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HIGH SPEED



Official Newsletter of the
Enlisted Association of the National Guard of West Virginia

LIMITED TIME

**FREE
MEMBERSHIP
OFFER**

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WVNG Enlisted Members and Retirees Invited to State Conference - 29-30 April

BY EANGWV STAFF

The 2022 State Conference will be held April 29th and 30th at the Holiday Inn and Suites West, 400 2nd Ave SW, Charleston, WV 25303. The conference kicks off with an icebreaker social event including live comedy on Friday night. Saturday's business meeting will address legislative efforts and recent successes by EANGUS and NGAUS and provide information on the multitude of resources available to Guard members.

Attendance is free and pre-registration is encouraged. Visit eangwv.org/events for more details and the registration link.



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Financial Support for Impacted Guard Members

BY EANGUS STAFF

With thousands of National Guard members and their families facing financial hard-ships as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters, and other issues, USAA, EANGUS, and WCFA have teamed up to help National Guard members and families in need. To simplify the process, EANGUS WCFA has revamped their grant program by combining the WCFA Emergency Relief Grant and the Soldier & Airman Relief Grant for Emergencies (hereafter referred to as "SARGE") into a single grant.



WCFA offers a current or former National Guard member in good standing who has experienced a catastrophic financial hardship and/or personal property loss the opportunity to apply for a SARGE Grant. Individuals who are an EANGUS dues paying member (Life or Annual) will be eligible for additional funds. Grants may be used for financial hardships related to events such as mobilization, natural disasters, fires, and other catastrophic losses. The grants are intended for otherwise non-reimbursable expenses (i.e., not covered by insurance) due to these events and include medical bills, utility bills, rent or mortgage payments, groceries, relocation, shelter due to loss of residence and funeral expenses. Other expenses, not listed here, may be deemed appropriate and approved by the committee. For more information on grants and Interest Free Loans programs, go to www.eangus-wcfa.org.

"The National Guard's ability to fight wars overseas, protect the homeland or establish partnerships across nations, states, and localities all comes down to one thing—our people."

GEN DANIEL HOKANSON





EANGWV Offering FREE Annual Memberships

BY EANGWV STAFF

For a limited time only, EANGWV is offering completely free memberships and renewals for current or retired Guard members E6 and below. This offer includes membership both within the state chapter and EANGUS.

Membership strengthens the voice of the association both at the state and on Capitol Hill. EANGWV members and their dependents are also eligible for a whole host of benefits, including exclusive scholarships, financial assistance, insurance offers and more.

To accept your free membership, visit eangwv.org/membership and click "Enlisted Annual Membership." Then enter code EANGUS22 to waive the membership fee.

Troops Slated for Largest Pay Raise in 20 Years Under Pentagon Budget but Inflation Looms

BY TRAVIS TRITTEN, MILITARY.COM

Troops and civilian workers would get a 4.6% pay raise under a Pentagon annual budget request unveiled Monday, a sharp boost from the 2.7% increase in 2022 but still well below the surging rate of inflation.

The proposed \$773 billion budget request from President Joe Biden's Pentagon also pushes ahead with sexual assault reforms and climate change initiatives in the administration's second year -- and plans to plow \$97.3 billion into air and sea platforms like the B-21 Raider bomber and Columbia-class submarines.

"That's our largest pay raise in 20 years on the military and civilian side," Deputy Defense Secretary Kathleen Hicks said in a briefing to reporters on Monday.

Continue reading at military.com.

Important Legislation:

H.R. 3512: Healthcare for Our Troops Act

This legislation would provide free Tricare Reserve Select (TRS) coverage for every National Guard member, including military technicians.

H.R. 3626 & S. 1859: NG and Reserve Incentive Pay Parity Act

Currently, reserve component members are only authorized 1/30th of hazardous duty incentive payments for each day served, even though the qualifications and requirements are equal. This bill ensures reserve component members receive the full payment for each qualifying period. Status: PASSED

H.R. 1836: Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2021

This bill would expand Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility to include cumulative qualifying training, IDT, and ADOS periods.

H.R. 303: Retired Pay Restoration Act

This bill would allow the receipt of both military retired pay AND VA disability pay, REGARDLESS of VA rating.

Important legislation continued on next page.



EANGUS Supports Veterans Through Operation VetCare

BY EANGUS STAFF

Operation VetCare was established in 2017 by EANGUS as a program designed to assist Military Service Members, Veterans, and their families who faced special issues or challenges associated with military service. This program has continued to grow over the last several years.

Assistance through this program provides support in the form of gift cards for food, clothing, and other necessary items during a service-related crisis. Through this program, EANGUS has been able to assist hundreds of people during a time of significant need.

To learn more about the program or to learn how to donate, visit <https://eangus.org/operation-vetcare> or call 1-800-242-6964.

EANGWV Seeking Soldiers and Airmen for Professional Development Opportunities

BY EANGWV STAFF

Each year, EANGWV provides opportunities for professional development in order to assist our members in understanding how the government works and the role EANGUS plays in the legislative process. Additionally, these events give National Guard members the opportunity to hear current information from senior military and government leaders on a variety of topics.

If you are interested in hearing more about our upcoming professional development opportunities, please contact us at info@eangwv.org.

Important Legislation (Continued):

H.R. 7041 and S. 1291: The Record of Military Service for Members of the Armed Forces Act of 2021

National Guard members are typically issued an NGB Form 22 upon separation. This document is not generally recognized by government agencies or private organizations as verification of service. This bill would require DD Form 214s to be issued to all reserve component members upon separation.

H.R. 4247: Providing Additional Benefits to National Guard Servicemembers Performing State Active Duty

This bill would expand VA compensation eligibility to National Guard members who are injured or become disabled while serving on State Active Duty.

H.R. 3944 and S. 2019: Burial Equity for Guards and Reserves Act of 2021

This bill prohibits the VA from restricting reserve component burial eligibility in state-owned veterans' cemeteries based on ineligibility for burial in an open national cemetery.



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