER  
 AREA IV-AIR: VACANT  
 JFHQ-JOINT: EDWARD STARR  
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 AREA II-ARMY: JARROD KREITZER  
 AREA III-ARMY: VACANT  
 AREA IV-ARMY: CHRISTOPHER BIRCHER  
 AREA V-ARMY: VACANT

### ONGEA AUXILIARY

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 Secretary / VACANT  
 Treasurer / VACANT

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 Air Guard / STATE CCM PHILIP SMITH  
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 Retiree Affairs / T. FOSTER & R. NEWELL  
 Vacant Committees / AGR, TECHNICIAN, AWARDS, HISTORICAL

### SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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 State Conference / JARROD KREITZER  
 National Conference / NELSON SPITLER  
 Awards Banquet / ERIC WALLACE  
 Scholarship / ERIC WALLACE & KIM MCGRAW