

VIRGINIA ARMY/AIR NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED ASSOCIATION

2008 - 2010 OFFICERS

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The Cardinal

<http://www.vaaangea.org>



From The VaA/ANGEA President

Our Cardinal Newsletter has been resurrected after being dormant for some time.

I am glad to say that we are back on track and hope that we can provide a quality newsletter to our members and potential members.

I want to welcome all our new members who have joined our State Enlisted Association since our Annual Conference last April in Virginia Beach.

Although we didn't have a large turnout, we did kick-off a membership drive that has gained momentum over the past months.

We also set in place an initiative to recognize units (Company Level) who reach 100% membership in their unit.

Thus far we have recognized one unit, B/1-183rd CAV, who is recognized elsewhere in this newsletter.

It's my hope as the current President that other units both on the Air and Army side will accept this challenge and reach the same goal.

In short without a large membership we cannot affect local, state and national legislation. Our politicians recognize that organizations with large numbers can be an effective lobbyist group and they have a tendency to listen.

This coming year the Virginia National Guard is in jeopardy of losing its state tuition monies. This is money that so many of our Guardsmen depend on for their educational endeavors and would be a big incentive loss.

Beside that there are many legislative issues on the national level that affect AGR, Technicians and Traditional Guardsmen, so everyone has something to gain or lose. More can be learned about legislative issues being worked. You can view these issues on our state website and the EANGUS website.

It's worth your time to review these issues and get

involved by letting your legislators know your stance. Also, get involved by bringing in a new member.

At the recent National Enlisted (EANGUS) Conference held in Rochester, Minnesota we had 16 attendees including our State Command Chief, State Command Sergeant Major and three soldiers attending in a Professional Development status.

It was a great learning experience for the young soldiers who are looking forward to attending next year.

It was a conference full of emotion with the discussion of raising our annual dues to EANGUS. When put to a vote it was not passed. So at least for the upcoming year our dues structure will remain the same.

In order for EANGUS to continue to be effective all states need to grow its membership. So no matter how you cut it membership is the key to continued success, effecting state and national legislation and becoming the professional organization that can influence the battle.

In Virginia our success to growth is having young guardsmen step up and becoming unit representatives, middle grade NCOs volunteering to become area representatives and Senior NCOs becoming involved within their units and pushing membership and getting involved in the workings of our association.

Additionally, we have established a Junior Enlisted Committee and we need guardsmen who are willing to step forward to be active on this committee.

In closing, we need every enlisted guardsman to become a member and we need more members to become active in our association.

If you do not step forward the guard will lose its battle to become a viable force with a benefit package that equals our contribution.

Thank each of you and your families for your contribution to state and country. God bless you all.

- CSM (RET) Robert W. Huffman



From The Virginia Army Guard CSM

I just returned from the EANGUS Conference held Aug. 9-12 in Rochester, Minn.

Virginia was represented well as we took along several of our outstanding young warriors who participated during the week under

Professional Development.

The atmosphere and spirit of cooperation was truly amazing and seemed to last throughout the week. Speaking afterward with SFC Maurice Brown from MTC, SSG John Cosel from 2/183rd CAV and SGT Philip Riddick from 1/111th FA, who attended for Professional Development, each came away with a better understanding of what this professional organization does for the members of the enlisted ranks.

I hope that their experience at EANGUS will become contagious and spread throughout the enlisted ranks here in Virginia and wet the appetites of other young warriors who might wish to attend next year.

With that in mind I would like to say a few words

now about our own Enlisted Association in the Virginia Guard. Our membership at this time has grown from previous years but we still have a lot of work to get done.

Our organization is no less professional than that of EANGUS and we should be showing the same enthusiasm as we all experienced in Rochester. Knowledge is power and we as senior enlisted leaders should take every opportunity to teach, mentor and expose those in our junior ranks to the Enlisted Association within this state.

We need to put forward a combined effort in the upcoming year to increase our membership and make our voices stronger if we hope to achieve the goals we have set.

I challenge each of my peers and the senior leaders of their respective units to make the year 2010 a year we all can take pride in.

Lets this be the year we renew our spirit dedicating ourselves to seeing our membership numbers double and getting our young warriors involved.

- CSM Carl Holcomb



From The Virginia Air Guard CMSgt

The Virginia Air National Guard was born as a reserve component of the United States Air Force in 1947.

It has had a proud history of being there when needed for Virginia and our country.

Today the Virginia Air National Guard is poised to continue its position of leadership in defending the Commonwealth and our nation. Our missions have changed over the years but not the dedication of the Men and Women that serve.

The 192nd Fighter Wing through its association with the 1st Fighter Wing at Langley AFB is setting the standard for Total Force Integration for other Air National Guard units to emulate. It was the first Air

National Guard unit to fly the F-22A Raptor.

The 203rd Red Horse Squadron is ready to provide engineering expertise whenever and wherever called. The 200th Weather Flight provides weather forecasting for war fighters around the world.

Joint Force Headquarters Virginia, Air Component provides leadership and support for all Virginia Air National Guard units.

The Virginia Air National Guard units must continue to seek opportunities for joint missions with the Virginia Army National Guard and other State and local agencies.

Although missions and personnel may change I know that the fine units of the Virginia Air National Guard will continue to set the standard for many years to come.

- CMSgt Barry Coleman

B Troop, 2-183rd Cavalry Squadron responds to Enlisted Association Challenge

Bravo Troop, 2-183rd Cavalry Squadron was rewarded for becoming the first Virginia Guard unit in 12 years to reach 100% membership in the Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association, May 28.

The association's president, retired CSM Bob Huffman presented the troop's leadership with a plaque to signify the accomplishment. Earlier in the year, Huffman issued a challenge to several unit first sergeants throughout the state to increase its membership in the association to 100% of Soldiers within their unit.

Bravo Troop's, 1SG Mical Seaton accepted this challenge and encouraged his non-commissioned officers and officers to reach the 100% mark. As a result of the push the unit reached their goal on May 28. They now have 51 Soldiers of the Squadron as new members of the VaA/ANG.

"The importance of having a large membership in our state Enlisted Association is so we can have a bigger voice in supporting National Guard legislation being considered in our State General Assembly and with the Legislators on Capital Hill," Huffman explained. "Important legislation like full state tuition will be on the agenda again this next year in our State General Assembly and 3,000 votes could go a long way in influencing this legislation."

The brief ceremony included a visit from Assistant Adjutant General for the Army, BG Stephen

Huxtable. After the award presentation, Huxtable spoke with the Soldiers of the Squadron to highlight the importance of the association and the benefits they receive by being a member.

The VaA/ANG Enlisted Association's purpose is to support, improve and maintain the rights and benefits of enlisted members of the National Guard and to keep the National Guard a viable part of the total military.

The association has worked hard at the state and national level to receive the following benefits to include:

- \$1,000.00 "no cost" Accident and Death Life Insurance for VaA/ANGEA members
- \$1,000.00 "no cost" Accident and Death Life Insurance for EANGUS members
- Availability of state tuition assistance
- Up to \$3,000.00 state tax exemption from your Guard pay for all enlisted members
- National Guard license plates for ½ price for members still serving
- County & City decals for the same price as your National Guard license plates
- Pay raise of 3.9%, 0.5% over what the President asked
- Improved GI Bill



- Tuition assistance for spouses for portable careers
- Increased full time AGR and Technician support
- Lowering of TRICARE Reserve Select Fees

The Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association is on a recruiting drive to build its enlisted membership to a goal of 3,000 by April 2010. Current membership is approximately 1,700 and has the potential to reach as high as 8,500 members.

Eligibility requires you to be a current member of the Air or Army National Guard or a retired member of the Air or Army National Guard. Officers, warrant officers, civilians and family members may join as an Associate Member. Yearly membership dues can range from \$10 to \$20 a year depending on your rank. Three year memberships and life long memberships are also available.

For more information visit: <https://www.vaaangea.org>

- CPT Matthew Nowak

Virginia Air Guard names top enlisted members

Top candidates from across the Virginia Air National Guard sat before a rigorous review board during the December 2008 drill weekend. After discussion of each candidate's exceptional qualities and accomplishments, the board announced the winners of the 2009 Virginia Air National Guard Outstanding Airmen of the Year awards.

A staff sergeant from the 192nd Fighter Wing's Intelligence Squadron was named the Outstanding Virginia Air National Guardsman for 2009. Staff Sgt. Kelly Childress, 192nd Intel. Squadron, earned the top Virginia Air Guard honor in addition to being named the Outstanding Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

In the Airman category, Senior Airman Jesse Brown, 192nd Operations Support Flight, received Outstanding Airman of the Year honors. The 192nd Fighter Wing commander, Col. Mark McCauley, commended Brown as a model Airman who has quickly become the "go-to guy" for intelligence support for both the Guard and active duty. This past year, Brown analyzed 24,000 intelligence reports, as an intelligence operations analyst. He also created an interactive, multimedia study guide for the annual F-22 pilot threat exam which resulted in scores above 90 percent. Brown was a two-time recipient of "Superior Performer" accolades during inspections held during February and March. McCauley described Brown's performance as "habitually excellent."

Among the noncommissioned officer candidates, Childress, 192nd Intel. Squadron, earned the Outstanding NCO of the Year title and the lead title of Outstanding Virginia Air National Guardsman for 2009.

Childress led the way in her section with over 1,000 mission hours as a multi-source analyst. She completed multi-source analyst requalification earning an Exceptionally Qualified rating which is limited to the top two percent of all analysts. Childress is an Instructor Rated Operator



SrA Jesse Brown



SSgt Kelly Childress

and has trained 15 multi-source analysts. McCauley commended Childress as, "a model Airman and a superb example of what the ANG brings to the total force."

Receiving the Outstanding Senior NCO of the Year award is Master Sgt. Christopher Plath, the 192nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron supervisor. Plath manages over 400 training needs for the 27th Aircraft Maintenance Section. He executed eight F-22A Operation Noble Eagle missions which occurred during a 192nd Unit Training Assembly at Langley Air Force Base. Plath recently completed NCO Academy and is already enrolled in the Senior NCO Academy. Maj. Jeffrey Ryan, 192nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander, noted that, "Sgt. Plath is without a doubt a winner and team player who promotes unity and integrity for others to emulate."



MSgt Christopher Plath

Outstanding First Sergeant of the Year honors were awarded to Master Sgt. James Profita, representing the 192nd Security Forces Squadron. Profita volunteered off-duty time to support deploying personnel prepare for their time away from family and civilian careers. He acts as the cornerstone for the Security Forces Squadron, keeping pay records straight, making sure everyone has billeting, and maintaining a morale fund to keep morale high within the unit. The 192nd Security Forces Squadron Commander, 1st Lt. John Griffin, remarked that Profita, "leads by setting an excellent example and genuinely enjoys serving others."



1SG James Profita

"These outstanding Airmen all displayed the exceptional qualities that make the Virginia Air National Guard such an exemplary organization. I'm proud to serve with each and every one of them. They truly are the best of the best," said Chief Master Sgt. Barry Coleman, Virginia Air National Guard Command Chief.

- Capt Dianna Lebedev

Heritage of Virginia Air Guard commemorated

The beginnings and illustrious history of the Virginia Air National Guard were recently commemorated during a ceremony and the unveiling of a special roadside marker at the Virginia Aviation Museum, located just outside of Richmond.

The Virginia Air National Guard grew from one flying unit, the 149th Fighter Squadron, which takes its military lineage and heritage from World War II's legendary and heroic 328th Fighter Squadron. The Blue Nosed Bastards of Bodney took down German interceptors in intense aerial dogfight action and escorted and protected Allied bomber forces as the bombers pummeled the military capabilities of the Third Reich. From that one unit, the 149th Fighter Squadron, the Virginia Air National Guard has grown into four distinct units that support both commonwealth and federal missions and routinely.

Keynote speaker for the July 18 event was Virginia's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Robert B. Newman, Jr., who is a command pilot and member of the Virginia Air National Guard. The dedication was attended by local dignitaries, commonwealth officials, and members of the Virginia National Guard and the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society.

The marker and the ceremony were spearheaded by the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society to recognize the 60-year connection between Richmond International Airport (formerly Byrd Field) and the founding of the Virginia Air National Guard in June 1947. The historic marker was provided by the Virginia Department of Historic

Resources.

The ceremony kicked off inside the museum with a welcome and opening remarks by VAHS chairman and master of ceremonies Albert M. Orgain, IV. He discussed Virginia's rich aviation history and touched on many of the aviation accomplishments, milestones and individuals that have been recognized with historical markers over the years. Virginia's historical marker program began in 1927.

James Barrett of the Virginia Department of Transportation (retired) and Randall Burdette, director of the Virginia Department of Aviation, spoke after Orgain. They thanked those who had or were currently serving in the Virginia Air National Guard and for their support of national defense missions and natural disaster response for the commonwealth.

Varina Supervisor James B. Donati Jr. spoke of the Air National Guard's impact to Sandston and the region over the decades.

"The Virginia Air National Guard has been a key player in the county's history. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the Guard for its patriotic service," he said. "I've always lived within two to three miles of the airport. I grew up with the sounds of freedom and those memories will stay with me forever."

He thanked the Guard for its strong ties to the local community and for its instrumental part in working with the Henrico County



Emergency Planning Commission over several years to develop an emergency response plan.

Next Gen. Newman spoke. He thanked the individuals and groups that initiated the plaque and the dedication.

Newman recounted the history of the first Virginia ANG unit, 149th Fighter Squadron, and its military lineage with the 328th Fighter Squadron, an ace World War II unit. The general touched on the many of the aircraft flown by the 149th Fighter Squadron, which became the operational unit for what is now the 192nd Fighter Wing as well as many of the wing's accomplishments.

The event then moved outdoors where Burdette and Newman unveiled the new marker. A reception was held afterward.

The 192nd moved from its longtime home at the Richmond International Airport in October 2007 and now flies and maintains the Air Force's premier fighter, the F-22A Raptor, along side active duty counterparts at Langley Air Force Base, Va.

Sandston remains the home of the Virginia Air National Guard Headquarters and the 200th Weather Flight.

- LtCol Deb Magaldi



From the 3rd Vice President

I'm Chief Master Sergeant Jay Ellis. If you are not familiar with the rank that is because I'm in the Air Guard and that makes me an E-9.

I've been a member of the National Guard for over 20 years and I'm currently serving as the Third Vice President of your organization.

As the 3rd VP I am charged with overseeing the Awards, Resolutions, and Budget Committees in the carrying out of their duties.

These committees are fairly quiet except for certain times of the year so this gives me the ability to also help with maintaining the Virginia Army / Air National Guard Enlisted Association (<http://www.vaaangea.org>) website. Currently we have a new website under review by the Board of Directors. This brings me to my topic of discussion.

The new website is the work of SSgt Zach Holloway who stepped up and asked if he could have a crack at

designing a new website for the organization. I was certainly glad to see him take this on for two different reasons. One is he certainly has more talent than I do; but the other and most important reason is he brings a newer and younger perspective.

This is something that our organization needs. Currently if you look at the makeup of the board and most of the Area Representatives you will see that we are late in our career or have already retired from the National Guard. This isn't by design and don't think this is a requirement to be actively involved in our organization.

We would like to see some younger faces serving on the Board and as Area representative. It would be a wonderful thing to have an infusion of youth at all levels.

If you get a chance go out to the website, look around and let us know what you would like to see us do differently.. You can provide feedback directly to the webmaster at this address webmaster@vaaangea.org or you can use the on line forms.

- CMSgt Jay Ellis

Top Virginia Army Guard Soldier, NCO chosen

Soldiers and noncommissioned officers of the Virginia Army National Guard gathered at Fort Pickett to compete in the commonwealth's Soldier of the Year and NCO of the Year competition March 28 and 29.

Sgt. 1st Class Maurice Brown of Hopewell was selected as the Virginia Army National Guard NCO of the Year and Spc. Jennifer Chisholm of Hampton took top honor as the Virginia Guard Soldier of the Year. Brown also won the competition at the state and regional level in 2007.

Over the weekend, nine Soldiers and NCOs competed against one another for the title of Soldier of the Year and NCO of the Year for the

state of Virginia. The Soldiers and NCOs were tested on their individual Warrior knowledge, marksmanship, physical strength and ability, and an appearance board.

According to Brown the competition will help young Soldiers see that becoming NCO of the Year is an obtainable goal in their careers.

"You have to keep progressing," said Brown. "It's a motivation thing for young Soldiers. As you go through the ranks you still have to be on top of your game; you can't slack off."

To be eligible to compete in the competitions the candidates must first meet a series of pre-requisites. They must have qualified as an

expert with their individual weapon (36 out of 40 targets), scored a minimum of 70 points on each event during the Army Physical Fitness Test, and must meet the height and weight standards of the U.S. Army.

Events like this at the state level are important for Soldiers and NCOs, according to Command Sgt. Maj. Carl Holcomb, Virginia Army National Guard command sergeant major.

This will prepare them for the next rung and show them what they can expect to compete against at the regional level.

- SGT Andrew H. Owen

Virginia EANGUS Auxiliary News

Your Auxiliary is waiting for you! That is right we are growing and we want each of you to be a part of that growth.

Who can be a part of the Auxiliary? Annual members can be a spouse of active, retired, or former Guard Member, who is a member of EANGUS and a member of a state Auxiliary chartered with the National Auxiliary. Any person who does not qualify as an annual member, but supports the objectives of the Auxiliary can be an Associate Member.

I say all of this just so I can add this one very important point, there is a place for everyone and your voice is needed and welcome. Please consider joining us; we do a lot to support and promote EANGUS and its legislative efforts.

Your Auxiliary is currently working on the 2010 State Convention that will be held in Williamsburg. There is important work to do to get ready, such as getting donations for the Silent Auction. The Silent Auction raises money for the scholarship the Auxiliary awards every year.

This upcoming year is also an election year, so we also want your input on who governs your Auxiliary.

As I said, you are wanted and needed. Give your legislative voice twice the power by joining the Auxiliary.

Have a very Happy Thanksgiving. God bless you all and God bless America!

--Rena B. Wagoner, Auxiliary President

SMA: 'NCOs, the glue that holds the Army together'

During a presentation at the Pentagon in January, SMA Kenneth O. Preston discussed the contributions of the NCO to the Army mission and why the service has named 2009 the year of the NCO.

"This is an opportunity for us to showcase the contributions of the NCO corps," he said.

"It's those noncommissioned officers out there every day who are not only winning the fight on the global war on terror, they're also the ones who directly influence their piece of the Army by being the first line supervisor for two or three Soldiers who they are responsible for. They're the ones who create command climate and train the Soldiers in their occupational specialties."

Preston told the audience of Soldiers and Army civilians that being an NCO was all about teaching from experience and that the two basic responsibilities of the NCO come from the NCO creed.

"It's accomplishment of the mission and the welfare of the Soldier," Preston said. "One of the principal ways an NCO looks after the welfare of his Soldiers is through training -- it's about being a subject matter expert."

"We want our young Soldiers to study, to train and be the best Soldiers they can be, because as they move up into positions of increased responsibility they will be responsible for teaching from a position of

experience. It's the experience that allows our NCOs to be trainers."

During the year of the NCO, the Army will work toward enhancing education, fitness, leadership development and pride in service by implementing programs and policies that support growth of the NCO corps, the sergeant major said.

With respect to education during the year of the NCO, the sergeant major said there were three pillars of learning for all Soldiers in the Army.

The first pillar of learning is institutional learning in the school house.

The second pillar is that of operational experience.

"The third pillar is largely an untapped resource: self-development and self-study," Preston said.

"One of the big initiatives coming out of this is the Army Career Tracker where we can begin to provide more guided and structured self-development initiatives. There are a lot of things out there we want our NCOs to be, know and do to take them to a whole new level."

Preston said as Soldiers continue to develop and grow with their education, by the time they reach sergeant they've become very articulate, very smart and great spokespersons.

- Army News Service