



Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Georgia (EANGGA) and Enlisted Association of The National Guard of the United States (EANGUS)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Below are just some of the historical stuff accomplished by EANGGA/EANGUS
No State Association alone has the resources to be on Capitol Hill every day, like EANGUS**

2022

- EANGGA GA HB1064 Military Retirement Exemption/Credit - Reduces up to \$17.5K of our military retirement income
- EANGGA awarded 3 Scholarships (2 EANGGA / 1 USAA sponsored)
- Georgia Guard Insurance Trust Awarded \$32K in scholarships

2020-2021

- EANGGA supported/sponsored the GA National Guard Annual Retiree Appreciation Day Celebration
- EANGGA awarded 6 Scholarships from 2020-2021 (4 EANGGA / 2 USAA sponsored)
- Georgia Guard Insurance Trust Awarded \$50K in scholarships in 2021 and \$60K in 2020
- EANGUS Enhanced VA Home loan eligibility for National Guard service members
- EANGUS Expansion of eligibility for counseling and mental health services for NG/RC service members
- EANGUS GI Bill transfer with no max years of service
- EANGUS Transitional Healthcare coverage for NG/RC service members after serving in support of COVID-19 operations
- EANGUS Credit for retired pay purposes for maternity leave taken by NG/RC service members

2019

- EANGGA supported/sponsored the GA National Guard Annual Retiree Appreciation Day Celebration
- EANGGA awarded 3 Scholarships (1 EANGGA / 1 USAA sponsored)
- Georgia Guard Insurance Trust Awarded \$53K in scholarships
- Briefed EANGGA/EANGUS during the annual ANG Chiefs Huddle for Georgia
- Executive Order signed by the President on Veteran Suicide Prevention
- EANGGA Supported GA House Bill 735 to Exempt State Income Tax
(For income received as retirement or disability benefits from military service in the armed forces)
- EANGGA Supported GA House Bill 498 to Exempt State Income Tax
(For income received for full-time duty in the active military service in the armed forces)
- EANGAA supported/sponsored 2019 Air National Guard Bass Tournament

2018

- EANGGA supported/sponsored National Guard's 382nd B-Day Celebration Commemorating GA Army NG's fallen soldiers lost during Global War on Terrorism 2001-Present
- EANGGA supported/sponsored Assault on Kennesaw Mountain Memorial 5K
- EANGGA supported/sponsored the GA National Guard Annual Retiree Appreciation Day Celebration
- EANGGA awarded 3 Scholarships (2 EANGGA / 1 USAA sponsored) / for a total 28 years straight now
- Georgia Guard Insurance Trust Awarded \$41K in scholarships
- Briefed EANGGA/EANGUS during the annual ANG Chiefs Huddle for Georgia
- Started a EANGGA Annual Awards Program
- GA Service Cancelable Loan Program Note: Currently it pays in-state tuition for tech school and undergrad (you can apply that same amount to private school tuition). If HB 700 passes, that will extend the program for grad, doctoral, and professional degrees (will pay tuition up to the highest in-state *undergrad* rate towards those)
- Georgia provides a tax credit on amounts paid for qualified life insurance premiums for residents who are members of the National Guard and are on active duty full time in the US Armed Forces, or active duty training in the US Armed Forces for more than 90 consecutive days
- Working to increase State pension for 10 consecutive years of service and 20 years of creditable service
- Georgia Guard Insurance Trust now provides, free of charge, \$1,000.00 of life insurance to all uniformed members of the Georgia National Guard
- Increased Full Tuition Scholarships to 16 nationally and increased the cash scholarships by another \$5K

- Forever G.I. Bill, which included 100% GI Bill benefit for Purple Heart recipients; GI Bill credit for 10 USC 12304b active service retroactive to 2012; GI Bill credit for 10 USC 12301(h) medical status; elimination of 15-year rule for using GI Bill
- Pre- and Post-mobilization health care now authorized for 10 USC 12304b active service
- Prevented cost increases for retirees who use TRICARE for Life
- Rallied additional co-sponsorship on TRICARE Reserve Select legislation in preparation for 2019 push
- Began Veterans Education Project to champion GI Bill equality and balanced representation on Capitol Hill
- Completed initial year of Operation Vet Care to provide practical and financial assistance to veterans
- Legislative Actions being pushed this year Duty Status Reform & 10 U.S.C §12304b Disparity, Rare Cancers Need Therapeutics for Vet's, Expand TRICARE Reserve Select Coverage, VA Guidelines Need Changed, Student Veterans and Tax Credit for National Guard Members

2017

- EANGGA supported/sponsored the GA National Guard Annual Retiree Appreciation Day Celebration
- Total revision of the EANGGA By-Laws
- EANGGA awarded 3 Scholarships (1 EANGGA / 1 USAA sponsored)
- Georgia Guard Insurance Trust Awarded \$52K in scholarships
- Briefed EANGGA/EANGUS during the annual ANG Chiefs Huddle for Georgia
- Initiated Newsletters and website/Facebook pushes to inform EANGGA/EANGUS members of all the Scholarships available to them
- Created an EANGGA Army/Air Junior Enlisted Officer Positions to the Junior Representatives at the national level, Area III and in Georgia
- Increased EANGGA/EANGUS membership in state by 53 from the previous year
- EANGGA contributed \$500+ to We Care for America
- EANGUS created a monthly Pod Casts which are posted on the EANGGA website
- EANGUS testimony lead to pre-and post-mobilization healthcare coverage for RC Service members serving on 12304b orders

- We attended EANGUS co-hosted mental health roundtable event lead to legislative language in the FY18 NDAA to create a pilot program to embed mental health professionals in RC units
- Pilot Program for Mental Health Study
- EANGUS was instrumental crafting/supporting the passage of Forever GI Bill & The VA Accountability Act
- EANGUS was successful in changing The Army Demobilization process to ensure returning members of the National Guard receive better health care
- EANGUS has be involved in crafting the Higher Education Reauthorization Act to establish risk sharing and the elimination of Gainful Employment
- EANGUS is working with the VA and DOD to form a public-private partnership to research and develop treatments for Veterans with rare cancer and diseases
- EANGUS supports further VA and DOD partnerships with the private sector in order to treat Veterans with PTSD and TBI
- Sold the EANGUS Mount Vernon Building and moved into the National Guard Memorial Building
- EANGUS created a Corporate Programs database of over 5K corporate contacts for the States to use
- Reduced expenses for the EANGUS Executive Council quarterly meetings by 50%
- Did a complete revision of the We Care for America

2016

- EANGGA supported/sponsored the GA National Guard Annual Retiree Appreciation Day Celebration
- Created a Monthly Roll Call / Legislative Update which is sent to all members who have a valid email loaded in the database and is posted on the EANGGA website
- EANGGA awarded 3 Scholarships (2 EANGGA / 1 USAA sponsored)
- Briefed EANGGA/EANGUS during the annual ANG Chiefs Huddle for Georgia
- Rebuild the foundation of EANGGA, website, Face Book and building a relationship with NGAGA
- Increased EANGGA/EANGUS membership in state by 35 from the previous year
- Developed EANGGA Army/Air Area Directors across the state to share information and to give unit briefs
- EANGGA contributed \$500+ to We Care for America
- Two Legislative Professionals in the Office taking over our own Corporate Partner Program
- EANGUS created a EANGUS App
- EANGUS testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee's Personnel subcommittee and to the DOD funded study by the Center of Naval Analysis regarding continuity of Reserve Component Healthcare and expansion of TRICARE Reserve Select to eligible Federal Employees
- EANGUS testimony led to GAO study, Reserve Component Travel (Rpt # GAO-18-181) to analyze unreimbursed out-of-pocket expenses incurred by RC Service members
- Won a 2.1 percent pay raise versus the 1.6 percent requested by DoD
- Defeated a proposal to test privatization of commissaries
- Won law stating any commissary changes must sustain current patron savings/satisfaction
- Blocked a Senate proposal to cut BAH for housing sharers, including dual military couples
- Won \$30 million in impact aid for school districts serving large numbers of military children
- Won a provision basing former spouse retired pay division on grade/years of service upon divorce (future divorces only)
- Won increased travel reimbursement for Guard/Reserve training beyond commuting distance
- Won provision aimed at ensuring fair treatment for California Guardsmen who have been targeted for recoupment of incentive bonuses paid to them 10 years ago
- Won recognition of all retired members of the reserve components as Veterans
- Won full-year FY17 funding and 2018 advance funding for VA health/benefits programs
- Won elimination of 2-year eligibility limitation (after PCS) for noncompetitive appointment of military spouses to federal civilian positions
- Won authorization of up to 12 weeks of paid leave (including 6 weeks medical recuperation leave) for primary caregiver after childbirth; 21 days authorized for service member who is the secondary caregiver
- Won extension of Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance through May 2018 at the current \$310 monthly rate

- Won upgraded Survivor Benefit Plan formula for Reserve Component members who die while on inactive duty for training to equal SBP benefits for those who die on active duty.
- Won passage of reproductive services/adoption reimbursement for seriously injured or ill veterans
- Won enhanced suicide prevention and mental health services for female veterans
- Won reauthorization of dental insurance for veterans, survivors and dependents enrolled in VA care
- Defeated proposal to limit applicability of veterans' preference to first federal job

2015

- EANGGA supported/sponsored the GA National Guard Annual Retiree Appreciation Day Celebration
- EANGGA awarded 3 Scholarships (2 EANGGA / 1 USAA sponsored)
- Creation of a National Commission on the Future Structure of the Army Establishment of a GAO Study on the Structure of the Army
- Prohibition on movement of AH-64 Apaches from National Guard to active component in FY 15
- Additional funding for ARNG Black Hawk procurement; HMMWV modernization; and for ARNG HMMWV ambulance replacement program
- Inserting CNGB into Services selection process for ARNG and ANG Directors and Deputy Directors
- Two consecutive fiscal years to accumulate deployment credits for earlier Reserve retirement
- Increased funding for National Guard Counterdrug Program and keeping their Training Centers open
- Mandatory annual behavioral health screening for the Reserve Components (Jason Sexton Act)
- Mental Health appropriation for the National Guard
- C-130 propeller and engine upgrades
- Language to allow pursuit of alternative solutions to comply with 2020 FAA regulations for C-130s
- Mandating creation of an Air Force report for future modernization and recapitalization of Air Guard C-130 fleet
- Upgrade of F-15 AESA radar
- Enhanced MQ-1 and MQ-9 capability
- Prohibition of retirement of A-10 fleet
- Policy to implement recommendations from Structure of Air Force Report
- Language to promote unique role of National Guard in cyber capabilities and federal/state authorities

2014

- EANGGA supported/sponsored the GA National Guard Annual Retiree Appreciation Day Celebration
- Awarded 3 Scholarships (2 EANGGA / 1 USAA sponsored)
- Repealed the annual COLA reductions established by 2013 Bipartisan Budget Act for retirees and survivors
- Blocked a proposed \$1 billion reduction in federal appropriations for the Defense Commissary Agency
- Blunted a proposed reduction of Basic Allowance for Housing for service members
- Extended COLA's protection to service members entering service through January 1, 2016
- Eliminated the Guard and Reserve retirement credit "fiscal year glitch"
- Blocked a proposed consolidation of TRICARE health programs into a single plan that would cost beneficiaries more while providing them less choice
- Prevented a 24% reduction in Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors ("Doc Fix")
- Blunted disproportionate pharmacy copay increase
- Blocked the adoption of means testing for TRICARE Prime and TRICARE for Life fees
- Blocked implementation of strict caps on Medicare payments for physical and speech therapy
- Protected the US Family Health Plan (USFHP) from elimination or consolidation
- Acquired all 50 states' ratification of the Interstate Compact on Education for Military Children easing the burden of school-age children moving from state to state
- Secured in-state tuition rates (effective July 1, 2015) for vets and authorized Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to surviving spouses
- Prevented a 1 percent reduction in the annual COLA for the Post 9/11 GI Bill's monthly housing allowance
- Secured \$30B in supplemental aid to school districts serving large military communities
- Authorized SBP annuities to be paid to Special Needs Trusts for permanently disabled children

- Secured VA advanced appropriations to protect disability, pension, survivor, and GI Bill programs
- Authorization of \$1.12 million for installing Fuel Call assistance systems at military service stations

2013

- EANGGA supported/sponsored the GA National Guard Annual Retiree Appreciation Day Celebration
- Awarded 3 Scholarships (2 EANGGA / 1 USAA sponsored)
- Restored the Air Force Tuition Assistance Program
- No major changes to Army or Air National Guard end strength
- Ample funding for National Guard accounts
- Saved the UH-72 Lakota helicopter from retirement and increased procurement funding
- Requires the Department of Defense to submit reporting on the role of the National Guard in U.S. Cyber Command and cybersecurity operations
- Limitations on deployment cancellations and off-ramping for National Guard units
- Improved mental health care for National Guard service members
- Stopped the Air Force from divesting the A-10 Warthog
- Encourages the Department of Defense to ensure the National Guard remains and Operational Reserve
- Instructs the Department of Defense to develop an accurate costing model report comparing Active and Reserve Component service members and units, similar to the Reserve Forces Policy Board costing models
- Recommends the Army and Air Force is provided the same equipment variants to National Guard units in order to ensure con- current fielding for domestic and overseas operations

2012

- EANGGA supported/sponsored the GA National Guard Annual Retiree Appreciation Day Celebration
- Awarded 3 Scholarships (2 EANGGA / 1 USAA sponsored)
- The National Guard Empowerment and State-National Defense Integration Act of 2011
- The Honor America's Guard - Reserve Retirees
- Military Construction (MILCON)
- National Guard & Reserve Equipment Account (NGREA)
- Post-Deployment / Mobilization Respite Absence (PDMRA) Leave
- National Guard Birthplace
- Delayed implementation of sequestration-driven cuts to defense budget for two months
- Secured a 1.7% military pay raise and extension special pays & bonuses
- Blocked proposal to short-circuit legislative process to make military retirement cuts
- Won limitations on force reductions to preserve dwell time between deployments
- Defeated proposal for two additional rounds of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)
- Won extension of voluntary separation/early retirement authorities to ease force cuts
- Won enhancements of consumer credit protections for service and family members
- Enhanced transition services for separating service members
- Broadened reemployment rights protection for Guard – Reserve members
- Won statutory acknowledgment that military healthcare is an earned benefit in recognition of retired members' and families' service and sacrifice
- Blocked disproportionate TRICARE Prime fee increase
- Blocked new enrollment fees for TRICARE For Life (TFL) and TRICARE Standard
- Blocked proposal to means-test TRICARE Prime and TFL fees
- Prevented proposed tripling of TRICARE pharmacy co-pays in return for requiring one-year trial of mail order /MTF maintenance drug refills for those TFL-eligible
- Capped future annual Rx copay hikes at the percentage increase in military retired pay
- Won a one-year TRICARE pilot program authorizing applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy services for all active and retired family members diagnosed with autism
- Prevented 27% cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors ("Doc Fix")
- Blocked implementation of strict cap on Medicare payments for physical/speech therapy
- Enhanced suicide prevention programs for service members

- Upgraded mental health access for Guard/ Reserve members, families, and caregivers
- Combat Related Special Compensation calculation correction
- Obtained DoD discretionary authority to expand Space-A travel to gray-area Reserve retirees and other groups (e.g., survivors)
- Added four states (MA, GA, PA & WY) to the list of those participating in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
- Won provision authorizing states to issue commercial driver's licenses for military drivers
- Won counseling, reporting and oversight improvements to GI Bill programs
- Won tax credits for employers who hire re- cent vets, unemployed vets and disabled vet
- Secured legislation that directs the American Battle Monuments Commission to restore and maintain the Veterans Cemetery at the former Clark Air Base in the Philippines

2011

- EANGGA supported/sponsored the GA National Guard Annual Retiree Appreciation Day Celebration
- EANGGA has been awarding scholarships since 1990 (2 EANGGA / 1 USAA sponsored)
- Post 9/11 Veterans Education Improvement Act of 2010 - Signed into law on January 4th, this legislation expands GI Bill benefits to over 84,000 members of the National Guard. This will allow, for the first time, soldiers and airmen who have served under Title-32 full GI Bill educational benefits.
- National Guard & Reserve Equipment Account (NGREA) \$700 million FY 11 NDAA authorizes \$700 million in NGREA to provide equipment for Title-32 and Title-10 operations.
- Military Construction \$1.068 Billion - ARNG facilities will receive \$873 million and ANG to receive \$194 million in military construction funds. While this represents an adequate funding level, the out years are below the needs to improve and maintain over 3,000 readiness centers, of which 40% are over 50 years old. The NDAA mandates that the Secretary of the Army report back to Congress on the present condition of readiness centers and the funding required to properly maintain the Guard's facility infrastructure
- Banned transfer of Guard & Reserve C-130s to active units – The NDAA halted Air Force attempt to take C-130s from both Guard and Reserve units across the country and place designated aircraft with an active component unit. The Secretary of the Air Force must now submit to Congress a written agreement between all involved parties that details any plan to transfer aircraft from one component to another
- Access to the Operational Reserve - Also included in the NDAA report language is the opinion of the Committee that current legal authorities may not offer the flexibility for the effective use of the operational reserve and recommends that the Secretary of Defense review current authorities and submit legislative proposals for additional authority needed to facilitate involuntary activation of reserve component members or units to support operational requirements
- Temporarily hiring non-dual status technicians - This represents a partial victory, as the ARNG will be given the authority to hire only for two years 1,600 non-dual status technicians to make up for permanent technicians who are on Title-10 orders. This is in contrast to the President's budget request of 2,520 non-dual status technicians
- Limited the percentage increase in TRICARE Prime enrollment fees in future years to no more than the percentage growth in military retired pay
- Extended the time limit for TRICARE claims outside the United States (up to three years after the services have been provided)
- Enhanced mental health services/programs for military members
- Authorize a 1.6% military pay raise
- Require a DoD report on the cost of expiring the Homeowner Assistance Program to help more service members who are "upside - down" on their mortgages
- Enhance authority to call up the Reserves for certain missions
- Authorize early retirement & voluntary separation incentives to reduce the need for involuntary separations during the coming force reductions
- Bar denial of reenlistment based on a medical condition that a medical board has evaluated & deemed as not disqualifying for continued duty
- Establish the Chief of the National Guard Bureau as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

- Provide \$45M in assistance for civilian schools in which military dependents are enrolled
- Enhance the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program for wounded warriors & their families
- Safeguard reemployment rights for Guard members ordered to full - time duty under state orders
- Authorize a death gratuity & related benefits for Reserves who die during an authorized stay at their residence during or between successive days of inactive duty training
- Require GAO to review effectiveness of programs aimed at promoting spouse employment
- Require GAO to review effects of extending space - available travel eligibility to certain survivors & gray area reserve retirees
- Vow to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 which directs VA, DOD, and DOL to jointly improve transition and training programs for separating members and veterans

2010

- EANGGA supported/sponsored the GA National Guard Annual Retiree Appreciation Day Celebration
- Post 9/11 Veterans Education Improvement Act of 2010 - Signed into law on January 4th, this legislation expands GI Bill benefits to over 84,000 members of the National Guard. This will allow, for the first time, soldiers and airmen who have served under Title-32 full GI Bill educational benefits.
- Won VA stipend, health/respice care, & support services for wounded warriors' caregivers
- Won upgrades to laws protecting troops' & families' financial, legal rights
- Won additional reemployment rights protections for activated reservists
- Won 35 states' participation in Military Children's Educational Compact
- Barred Services from administratively separating service members for medical conditions for which they have been found fit for duty
- Won up to 15 days non - chargeable rest & recuperation for service members serving over 270 days in a combat zone
- Won DoD reimbursement of full household goods replacement value if carrier doesn't cover
- 1.4% military pay raise
- Won authority to open Yellow Ribbon reintegration programs to all components & families

2009

- EANGGA supported/sponsored the GA National Guard Annual Retiree Appreciation Day Celebration
- Pay increase 3.4% (.5% more than requested by the President)
- No TRICARE fee increase
- TRICARE Standard for 'Gray Area' retirees under 60
- Reserve Component Pre-Mobilization Health Care- doubles from 90 to 180 days the amount of time a Reserve Component member is eligible for TRICARE coverage prior to mobilization
- More full-time support
- New GI Bill education benefits (tuition, stipend, books and tutors)
- Lower TRICARE Reserve Select fees
- Additional National Guard member on the Defense Military Family Readiness Council
- NG Youth Challenge: Increases DoD share of program from 60% to 75% of the costs; includes \$110.8 million for the National Guard Youth Challenge
- Program, which is \$15 million above the President's request of \$95.8 million
- AGR PAY INCREASE Additional (.5 Percent above Presidents Request)
- Mil-Tech Pay Increase
- Two Year advance VA funding
- Variance in Reserve Component End Strength - allows the Service Secretaries to waive Reserve Component end strength by up to two percent if such a waiver would enhance manning and readiness in essential units or in critical specialties
- Post-Deployment/Mobilization Respite Absence -allows up to \$200 for each day of Administrative absence that a member would have earned between January 19, 2007, and the date of the implementation of the PDMRA program had the program been implemented during that time
- Continued Service after AGR Retirement

- STARBASE - received full funding of \$16.4 million
- Stop Loss Special Pay - authorized for any month, or portion of a month beginning October 1, 2009, and ending on June 30, 2011, for a Reserve Component member who serves on active duty while the member's enlistment or period of obligated service is extended, or has the member's eligibility for retirement suspended due to Stop Loss-includes provisions allowing for re-computation of retired pay and election to receive Non-regular retirement pay after qualifying for regular retirement
- Military Construction- authorized \$585 million in Army National Guard Military Construction (\$156 million above the President's Budget Request) and \$236 million in Air National Guard Military Construction (\$108 million above the President's Budget Request.)
- \$50 million for state specific National Guard counter-drug programs as well as an additional \$15 million to sustain current levels of staffing for High Priority National Guard Counterdrug Programs. This continues the elevated funding for National Guard state plans nationwide which Congress has provided in recent years; includes \$1.1 billion for Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug activities, Defense-wide. Fully funds the request of \$166.5 million for National Guard State Plans that support domestic law enforcement efforts and counter-narcoterrorism schools
- An additional \$20 million for Yellow Ribbon Reintegration and Outreach programs

2008

- Bar increases in TRICARE pharmacy copays or retiree fees for FY2009
 - Replaced 10.6% scheduled cut in Medicare/TRICARE payments to doctors with 1.1%
 - Waive TRICARE copays/deductibles for certain preventive services
 - Raise TRICARE payment cap for active duty children with special needs to \$36,000/year
 - New disabilities deemed service - caused unless "clear & unmistakable" evidence otherwise
 - Require DoD to recalculate (& presumably reduce) TRICARE Reserve Select premiums
 - Authorize transitional TRICARE coverage for separates who enter selected reserve
 - Enhance bonuses/special pays to attract/ retain more health care professionals
 - Require TRICARE to cover smoking cessation programs for members under 65
 - Authorize DoD to waive reserve dental copays if needed to ensure readiness
 - Defeated proposal to charge VA enrollment fee/increase Rx copay for certain veterans
 - VA counseling services extended to family members of wounded warriors
 - New Post 9/11 GI Bill: full state college tuition for post 9/11 service, plus housing/book stipends
 - Allow transfer of GI Bill to spouses/children if served 6 years & commit to 4 more
 - 3.9% basic pay raise, effective Jan. 1, 2009 (.5% above budget proposal)
 - Increase Army & Marine Corps end strength by 7,000 & 5,000, respectively
 - Authorize limited sabbatical program for members to pursue personal/professional goals
 - Permanently ban charging hospitalized troops for meals
 - Raise maximum daily temporary lodging expense allowance to \$290 (from \$180)
 - Pay two family separation allowances if both member spouses with dependents deployed
 - Bar bonus recoupment/pay full bonus if member dies/separated/retired for combat injuries
 - Extend income replacement for reservists with extended & frequent mobilizations
 - Tax credit for small businesses paying salary differential for activated reservists
 - Increased household goods weight allowances for senior NCOs
 - Increased housing allowances for grade E-8 to cover expense of single family home
 - Expand new special survivor indemnity allowance to include survivors of active duty
 - Authorize disabled retirees 5 years (vs. 3) to file amended tax return based on a VA claim
 - Ended premium payments for retirees at least 70 & paid into SBP for 30 years
 - Allow survivors to contribute military death gratuity to - tax favored accounts
 - Add funds to hire 2,000 new claims adjudicators to reduce VA disability claims backlog
 - Extend DoD/VA Wounded Warrior Senior Oversight Committee through end of 2009
- FAMILY/VETERANS/ OTHER ISSUES**
- Authorize 500 lbs. PCS weight allowance for military spouse's professional items
 - Authorize career assistance programs for spouses (i.e. licensing, credentialing, education)

- Authorize \$55M in impact aid for schools with military children or affected by BRAC
- Authorize 10 days of paternity leave for new military fathers, in addition to normal leave
- Require Defense & Education Departments to ease school transitions for military children
- Reimburse families for movement of two household pets as a result of evacuation

2007

- Won ban on TRICARE fee increases for FY2008
- Defeated 9.9% Cut in 2008 Medicare & TRICARE payments to doctors
- Barred pharmacy copay increases for FY2008
- Required DoD & VA to establish plans for PTSD & TBI treatment & prevention
- Established joint electronic health records, seamless transition plan, & single separation physical for disabled service members transitioning between DoD & VA
- Establish joint office to implement DoD/VA electronic health record
- Review all post 9/11 disability separations for retirement reconsideration
- Allow family members of mobilized personnel to use family medical leave
- A 3.5% 2008 pay raise
- Reimburse up to \$300 in drill - travel expenses for short specialties/units or relocated units
- Authorize Selected Reserve mbrs 10 yrs after separation to use MGIB benefits earned from active duty service
- Allow carryover of 75 (vs. 60) days accumulated leave (expires Dec. 31, 2010)
- Reduce reserve retirement age 3 months for each 90 days on active duty (prospective)
- 2.3% retired pay/SBP COLA for 2007
- Minimum SBP annuity raised to 55% of covered retired pay (As of 1 Apr 07)
- Establish \$50 per month allowance to survivors of service connected deaths for FY09 (to increase by \$10 each year until \$100 in FY14)
- Require single notice of SBP recoupment amount for DIC widows
- Exp & CRSC eligibility to disability retirees with less than 20 years of service
- Full concurrent receipt for those rated “unemployable” effective Jan 05 (payable Oct 08)
- Allow family members of mobilized personnel to use family medical leave
- Authorize Military Family Readiness Council, with member, spouse, association participation
- Bar courts from vacating child custody agreements based on member’s deployment
- Authorize veterans the option of saluting the US Flag (vs. hand over heart)

2006

- A 2.7% 2007 pay raise (including targeted raises for certain grades)
- Won major restrictions on predatory “payday lenders”
- Won \$400K free SGLI coverage for members deployed to Afghanistan or Iraq
- Provided retirement credit for certain state duty performed by Guard after 9/11
- Required more consistent Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) rules / explanations
- Authorized housing allowance fix for mobilized reserves or retirees
- Won ban on TRICARE fee increases for FY2007
- Defeated 5.1% Cut in 2007 Medicare & TRICARE payments to doctors
- Established single - fee access to TRICARE for all drilling Guard - Reserve
- Barred pharmacy copay increases for FY2007
- Won waiver of \$1,740 limit on Medicare payments for therapy services
- Defeated enrollment fee requirement for TRICARE Standard
- Mandated use of Medicare filing procedures for TRICARE claims
- Prescribed access standards for injured & wounded service members
- Required Task Force to study sustainment of TRICARE benefits for long term
- Pilot projects directed on early diagnosis / treatment of PTSD

2005

- Another pay raise above the ECI, 3.1% pay increase (no targeted raises for senior enlisted this year)

- Continuance of the Full Time Support ramp
- Extension of recruiting and retention authorities
- BAH II all but eliminated; moved threshold from 139 days of AD to less than 30 days for full BAH
- TRICARE for all reservists (TRS)
- Military retirement credit for those in NY and VA who served on state active duty after 9/11/2001
- Use of MGIB for mobilized members use in securing licenses and certifications
- Modification of MGIB benefits for those who are mobilized or served on full time National Guard duty for national emergencies for more than 90 days
- Reenlistment bonus eligibility extended from 16 to 20 years of service
- Flexible payment of assignment incentive pays

2004

- New education benefit for Guard and Re-serve members who have served in support of a contingency operation since Sep 11, 2001: 90 days to less than 1 year of service would earn 40% of the active duty MGIB benefit level; one year to less than 2 years earns 60% of active duty level; and 2 years or more of continuous duty earns 80% of the active duty level. Benefits can be paid for up to 36 months, but the member must remain in the Selected or Ready Reserve
- New TRICARE program for Reserve Component members who commit to continued service in the Selected Reserve after release from Title-10 active duty for a contingency operation. Member receives one year of coverage, with a 28% premium, for each 90 days of Title-10 active duty served
- Transitional health benefits for 180 days after separation from active duty made a permanent program. Requires DoD to perform a pre-separation physical exam
- Early eligibility for TRICARE, 90 days before mobilization, made permanent
- Authorization for increased reenlistment bonuses for Guard and Reserve members and extends the time period the bonus can be received to 16 years of service from 14 years of service
- Extension of FEHBP coverage to 24 months for federal civilians who are on active duty
- Clarified the Service members Civil Relief Act provision regarding termination of residential and motor vehicle leases - dependents also covered by that protection. Increase in the maximum home loan amount which VA will guarantee under its home loan guaranty program from \$240,000 to \$333,700, the maximum level allowed by the federally-chartered Freddie Mac program. This level would be indexed in future years to the Freddie Mac maximum amounts.

2003

- Extension of benefits under the Survivor Benefit Plan to surviving spouse of reservists not eligible for retirement who die from an injury or illness incurred or aggravated in the line of duty during IDT
- Authorization for gray-area retirees to participate in the federal long-term care insurance
- Defeated DoD proposal to change training requirements that would have cut pay and retirement points
- Permanent VA Home Loan program for Guard and Reserve
- Extended SSCRA (now Service members Civil Relief Act) protections covering higher amounts of rent and vehicle leases
- Restoration of tax-deductibility of non-reimbursable expenses for travel to drill
- TRICARE benefits for National Guard members who are unemployed or without employer-sponsored health insurance
- Unlimited commissary access for Guard and Reserve
- Targeted Pay Raise - varies according to grade, but it will be at least 4.15%
- Elimination of 7200 point rule for special compensation/concurrent receipt
- Increased full-time manning for ARNG
- Funding for an additional 12 WMD-CST teams
- Won same pay raise provisions as active duty
- Authorized year - round, premium - based TRICARE coverage for unemployed Selected Reservists & those without employer health coverage
- Won tax - exemption for drill - related travel expenses if drill is 100 miles away

- Extended full commissary privileges to drilling & gray area Reserves
- Extended government long - term care coverage to gray area Reserves
- Defeated effort to reduce training limit to 38 days

2002

- Extended protections under the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act to National Guard members called to active duty under Title-32
- Increase in the time to use MGIB-Selected Reserve benefits from 10 to 14 years
- A permanent reduction of minimum service required before qualifying for retirement pay from eight to six yrs
- Increase in Army National Guard full time manning
- Targeted pay increases for mid-grade and senior NCOs

2001

- Targeted pay raises with at least a 6% increase for Enlisted members
- Immediate commissary access for new Guard and Reserve members
- Federal government agencies are directed to pay FEHBP premiums for federal Guard and Reserve employees called to active duty for more than 30 days to serve in a contingency operation
- Authorizes concurrent receipt, IF the President recommends the necessary legislation and provides the necessary funding
- Requires a study of National Guard and Reserve healthcare
- Prohibition on forced choice between DoD and VA healthcare for military retirees
- Large increase in Control Grades for AGRs
- Extension of the VA Home Loan program for Guard and Reserve members to 2009
- Increase over the President's budget request and over last year's numbers for ARNG full time manning - technicians and AGRs
- Authorizes National Guard members performing funeral honors duty the same rights, benefits, and protections provided to service members performing inactive duty training
- Cap on funding for Youth Challenge program lifted; program kept in DoD control

2000

- TRICARE for Life - permanent lifetime TRICARE eligibility is provided for Medicare-eligible military retirees and their family members beginning FY 2002
- TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program - allows participation in DoD's mail order and network retail pharmacy programs by all beneficiaries, including the over 64 population without enrollment fees
- Medicare Subvention test - extended to December 31, 2001
- Basic pay increase - 3.7%
- Increase in maximum number of IDT points allowed in one year - from 75 to 90
- Special compensation for severely disabled retirees beginning in FY 2002
- Additional funding for facilities enhancements - an additional \$266 million for the ARNG and 195 for the ANG
- NCO Pay Table Reform - increased the basic pay rates for E5s through E7s as well as authorizing the Secretary of Defense to increase the pay tables for enlisted members on a one-time basis, to be effective July 1, 2001.
- An increase in the maximum number of retirement points a Guard or Reserve member can accrue in one year from 75 to 90
- End strength increased over the budget request - by 526 for the ARNG and 22 for the ANG.
- AGR End strengths: Army - was increased 526 over the budget request or 544 over last year's authorization; Air -was increased 22 over the budget request or 13 over last year's authorization Dual Status
- Technician end strengths: Army - was increased 771 over the budget request or 3 over last year's authorization; Air - was increased 26 over the budget request but 0 over last year's authorization

- Non-dual Status Technicians End strengths: Both Army and Air were not increased over the budget request and it actually resulted in a decrease of 24 over last year's authorization
- An additional \$25 million for National Guard Counterdrug activities
- Control grades increase for AGRs - an additional 76 E-8s and 97 E-9s in the Air Force; and an additional 228 E-8s and 119 E-9s in the Army
- Special duty assignment pay for Guard and Reserve members
- Authority to establish up to five additional Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams (formerly called RAID teams) for a total of 32
- Authorization for payment of incapacitation pay for Guard and Reserve members who incur an injury, illness or disease in the performance of funeral honors duty
- Drill pay for funeral honors duty instead of the \$50 stipend
- Extension of bonuses and special pays for Guard and Reserves: Selected Reserve Reenlistment bonus, Selected Reserve Enlistment bonus, Special Pay for Enlisted Members Assigned to Certain High Priority Units, Selected Reserve Affiliation bonus, Ready Reserve Enlistment and Reenlistment bonus, Prior Service Enlistment bonus.
- Authority for legal services for Reserve Component members following release from active duty.
- Employers are required to grant an authorized leave of absence for employees who are members of a reserve component to participate in honor guards for funerals of veterans
- Heart attacks or strokes that are incurred or aggravated by a member of a reserve component in the performance of duty while performing inactive duty training will now be considered to be service connected for purposes of benefits under laws administered by the VA