

EANGMT NEWS

July 2003

ENLISTED ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD FOR MONTANA

President's Message

By Ruth Mortag

Why should I belong to the Enlisted Association? What do I get out of it?

These are two common questions I heard during a recent membership drive. The first time I heard this question; I didn't know how to answer it. While I prefer the "strong-arm" tactics and my favorite reply is "Don't ask questions, just give me your money" I have learned that sometimes the "soft-sell" is a better tactic, and the best tactic is educating people regarding the association.

Why should I belong to the Enlisted Association? Professional people belong to Professional Associations. We expect doctors to belong to the American Medical Association. We expect lawyers to belong to the American Bar Association. We expect accountants to belong to American Accounting Association and we should expect journalists to belong to the Society of Professional Journalism. If these individuals do not belong to the professional association in their respective fields, are they taken seriously? Would you put your health or finances in the hands of someone who isn't a member of their respective professional association?

How many of you belong to the Air Force Sergeant's Association (AFSA), the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) or the Non-Commissioned Officer's Association (NCOA)? Did you think twice when you joined?

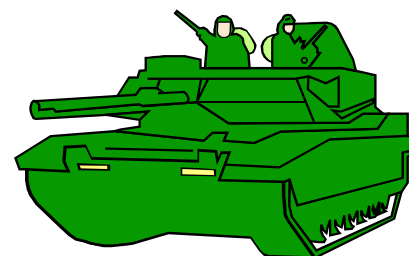
The EANGMT is the only association that works for all the ENLISTED PEOPLE of the NATIONAL GUARD. These organizations are vital and important, however as National Guardsmen we have our own unique identity that only the Enlisted Association of the National Guard is in a position to address.

If we expect to be taken seriously, we need to indicate that we are indeed serious. How can a person show interest in their career and advancement of themselves and all the enlisted ranks? Join the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Montana.

What do I get out of it? Nothing. If a person doesn't join, the association will still strive for greater benefits. The association will still support legislation for pay increases, more commissary visits and other matters of interest to the National Guard Forces. Students will still be eligible to qualify for the tuition assistance and the Montgomery GI Bill for education. You will still qualify for the veteran's hiring preference for State jobs. You don't have to be a member to enjoy the benefits the association has achieved for all of us.

However, the Enlisted Association is the way to make your voice heard. We have strength in numbers. The more members we have, the professional appearance of the organization increases. In a small state like Montana having a possible membership of 3,000 voters is quite a way to make a legislator stand up and take notice.

Hopefully this will help if you are ever asked these questions. Go sell a membership, but do one better, go sell our organization.



2003 MONTANA LEGISLATIVE REPORT – 58TH SESSION

*Roger A. Hagan, Legislative Consultant
as of 26 April 2003*

The 58th Legislative Session in the 89th day of a 90-day session adjourned today. This session was an extraordinary session for the Montana National Guard Enlisted Association. All of your legislative initiatives were passed and passed with glowing endorsements. The legislators' support for military and veterans issues this session was greater than it had ever been. Our grassroots efforts were enhanced by faxing legislative alerts to 95 National Guard fax sites throughout the state. I sent 6 of those alerts during the session, all focused on the scholarship program.

- Montana National Guard Scholarship Program -

Your number one priority, the State Sponsored National Guard Scholarship Program, remained in the state budget (HB 2). However, in the final hours of the session the amount of the appropriation was reduced. At the beginning of the session, the odds of this program being added into the budget at all were slim. However, due to the great support of several of our friends on the House Appropriations Committee, this program was 'reborn' in the early days of the session. Until the final day, the funding for this program had not been tampered with. In the past two sessions this program was funded at \$250,000. We ran out of funds this fiscal year (from the last biennium budget cycle) and currently have about 100 applications pending that cannot be funded. Early in the session, the scholarship program was funded at a level higher than ever before - \$337,090! Unfortunately, as I said earlier, that amount was reduced by \$87,090 to the same level as prior bienniums - \$250,000. Considering that we started with nothing, having this program funded at the \$250,000 level, during a time when other agencies were getting reduced, is a very good thing. We were so fortunate to have the great support of our legislators to accomplish this feat.

The following legislators were key in supporting addition of funds for the scholarship program. If you have not taken the time to thank these members, please do so.

Representative Tim Callahan, (D) Great Falls – Tim is on the Joint Appropriations Sub-Committee that heard the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) budget. He gave us the opportunity to present testimony on the scholarship program to both the subcommittee and the full Appropriations Committee. His continued support of our initiatives provided us the exposure we needed to garner support for scholarship funding.

Representative Dave Kasten, (R) Brockway – Dave is the House Appropriations Committee member who offered the amendment to HB 2 that funded our scholarship program at the greatest amount ever - \$337,090. Rep Kasten is well known for his conservative stance, so for him to support the funding for this program added great credibility to the effort

Representatives Jeff Pattison, (R) Glasgow; Rick Ripley, (R) Wolf Creek; and John Witt, (R)Carter - Each of these House Appropriations Committee members worked closely with Representative Kasten to insure the success of his amendment. Together, these three members had planned three alternate amendments to offer for the scholarship funding if Representative Kasten's amendment failed. Their support insured the success of our efforts.

- Legislative Successes -

HB 35, Representative Hal Jacobson, (D) Helena – Include National Guard veterans in public employer preference law.

HB 39, Representative Dave Gallik, (D) Helena – Adopt current federal laws regulating National Guard (includes the current federal UCMJ).

SB 4, Senator Glenn Roush, (D) Cut Bank; SB 50, Senator Debbie Shea, (D) Butte; and SB 401 [combined SB's 4 and 50], Senator Michael Wheat, (D) Bozeman – Revise state veteran's affairs structure (SB 4), Revise laws governing Board of Veteran's Affairs (SB 50), Revise membership and duties concerning veterans affairs division (SB 401).

SB 49, Senator Debbie Shea, (D) Butte – Clarify privacy of certain veteran's records (DD Form 214).
SB 75, Senator Corey Stapleton, (R) Billings – Montana civil relief act for activated Montana guard members (state mini-version of Federal Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act).

SJ 3, Senator Bill Tash, (R) Dillon – Educational benefits for Montana National Guard members. A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING THE BOARD OF REGENTS TO ADOPT POLICIES GRANTING A MEMBER OF THE MILITARY WHO IS CALLED OR ORDERED TO ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY OTHER THAN ACTIVE DUTY FOR TRAINING, INCLUDING, IN THE CASE OF MEMBERS OF THE MONTANA NATIONAL GUARD, ACTIVE DUTY AS PROVIDED FOR IN ARTICLE VI, SECTION 13, OF THE MONTANA CONSTITUTION, AN EDUCATIONAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE UPON RELEASE FROM ACTIVE DUTY; URGING RESTORING A MEMBER UPON RELEASE FROM ACTIVE DUTY TO THE EDUCATIONAL STATUS ATTAINED PRIOR TO BEING CALLED OR ORDERED INTO ACTIVE DUTY; AND URGING REFUNDING OF TUITION OR FEES PAID BY A MILITARY MEMBER WHO IS ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY.

- Other Legislative Issues We Supported -

HB 44, Representative Frank Smith, (D) Poplar – Revise rate for purchase of military service for Public Employee Retirement System (PERS). (Companion Bill Introduced in Senate. See SB 66.)

HB 201, Representative Larry Jent, (D) Bozeman – Revising voter registration and absentee ballot provisions for Montana Absent Uniformed Services and Overseas Electors.

HB 250, Representative Penny Morgan, (R) Billings – Revising the design of license plates for recipients of the Purple Heart Medal.

HB 285, Representative Roy Brown, (R) Billings – Revising laws related to military status, providing that a public high school shall provide equal access to U.S. Armed Forces Recruiters visiting the campus as other recruiters, protecting the election law residency rights of reserve members activated to federal military duty and prohibiting certain adverse actions related to the professional licensure of a reserve member.

HJ 21, Representative Penny Morgan, (R) Billings – A joint resolution urging the Governor to set aside a time on Memorial Day as a moment of remembrance to honor the acts and efforts of Montanans who died in service to the United States and to honor those Montanans who continue to serve on behalf of this country.

HJ 36, Representative Jeff Pattison, (R) Glasgow – A joint resolution urging the United States Supreme Court to overturn the decision by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals finding that a teacher-led recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and the statute inserting the words “under God” into the Pledge of Allegiance violated the establishment clause contained in the first amendment to the United States Constitution.

HR 4, Representative David Wanzenried, (D) Missoula – A resolution of the House of Representatives of the State of Montana supporting Montana's Armed Forces Personnel in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

SB 66, Senator John Bohlinger, (R) Billings – Eliminate 10-year period for PERS member to buy military service. Companion Bill Introduced in House. See HB 44.

SB 407, Senator Bob Depratu, (R) Whitefish – Various tax changes, limited sales tax, and increasing the cigarette tax. The issue that our

members supported in this bill was the increase of funding for the two Montana Veterans' Nursing Homes (Glendive and Columbia Falls) from the cigarette tax. Our influence in this veteran issue brought us much closer to the veteran organizations in Montana. The change in the law more than doubled the funds available for the operation and maintenance of the two nursing homes.

Representative Daniel Fuchs, (R) Billings, Chairman of the House Taxation Committee, insured that our veterans' were taken care of in this bill. He deserves a large thank you for his efforts.

SB 413, Senator Sam Kitzenberg, (R) Glasgow –
An act naming U.S. Highway 2 as the 163rd Infantry Regiment (Sunset Division) Heritage Highway.

SR 6, Senator Michael Wheat, (D) Bozeman – A resolution of the House of Representatives of the State of Montana supporting

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the outstanding efforts of the Department of Military Affairs during this session. Many of these

bills were 'department' bills, requested through the Governor's office. BG Randy Mosley played a key role in the success of your Association's legislative initiatives. Thanks for giving me the opportunity to represent you during the session and I look forward to working with you again in the future.

*Roger A. Hagan(Legislative Consultant)
Montana National Guard Association/Enlisted
Association of the National Guard of Montana
1224 Stuart Street, Helena, MT 59601-2139, Cell
(406) 459-0773, Home (406) 449-8795.*



Your Officers!

President - TSG Ruth Mortag - Air

1st Vice President - MSG Denny Eickert- Army

2nd Vice President - SFC James Gustafson – Army

Treasurer – TSgt Steve Hagan - Air

Secretary – TSgt Billie Jo Hindoien - Air

Executive Committee Members

At Large:

MSG John Bagley – Army

SFC Monty Herrin - Army

CSM Ronda Scott – Army*

**Neil Young by Proxy*

SGM Larry Westfall - Army

MSG Lisa Smith - Air

SFC Harvey Schulz – Army

TSG Tiffany Ghekierre - Air

By-Laws: SSgt Christine Bringard – Air

National Conference:
CCM Paul Heppner - Air

Membership:
SMSgt Jim Robertson – Air
MSgt Denny Eickert - Army

Newsletter:
MSgt Lisa Smith - Air
SSgt Patti Hagan - Air

Legislative: CMSgt Roger Hagan - Air
Scholarship: MSgt Jeff Wheeler - Air

Retirees:
MSgt John Haffner - Air
SFC Don Bogut - Army

State Conference:
MSgt John Haffner – Air
MSgt Dorrie Hagan - Air

Enlisted Association Membership Statistics – Montana Air Guard
By: MSG James Robertson

The following statistics represent membership for the Montana Air National Guard listed by squadron and the overall enlisted and associate memberships as of 30 June 2003.

<i>Squadron</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Association Members (Enlisted)</i>	<i>Total Enlisted per Squadron</i>	<i>Associate Members (Officer)</i>
120 th AGS	16%	26	166	1
120 th CE	23%	11	47	1
120 th COMM	57%	25	44	1
120 th HQ	50%	17	34	2
120 th LOG GRP	0%	0	18	0
120 th LGS	48%	48	101	4
120 th LSF	23%	5	22	0
120 th MED	19%	7	36	1
120 th MS	8%	15	180	0
120 th MSF	42%	11	26	2
120 th OPS	42%	11	26	1
120 th SFS	12%	8	65	1
120 th SVS	12%	2	17	0
219 th RHS	11%	11	101	0
St Staff	85%	11	13	7
Total	23%	208	896	21

We currently have 292 total members, which breaks down into 208 current, 63 lifetime members who are either retired or no longer in the unit, 21 Associate members, and 1 retired lifetime associate member.

If you are interested in renewing your membership or would like to become a lifetime member, please feel free to give myself a call at (406)791-6270, or please contact one of the following individuals:

MAINTENANCE:

CMS Roger Jones
TSG Jeff Mortag

HEADQUARTERS/PERSONNEL:

CCM Steve Lcyzewski
CMS Larry Seibel

LOGISTICS:

MSG Dorrie Hagan
MSG Jim Robertson

TSG Ruth Mortag

COMMUNICATIONS:

MSG Dwayne Carroll

CIVIL ENGINEERING:

MSG Matt Mitchell

MEDICAL:

TSG Mary Mortag

SSG Christine Bringard

RED HORSE:

MSG John Haffner

SECURITY FORCES:

CMS Jeff Tarman

OPERATIONS:

SMS George Mumm

MSG Bob Reiman

TSG Dave Robbin

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERSHIP: 264 and 8 Associate Members (Officer)

Please renew all memberships at the local level. If you have renewed your membership on the EANGUS web site it may take a while for the information to update. While it is convenient to renew on-line it could cause members to not receive their newsletters for a brief period. Membership renewals are cross fed from the national level but this does take time. An EANGMT web page is under development.

Constitution and By-Laws Review SSgt Christine Bringard

Suggested wording for By-Laws Article III. Please review and submit opinions, whether rewriting the By-Law would add clarity or to leave it as is, to the Executive Committee by the next quarterly meeting for a vote.

ARTICLE III: OFFICERS - ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND DUTIES

Reads now: **Section 1:** The following Officers shall be elected, by ballot, at the Annual Conference:

Suggested change: no change

Reads now: A. Annually, President and Vice-Presidents. These positions shall always consist of at least one (1) Army and one (1) Air Guardsperson. Normal progression in office will be from Second Vice-President to First Vice-President to President. No person shall hold the Presidency for more than two consecutive years.

Suggested change: A. President and Vice-Presidents (second and first vice): Office holds a term of (1) year. These positions shall always consist of at least one (1) Army and one (1) Air Guardsperson. Recommended, but not strict, progression in office would be from Second Vice-President to First Vice-President to President. No person shall hold the Presidency for more than two consecutive years.

Reads now: B. For a term of two (2) years; four (4) Executive Committee Members-at-Large, three (3) Army and one (1) Air, shall be elected on odd numbered years and four (4) Executive Committee Members-at-Large, three (3) Army and one (1) Air, shall be elected on even numbered years.

Suggested change: B. Executive Committee Members-at-Large: Office holds a term of two (2) years. One (1) Air and three (3) Army elected on odd numbered years; One (1) Air and three (3) Army elected on even numbered years.

Reads now: C. The office of the Treasurer shall be elected for term of three (3) years.

Suggested change: C. Treasurer: Office holds a term of three (3) years.

Reads now: **Section 2:** The Secretary shall be appointed by the President at the close of the Annual Conference or within thirty (30) days therefrom.

Suggested change: Section 2: The current President and/or Executive Committee shall Appoint the following Officers. Appointed Officers shall serve for a term of one (1) year or until their successors have been appointed, whichever is shorter.

Suggested change: A. Secretary: Position is appointed by the President at the close, or within 30 days from the close of the Annual Conference.

Reads now: **Section 3:** Executive Committee Members should be appointed for the following prior to the Annual conference:

A: Two (2) - Retired members in good standing, one (1) Army and one (1) Air.

Suggested change: B. Appointed Executive Committee Retired Members in good standing: One (1) Army, one (1) Air. Appointment should take place prior to each Annual Conference.

Reads now: **Section 4:** Appointed Officers shall serve for a term of one (1) year or until their successors have been appointed, whichever is shorter.

Suggested change: ~~Section 4: Appointed Officers shall serve for a term of one (1) year or until their successors have been appointed, whichever is shorter.~~

Reads now: **Section 5:** The Executive Committee shall have the power to act as a body for conducting business that may come before the Association during the course of the year.

Suggested change: Section 3: Official Duties

Suggested change: A. The Executive Committee shall:

1. Have the power to act as a body for conducting business during the course of the year that may come before the Association.

Reads now: A. The Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint and fill the vacancy of Officers that may be caused due to death, resignation or disqualification of such Officers.

Suggested change: put under Section 3: 2. Have the power to appoint and fill the vacancy of Officers that may be caused due to death, resignation or disqualification of such Officers.

Reads now: **Section 6:** The President shall preside at all meeting or conferences. He/she shall countersign all checks and drafts. The President shall also perform such other duties as are customarily associated with his/her office, and except as modified by the Constitution/By-Laws, ensure that parliamentary law, as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order, govern all meetings and conferences of the Association.

Suggested change: put under [Section 3: B](#). The President shall:

- 1. Preside at all meetings or conferences.*
- 2. Countersign all checks and drafts.*
- 3. Other duties as are customarily associated with the office and, except as modified by the Constitution/By-Laws, ensure that parliamentary law as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order govern all meetings and conferences of the Association.*

Reads now: **Section 7:** The First Vice-President shall:

Suggested change: put under [Section 3: C](#). The First Vice-President shall:

Reads now: A. Exercise the powers, authority and duties of the President during his/her absence or inability to act.

Suggested change: change to #1

Reads now: B. Be directly responsible for the administration of all external affairs.

Suggested change: change to #2

Reads now: **Section 8.** The Second Vice-President shall:

Suggested change: put under [Section 3: D](#). The Second Vice-President shall:

Reads now: A. Be directly responsible for the administration of all internal affairs. (Effectiveness of Management Controls)

Suggested change: change to #1

Reads now: B. Be directly responsible for the coordination of all committee activities.

Suggested change: change to #2

Reads now: **Section 9:** The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all money with true diligence. Upon entering his/her office he/she shall give proper bond with good and sufficient surety in the amount to be determined by the Executive Committee. Such bond shall be paid for from funds of the Association.

Suggested change: put under [Section 3: E](#). The Treasurer shall:

Suggested change: change to- 1. Receive and disburse all money with true diligence. Upon entering his/her office he/she shall give proper bond with good and sufficient surety in the amount to be determined by the Executive Committee. Such bond shall be paid for from funds of the Association.

Reads now: **Section 10:** The Secretary shall prepare and maintain full and correct records of all meetings called by the President. Perform other duties as the President deems necessary.

Suggested change: put under [Section 3: F](#). The Secretary shall:

Suggested change: change to- 2. Prepare and maintain full and correct records of all meetings called by the President.

Suggested change: 3. Perform other duties, as the President deems necessary.

Reads now: **Section 11:** The Executive Committee shall act on any expenditures and business that may come before the Association that is not otherwise authorized in the provisions contained herein.

Suggested change: put under [Section 3: A](#). 3. Act on any expenditures and business that may come before the Association that is not otherwise authorized in the provisions contained herein.

Reads now: **Section 12:** Installation of Officers - Elected Officers shall be installed at the conclusion of the Annual Conference at which they were elected and shall continue in office until their successors are elected or appointed.

Suggested change: make it [Section 4](#)

Reads now: **Section 13:** Oath of Office - The President shall administer the Oath of Office to all incoming Officers, elected or appointed as follows: “I, (State Name), do solemnly swear to uphold the office of (State Office). I pledge my full support

and ability to further the ideals and missions of the Association, to serve the membership by deeds worthy of their trust, and to abide by the provisions of the Association”.

Suggested change: make it [Section 5](#)

TRICARE Eligibility for Guard and Reserve Families Begins the Day Sponsor Is Activated

April 15, 2003 No. 03-09

TRICARE eligibility for family members of National Guard and Reserves begins the day the sponsor is activated to military service on federal orders for more than 30 days. Family members are not required to wait 30 days to use their TRICARE health care benefits—they never had to. However, to take advantage of TRICARE, sponsors and all family members must be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). Family members have three health care options: TRICARE Prime, Extra and Standard, and may receive care at either a Department of Defense (DoD) military treatment facility (MTF) or from any TRICARE-authorized civilian provider.

Benefit Enhancements

Recently, Dr. William Winkenwerder, Jr., the assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, announced a new policy to enhance access to health care for Guard and Reserve family members. Effective March 10, 2003, family members of Guard and Reserves activated to military service for more than 30 days may now enroll in TRICARE Prime—a benefit that has no deductibles, co-payments or claim forms for family members to file.

Family members who reside with their sponsors in a TRICARE Prime Remote (TPR) location at the time of the sponsor’s activation may now enroll in the TRICARE Prime Remote for Active Duty Family Members (TPRADFM) program. As a result of the recent policy change, DoD interprets the reside with clause to include family members who resided in a TPR location with their sponsor and continue to reside in the TPR

location after the sponsor departed for their home station, mobilization or deployment site.

To avoid potential point-of-service charges, active duty family members enrolled in TRICARE Prime are required to receive care from a primary care manager at an MTF or from a TRICARE Prime network civilian provider. Family members enrolled in TPRADFM are required to receive care from either a TRICARE network provider or, if a network provider is not available, from any TRICARE-authorized civilian provider.

TRICARE Standard offers beneficiaries flexibility and greater provider choice. Guard and Reserve families may use any TRICARE-authorized provider; however, the provider’s authorization status must be verified by the TRICARE regional managed care support contractor (MCSC) before TRICARE can pay the bill.

Guard and Reserve family members using TRICARE Standard pay cost shares equal to 20 percent of the TRICARE maximum allowable charge (TMAC) for covered health care services obtained from TRICARE-authorized providers. Those using TRICARE Extra who receive care from TRICARE network providers pay cost shares equal to 15 percent of TMAC.

TRICARE Reserve Demonstration

The TRICARE Reserve Family Demonstration Project, implemented Sept. 14, 2001, temporarily waives TRICARE Standard and Extra deductibles for Guard and Reserve family members, said Army Maj. Dawn Erckenbrack, program manager, TRICARE Management Activity. On Oct 31, 2003, the day the demonstration ends,

family members who choose not to enroll in TRICARE Prime or TPRADFM may continue using TRICARE Standard or Extra, however they will be responsible for paying TRICARE cost shares and the deductibles once again, Erckenbrack said.

Enrollment Procedures

Activated Guard and Reserve sponsors reporting to a home station or mobilization site who live within 40 miles of an MTF are required to enroll in TRICARE Prime using their home (residential address). Sponsors who live outside of the MTF catchment area can enroll using their residential address at the MTF closest to their mobilization site.

Eligibility for TPRADFM requires sponsors and family members to reside together in a TPR ZIP code. Therefore, to enroll family members in TPRADFM, the residential address of the sponsor and the family members must be the same in DEERS. Once family members are enrolled,



sponsors are not required to re-enroll family members if they themselves are later relocated to another stateside location or deployed overseas. Family members may enroll themselves if their sponsors have already been activated or

deployed. Sponsors previously mobilized whose family members now qualify to enroll in TPRADFM, based on the new ?reside with? interpretation, are encouraged to update their residential mailing address in DEERS. By updating their residential mailing addresses, sponsors re-establish TPR eligibility for their family members regardless of where the sponsor may have originally enrolled. To enroll in TRICARE Prime or TPRADFM, the sponsor or family member must complete and submit a TRICARE Prime enrollment application. Family members whose applications are received through the 20th of the month are enrolled the first day of the next month. Family

members whose applications are received after the 20th of the month are enrolled the month that follows. For example, if the application is received June 20, TRICARE Prime or TPR coverage for the family member begins July 1. If the application is received June 21, coverage for the family member begins Aug. 1. Family members enrolled in TRICARE Prime may transfer their enrollment to another TRICARE Prime location. However, enrollment in TPRADFM is based on the residential mailing address of the sponsor at time of activation or mobilization. As a result, TPR families cannot transfer their enrollment to another TRP site but would transfer enrollment to PRIME if they moved to a Prime Service area.

For some Guard and Reserve family members, especially those currently receiving care from providers outside of the TRICARE network, enrolling in TRICARE Prime or TPR (and thereby using only providers who are part of the TRICARE network) may not be the best option. For these family members, TRICARE Standard may offer a better health care option. However, if the family members live in a TPR area and there are no network providers, they may use any TRICARE authorized provider, including their current provider. Guard and Reserve families must decide which TRICARE option best meets their families' health care needs.

DEERS Verification/Additional Information Eligibility for TRICARE is based on the information that is available in DEERS. Sponsors may verify eligibility for themselves and family members by visiting or contacting the nearest military identification card issuing facility or contacting the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office toll free at 1-800-538-9552. Sponsors or family members with questions or needing assistance are encouraged to contact their TRICARE regional managed care support contractor or TRICARE service center representative.

THE EANGUS MINUTEMAN UPDATE

Official Update of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States
SPECIAL EDITION

Rumsfeld to Congress, Guard & Reserve Health Care and Concurrent Receipt are a Big No-No

In a letter dated July 8, addressed to Congressman Duncan Hunter, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, stated that if certain provisions were contained in the conference report of the FY04 Defense Authorization Bill, he, along with other senior DoD officials, would recommend a veto to the president.

Several of the issues contained in the Secretary's letter have a profound impact on Guard and Reserve members. From the letter:

"Other unrequested pay and benefits. Both the House and the Senate bills contain other entitlements and compensation proposals that the Administration did not request and that would have a negative impact on the defense budget. The Senate bill authorizes nearly \$300 million per year of unrequested increases in pays and allowances. The House bill seeks to link military and civilian pay raises. The President's Budget provides an average pay raise of 4.1 percent to military personnel and a total of 2 percent to civilian employees; it is responsible and sensible, and contains numerous benefit programs and funding sources for our active and reserve forces and their families, properly balanced with other important national defense priorities. "Concurrent receipt and TRICARE. Allowing the Senate proposal for concurrent receipt of military retirement pay and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability benefits would cost an estimated total of \$57 billion over ten years (of which \$41 billion would be defense costs and \$16 billion would be VA costs). These unfunded entitlements would drain resources from important programs benefitting our military, such as continued improvements in pay, quality of life, readiness, and other pressing requirements."

The "unrequested pay and benefits" include increases in the reenlistment bonus, special pay for WMD teams, future pay raises, increase in family separation allowance, increase in hostile fire pay and an increase in hazardous duty pay for Guard and Reserve members.

Once again, the administration is turning a deaf ear to those who were injured in the line of duty.

Military retired pay is earned. Disability pay is awarded as a result of loss during service. No service member should have to give up one for the other.

More from the Secretary's letter:

"BRAC. The Administration continues to oppose any changes to the BRAC authority passed by the Congress two years ago. We cannot afford excess infrastructure, and I urge the conference not to restrict the Department's ability to execute the FY 2005 BRAC in the most efficient manner possible." Are Guard and Reserve facilities on the chopping block?

GAO Slams Army Health

Assessments The General Accounting Office testified yesterday and chastised the Army for not consistently assessing the health status of early deploying Guard and Reserve personnel. It is important to note that the General Accounting Office study did not look at other service branches.

From the GAO testimony:

"What GAO found the Army has not consistently carried out the statutory requirements for monitoring the health and dental status of its early-deploying reservists. As a result, the Army does not have sufficient information to know how many reservists can perform their assigned duties and are ready for deployment. At reserve units GAO visited, approximately 66 percent of the medical records were available for review. At those locations, GAO found that the about 13 percent of the 5-year physical examinations had not been performed, about 49 percent of early-deploying reservists lacked current dental examinations, and none of the annual medical certificates required of reservists were completed by them and reviewed by the units.

Medical experts recommend periodic physical and dental examinations as an effective means of assessing health. Army early-deploying reservists need to be healthy to meet the specific demands of their occupations; examinations and other health screenings can be used to identify those who cannot perform

their assigned duties. Without adequate examinations, the Army may train, support, and mobilize reservists who are unfit for duty."

One thing that the GAO testimony failed to report is that the problem exists in "late" deploying units, and they are units that are consistently being used.

EANGUS believes that the GAO study adds VALIDITY for the need of TRICARE for Guard and Reserve members as well as dental care, which is included in TRICARE. The Department of Defense has concurred with the General Accounting Office's recommendation to comply with statutory requirements - to conduct medical and dental examinations and provide dental treatment. This seems in direct conflict with the Secretary's letter to Congress.

More from the GAO Report:

"When reservists were mobilized during the 1990-91 Persian Gulf War, the Army discovered that due to medical reasons or poor dental status a significant number of them could not be deployed or had their deployment delayed. In an effort to help ensure that Army reservists meet the military's health standards and are ready to perform their assigned duties, the Congress augmented health assessment requirements that had been in place prior to the Persian Gulf War. Specifically, the Congress required the Army to monitor the health status of those designated as early-deploying reservists by providing annual medical screenings, annual dental screenings, selected dental treatment, and for those over age 40, physical examinations every two years. All reservists, including early deployers, are also required to disclose annually to the Army the status of their physical and dental condition, and those under age 40 are required to undergo a physical examination once every 5 years."

In summary, the GAO testimony states that the Army has not consistently carried out the requirements for monitoring the health and dental status of early deploying reservists. And they state that the Army, as a result, doesn't

have sufficient information to know how many reservists can perform their assigned duties and are ready for deployment. They also found that the Army does not have an automated system for maintaining accurate and complete medical information on early deployments. They state that periodic physical and dental examinations are valuable for the Army to insure medical and dental readiness. If reservists cannot be deployed because of health and dental problems, the Army loses its investment in salaries and training and the particular skill or occupation it needed. Also, for reservists who may become eligible for VA benefits, inadequate health information can make it more difficult to adjudicate claims for service-connected disabilities and to provide quality medical care.

This current report did not state what a previous report identified - 21 to 24 percent of Guard and Reserve personnel do not have health insurance and therefore may not be able to adequately state on medical certificates that they may have health problems. Without proper care, many diseases can go undetected for years - diseases such as diabetes and heart problems.

EANGUS recognizes that times have changed. However, EANGUS has always believed and will continue to believe that the health needs of the soldiers, airmen, sailors and marines should always come first. It is wishful thinking, but an "in charge" NCO wouldn't let this happen.

Just as a reminder, you cannot use a government computer to email your Congressmen or Representative on these issues.

Remember, larger the association, the stronger our voice is on the Hill. Congress views association size as a validation of the position on legislation we represent. Therefore, we urge all enlisted members to join in our important work by increasing our numbers.



TRICARE Enhances Dental Benefits for Uniformed Services Retirees

No. 03-11

Under a new five-year dental contract between the Department of Defense and the Delta Dental Plan of California, dental benefits for uniformed services retirees and family members enrolled in the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) have been enhanced. Beginning May 1, 2003, the mandatory enrollment period is reduced from 24 to 12 months. The annual maximum benefit per enrollee and lifetime maximum benefit for orthodontic care was increased from \$1000 to \$1200.

After the mandatory enrollment period ends, eligible enrollees which include uniformed services retirees and their family members; Medal of Honor recipients and their family members; and survivors and family members of deceased retirees or active duty sponsors who served on active duty for more than 30 consecutive days, may continue their enrollment in the TRDP on a month-to-month basis.

During the mandatory 12-month enrollment period, TRDP enrollees are covered for basic restorative services, periodontics, endodontics, oral surgery and dental emergencies. After 12 months of continuous enrollment, TRDP enrollees are covered for cast crowns, cast restorations, full and partial dentures and orthodontics for adults and children.

As an incentive, sponsors and family members who enroll within 120 days of the sponsor's retirement from active duty receive an extra benefit. They and their family members are covered by the enhanced dental services starting the day they enroll. Sponsors and family members who wait and enroll after the 120 day period are not eligible for the enhanced dental services

until they complete the mandatory 12 months of continuous TRDP enrollment.

The TRDP is a voluntary dental program with enrollee-paid premiums deducted automatically each month from the sponsor's retired military pay. If retired military pay is not available, sponsors and family members can arrange with Delta Dental to pay the monthly premiums either by mail or an electronic funds transfer.

Under the TRDP, there is a \$50 deductible per enrollee, with a \$150 yearly deductible per family. Premiums vary depending on where enrollees live and the number of family members they choose to enroll. During the enrollment period May 1, 2003, to April 30, 2004, enrollees pay approximately \$22 to \$37 a month for single coverage, \$42 to \$71 for two or \$71 to \$120 for a family of three or more.

Dental coverage is available throughout the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U. S. Virgin Islands, America Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Enrollees may seek dental care from any licensed dentist or specialist within the TRDP coverage area. To minimize out-of-pocket expenses, enrollees are encouraged to seek dental care from more than 67,000 participating dental providers. A directory of participating Delta Dental providers is available online at <http://www.ddpdelta.org>. Retirees and family members may also request a provider directory by calling the Delta Dental Customer Service number at (888) 838-8737. Additional information on the TRDP is available on the TRICARE Web site at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/dental>

Free Scholarship Money!!!

Student members of the MT EANG, do you know that USAA provides the MT EANG with the opportunity to give you an extra \$500? Each year USAA provides one airman and one soldier (*or their dependent children*) with a \$500 scholarship. This has got to be the easiest scholarship to compete for! The application is simple, fill out a few lines, write a paragraph or two on your life goals, obtain a copy of your current transcripts, copy your/sponsor's membership card, and search out an adult who can provide you with a letter of recommendation. The final step is to place this information in an envelope, address it, stamp it and mail it before 30 August 2003.

It can't be any easier. This scholarship is for the airman/soldier or their dependents.

Over the past years, the number of scholarship applicants has dropped. This decline is what prompted MSgt Dorrie Hagan to say, "Students in the Guard must be rich."

If anyone has any questions about the USAA \$500 Scholarship, please contact me, MSgt Jeff Wheeler. I can be reached at home: 406-225-3874, work: 406-444-0905, e-mail: jwheeler@state.mt.us or msflstsgt@cs.com

Scams target military families, e-mail users

5/12/2003 - **ST. LOUIS (AFPN)** -- Although the federal tax filing season ended April 15, the Internal Revenue Service continues to see isolated instances of new tax scams.

Two new schemes target families of those serving in the armed forces and e-mail users. In both schemes, people represent themselves as being from the IRS.

The IRS warns consumers to beware of any variation of a scenario in which a telephone caller posing as an IRS employee tells a family member he is entitled to a \$4,000 refund because his relative is in the armed forces and then requests a credit card number to cover a \$42 fee for postage. The scammer provides an actual IRS toll-free number as the callback number to make the call seem legitimate. However, the scammer then charges unauthorized purchases with the victim's card.

Genuine IRS employees who call taxpayers do not ask for credit card numbers or request fees for payment of a refund.

In another scheme, victims receive an e-mail that appears to be from the IRS. The e-mail contains links to a non-IRS Internet Web page that asks for personal and financial information. Such information could be used to steal the respondent's identity and get access to sensitive financial data or accounts.

Identity thieves can use someone's personal data to:

- take over his or her financial accounts.
- run up charges on the victim's existing credit cards.
- apply for loans, credit cards, services or benefits in the victim's name.
- file fraudulent tax returns.

The IRS does not request sensitive personal or financial data by e-mail.

The IRS wants to get word of these scams to military families before more damage is done, according to IRS spokesman Bill Barksdale.

"What we're trying to do is protect taxpayers from financial predators who are out there finding creative ways to steal from people," said Barksdale. "In this case (the latest military-related scam), it's not hard for these identity thieves to tell that lots of military folks are still deployed and, in many cases, their loved ones are left behind to figure out and finish the taxes."

Not all the phone calls will be the same, Barksdale said, but military people and their families should be aware of the basic elements of these scams so they can guard against them.

"The calls may not be worded exactly the same, but it's a good chance the predator will do or say something to entice the military member or spouse to give up their credit card information, which they will then use to commit identity theft," he said.

He does not know exactly how many military families have fallen victim to these scams, but he hopes it is not many, Barksdale said.

"We're trying to get ahead of these scams," he said. "It's one of our priorities. Hopefully, once we get this information out, we will prevent other military families from becoming victims of identity theft."

People who believe they are victims of one of these scams can contact the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration by calling the toll-free fraud referral hotline at (800) 366-4484, faxing a complaint to (202) 927-7018 or writing to the TIGTA Hotline, P.O. Box 589, Ben Franklin Station, Washington, DC 20044-0589. TIGTA's Web site is located at www.ustreas.gov/tigta. (Courtesy of Air Mobility Command News Service)



TRICARE Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP)

National Guard or activate reservists ordered to active duty for more than 30 days in support of a contingency operation or an active duty service member separating from active duty service under abnormal circumstances such as stop-loss or involuntary separation may be eligible for benefits under the Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP).

Military service members and their eligible family members currently enrolled in TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Prime Remote for active duty family members will be disenrolled upon the military service members' separation from active duty.

If the service members and their eligible family members want to keep TRICARE Prime under their TAMP benefit, they must complete a new enrollment form and submit it to the managed care support contractor in their home address area. When TRICARE Prime is available, and service member enroll themselves and their eligible family members into TRICARE Prime during their TAMP eligibility period, that enrollment will be retroactive to their separation from active duty Federal services.

Once service members are no longer on active duty under the TAMP benefit, they and their eligible family members are not eligible for TRICARE Prime Remote or TRICARE Prime Remote for active duty family members.

Although TAMP does not include dental benefits, service members and their eligible family

members may be eligible for dental coverage under the TRICARE Dental Plan (TDP). To determine eligibility for TDP, contact United Concordia Companies Inc.(UCCI) at 1-800-866-8499.

Reservists leaving active duty status(who were previously enrolled in the TRICARE Dental Plan) are automatically re-enrolled in TDP once their eligibility status has been correctly updated in Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). The new TDP coverage date is not reflected in DEERS until the first day of the month following deactivation. Reservist should ensure coverage for dental is in effect by contacting UCCI, at 1-800-866-8499.

The TDP requires a minimum 12-month enrollment. However, that commitment is waived for families of reservists called to active duty for certain contingency operations when the family submits a TDP enrollment application to UCCI within 30 days of the sponsor's deactivation date. If the application is not timely submitted, the family is required to complete the 12-month commitment following deactivation.

Family members of deactivated Reserve members, who qualified for the 12-month enrollment waiver or have met their initial enrollment commitment, have 30 days from the deactivation date to elect disenrollment without having to pay additional TRICARE Dental Plan premiums.

TRICARE eligibility is determined by the various branches of the uniformed services. Eligibility records are maintained in the DEERS database. Please check with the nearest military personnel section that issues military ID cards for more details.



**ENLISTED ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL GUARD OF MONTANA
USAA \$500.00 SCHOLARSHIP
2003 – 2004 ACADEMIC YEAR**

Date: _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Sponsor's Full Name and Rank: _____

Relationship to Sponsor: _____

College or post secondary school you are planning to attend or are currently attending

(i.e. Vo-Tech, College, Etc.): _____

You **MUST** BE A CURRENT MEMBER OF THE enlisted Association of the National Guard of Montana or a dependent of a current member.

The following items **MUST** be included with your scholarship application:

1. You **MUST** full out this application.
2. Attach a current transcript of your grades to the application (copies are acceptable).
3. Attach a copy of your/your sponsor's membership card to the application.
4. Write one or two short paragraphs on your goals in life and attach to the application.
5. Attach a letter of recommendation from an adult not related to you.

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE: _____

APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN 30 AUG 2003

MAIL COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:

MSgt Jeff Wheeler, Scholarship Chairman

PO Box 503

Boulder MT 59632-0503

Home Phone: 406-225-3874

Work Phone: 406-444-0905

You can also e-mail questions to: jwheeler@state.mt.us or msflstsgt@cs.com